

**LOUISIANA STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

***Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS)
Bulletin***

TOPS BULLETIN NUMBER:	T2016-6
DATE ISSUED:	October 13, 2016
EFFECTIVE DATE:	As Indicated
DISTRIBUTION:	High School Counselors, High School Principals, Parish Superintendents, College and University Financial Aid Offices and Registrars, LAICU Financial Aid Offices and Registrars, Louisiana Community and Technical College System Personnel
TOPICS:	ASPIRE and Pre-ACT Successor to ACT PLAN for TOPS Tech Early Start

As you are aware, the ACT PLAN assessment is no longer offered. As this test has been used as a means by which students can qualify for TOPS Tech Early Start funding, language has been added to the TOPS statute to provide that a student can now qualify by achieving a score of 15 or above on the mathematics and English portion of a successor assessment to the ACT PLAN, or on the ACT, or the equivalent concordant value on the SAT, or a Silver Level score on the ACT WorkKeys assessment.

We have conferred with ACT and been advised that both ASPIRE and the Pre-ACT can be considered a successor to the PLAN. Qualifying scores as noted above on either test will be acceptable for a student to qualify to receive TOPS Tech Early Start.

Attached is a letter from ACT explaining the differences between ASPIRE and the Pre-ACT. This information is being provided so that you can determine which exams may best fit the needs of your school and your students.

If you have questions, you may contact Bonnie Lavergne at Bonnie.Lavergne@la.gov or at (225) 219-7714.



Louisiana Educators,

ACT is pleased to offer Louisiana Educators two assessment options that can be considered successors to ACT Explore and ACT Plan. Depending on the goals of the school/district, both PreACT and ACT Aspire (Grade 8 and Early High School) can help meet your needs and serve your students as they prepare for college and career.

Both programs share the same research foundation and are based on ACT’s College Readiness Standards and College Readiness Benchmarks. And although there are many similarities, each of these programs has a core purpose that should help you choose the right assessment for your students:

PreACT - A 10th grade practice assessment for the ACT that predicts student performance on that test and provides career-interest alignment.

ACT Aspire - A summative, longitudinal assessment system that measures student progress and growth toward college and career readiness through standards and validated benchmarks from grades 3-Early High School.

In addition, please review the following comparative features as you consider how PreACT and/or ACT Aspire will benefit your students:

Features	PreACT	ACT Aspire
Subjects	English, Reading, Math and Science	English, Reading, Math, Science and Writing
Testing Time	Approx. 2 hrs. 15 mins.	4 hrs. 35 mins. w/Writing
Test Windows	September 1st through June 1st	8 week window for Fall and 8 week window for Spring
Question Types	Multiple Choice Only	Multiple Choice, Constructed Response and Technology Enhanced Items
Assessment Mode	Paper Only	Online and Paper
Non-cognitive Portion	Interest Inventory and High School Course Work	N/A
Reports Included	Student Reports, Educator Report Package, Item-Response Summary and School Rosters, Student Data File	Student Score Reports, Subject & Skill Proficiency, Supplemental Skills and Current Progress for Classroom, School/District and State, Student Data File
Scale	1-36	3 digit scale
Reported Benchmarks	ACT College Readiness Benchmarks	ACT Readiness Benchmarks by Grade and Subject
Predicted ACT Score Range	By Composite and Subject	Beginning in grade 9 – Composite and Subject
Item Response	Included – With Intervention Suggestions	N/A

Skill Improvement Suggestions	Included	Included
Secure Test Form	Low – Test Booklets Retained by Students	High – Test Booklets Returned

If you have any questions about incorporating PreACT and/or ACT Aspire into your school/district plan, please reach out to your Louisiana ACT Representative Nicole Lewis at (504)475-8135 or Nicole.lewis@act.org.

Sincerely,



Charlie Astorino
Vice President, Sales – Client Relations
ACT, Inc.

Cc: Joe Cruse, Sr. Director

Nicole Lewis, State Lead Louisiana