

Everyone has the potential to learn. A student's family income should not determine his or her educational or career opportunities. During the 2020–2021 school year, ACT will again offer the ACT[®] test fee waiver program to eligible students.

ACT encourages schools/agencies to emphasize to students the importance of sitting for the test. Since funds are limited, when students do not follow through to test, they not only miss a valuable opportunity, but could prevent other students from testing.

Eligibility Requirements

Each student who receives an *ACT Fee Waiver* must meet **ALL** eligibility requirements:

1. Be currently enrolled in high school in the 11th or 12th grade.
2. Be testing in the United States, US territories, or Puerto Rico.
3. Meet one or more of the indicators of economic need listed below:
 - Enrolled in a federal free or reduced-price lunch program at school, based on US Department of Agriculture (USDA) income levels (see table).
 - Enrolled in a program for the economically disadvantaged (for example, a federally funded program such as GEAR UP or Upward Bound).
Note: If the student participates in a program, but is not economically disadvantaged, they are not eligible for a fee waiver.
 - Resides in a foster home, is a ward of the state, or is homeless.
 - Family receives low-income public assistance or lives in federally subsidized public housing.
 - Family's total annual income is at or below USDA levels for free or reduced-price lunches on the USDA Food and Nutrition Service website.

USDA Food and Nutrition Service

Visit the USDA Food and Nutrition Service website (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/income-eligibility-guidelines>) to access the most current income eligibility guidelines.

Audits

In order to serve as many economically disadvantaged students as possible, only students who meet the eligibility requirements outlined in this document and on the fee waiver form are eligible for an *ACT Fee Waiver*. ACT may audit school and agency compliance with fee waiver requirements. In doing so, ACT may request written evidence of student eligibility. Ineligible students may be billed, and noncompliant schools/agencies may be denied additional waivers. *Note: High no-show rates may indicate inappropriate distribution of waivers and may result in an audit.*

What the ACT Fee Waiver Covers

An *ACT Fee Waiver* covers the registration and late fees for either the full ACT with writing or no writing, or section retesting (up to three subjects). The waiver covers one report to a student's high school and up to six college choices (at the time he or she registers). After registration, the student can request unlimited regular score reports for free. *Waivers may NOT be used to pay for any additional fees, products, or services.*

Additional Benefits for Students

- Access to Test Prep Tools
Students registering with a fee waiver will also receive free access to The Official ACT[®] Self-Paced Course, Powered by Kaplan[®].
 - Students registering with a fee waiver online or via phone will have The Official ACT[®] Self-Paced Course, Powered by Kaplan[®] automatically added to their order at no cost.
 - Students who do not register online will need to create a student account with the ACT ID provided on the admission ticket. Once the account is created, the order will automatically be processed.
Note: All students will receive an email with their login information.
- **Request for Waiver or Deferral of College Admission Application Fee**
ACT offers a *Request for Waiver or Deferral of College Admission Application Fee* form for students that qualify for an *ACT Fee Waiver*. Please complete this form for students to use as part of their application process. The form is available at www.act.org/the-act/resources.

Usage Restriction

Eligible students may use a maximum of **FOUR** separate *ACT Fee Waivers*. Additional waivers for a student will be denied, and the student will be billed. The waiver is used once the student registers, or submits a standby request, even if the student does not test on the requested test date. (Such students may request a test date change and pay the associated fee.) For a current list of fees, visit www.actstudent.org.

See reverse for Fee Waiver Procedures