

# NEWS RELEASE

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## 2009-10 ACT, SAT Test Dates, Fall Assessment, Scores

LAS CRUCES – Here are the 2009-10 ACT and SAT testing dates, along with information about each test and the SAT II and PSAT tests.

See Pages 2-5 of this news release for LCPS, statewide and national ACT scores, 2003-09, along with the number of students taking the test each year and background on both the ACT and the SAT.

The vast majority of New Mexico students take the ACT test. However, students and parents should check the entrance requirements of each institution in which they have an interest.

### ACT

**Registration:** Register online at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

**Cost:** \$32 for the basic exam, plus \$15 for the writing test. Late fee is \$21.

**Where:** Offered at LCPS high schools.

**Purpose:** College entrance examination, usually taken by juniors and seniors. A substantial majority of LCPS and New Mexico students take the ACT instead of the SAT.

**Description:** Four multiple-choice subject tests in English, mathematics, reading and science. Scores range from 1 to 36. Some colleges require the optional writing test, called the ACT Assessment Plus writing.

2009-10 Test Dates	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
expired	expired	expired
October 24, 2009	expired	September 19-October 2, 2009
December 12, 2009	November 6, 2009	November 7-20, 2009
February 6, 2010	January 5, 2010	January 6-15, 2010
April 10, 2010	March 5, 2010	March 6-19, 2010
June 12, 2010	May 7, 2010	May 8-21, 2010

Source: [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

# SAT

**Registration:** Register online at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

**Cost:** \$45 fee, including the writing section. Late fee is \$23.

**Where:** Las Cruces High School is the Las Cruces testing site.

**Purpose:** College entrance examination, usually taken by juniors and seniors.

**Description:** Three major sections in reading, math and writing, each scored from 200-800.

U.S. Registration Deadlines		
2009-10 Test Dates	Test	Regular Registration Deadline (postmark/submit by)
October 10, 2009	SAT & Subject Tests	expired
November 7, 2009	SAT & Subject Tests	October 1, 2009
December 5, 2009	SAT & Subject Tests	October 30, 2009
January 23, 2010	SAT & Subject Tests	December 15, 2009
March 13, 2010	SAT only	February 4, 2010
May 1, 2010	SAT & Subject Tests	March 25, 2010
June 5, 2010	SAT & Subject Tests	April 29, 2010

Source: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and  
<http://professionals.collegeboard.com/profdownload/college-board-examination-and-test-dates.pdf>

The **SAT II** test is required by some colleges and universities, especially Ivy League schools. It is offered on the same dates and at the same locations as the SAT.

## PSAT (Preliminary SAT)

**Registration:** Contact your school – each school handles registration.

**Cost:** The State of New Mexico pays for public high school sophomores to take the test. Juniors pay \$13.

**Where:** Wednesday, October 14 at all public high schools.

**Purpose:** The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test is designed to give sophomores and juniors experience in taking standardized tests. The test also is used to award National Merit Scholarships.

**Description:** Math, critical reading and writing sections.

Source of some information: September 22, 2009 Albuquerque Journal article by Olivier Uytterbrouck.

# 11<sup>th</sup> Graders to Take Fall Assessments

**October 12, 2009**

LAS CRUCES – Beginning this fall, 11<sup>th</sup> grade students will participate in the High School Redesign Assessment system, which includes either 1) a college readiness assessment, 2) a workforce readiness assessment or 3) an alternative demonstration of competency using standards-based indicators, said Tom Dauphinee, Ph.D., interim supervisor for Assessment and Accountability for the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED), in a recent memorandum to New Mexico public school superintendents, charter school administrators and state educational institution administrators.

“The tests are important for LCPS students because they reveal to students and parents areas of strength and weakness,” said LCPS Assessment, Accountability and Research Department Director Tracie O’Hara. “Students can concentrate on those areas of need before going on to college or entering the workforce and increase their chances for success,” she said.

(There is a link at the bottom of this news release to a student/parent handout on taking the ACT or WorkKeys.)

“Grade 11 students must choose to take one or more assessments in order to meet the requirements of section §22-2C-4.1, (A), NMSA 1978 of the Public School Code. School districts have been funded through the State Equalization Grant distribution to pay for one administration of one of the assessments per student,” said Dauphinee.

“The ACT test will be administered statewide as the college readiness assessment. ACT’s WorkKeys will be administered as the workforce readiness assessment. Schools must prepare students to declare their assessment choice by October 30, 2009. This will allow ordering WorkKeys by school, and allow students sufficient time for ACT registration,” he said.

“Students who want to take the ACT will be able to register at the expense of districts for one of two established ACT national test dates (on either) Saturday, December 12, 2009 or Saturday, February 6, 2010.

The cost to the district for each student taking the ACT under the state’s contract is \$39. This fee includes reports to the colleges (for students who test) for up to four college choices listed at the time of registration, and reports to districts and schools.

ACT’s WorkKeys assessment, which is the Workforce Readiness Assessment, will be given during regular school hours to grade 11 students at their high schools. The testing window for WorkKeys begins December 7, 2009. Testing must be completed by December 18, 2009.

The cost to the district for taking the WorkKeys assessment under the State’s contract is \$31 per student.

Dauphinee said ACT will contact LCPS high schools to establish testing sites statewide for one or both of the ACT national test dates. Students will be assigned to testing sites on a first come, first registered basis, and students will be assigned to other nearby sites if capacity is reached at a particular school, he said.

To allow more students additional time to register for the December test date, ACT has extended the deadline for grade 11 students in New Mexico to November 20, 2009, without requiring a late fee.

For more information, contact O'Hara at LCPS at 575.527.6627 or tohara@nmsu.edu. Contact Robert Romero at 505.827.6524 or Robert.romero1@state.nm.us; or Charles Trujillo at 505.827.6536 or Charles.Trujillo@state.nm.us at NMPED with questions regarding high school assessment requirements.

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*Click on the link below for a student/parent handout on taking the ACT or WorkKeys.*



## **LCPS, Statewide, Nationwide ACT Scores: 2004-09**

2009 LCPS high school graduates had a composite ACT score of 20.0, down from 20.1 in 2008, according to an August 19, 2009 memo from the New Mexico Public Education Department. The 20.0 score gave LCPS the same composite as the state of New Mexico, which dropped from 20.3 in 2008. The 20.0 composite compares to a 21.1 national composite in 2009, the same as in 2008.

### **LCPS, state and national ACT composite scores, 2004-09:**

<b>2009:</b>	LCPS: 20.0	State: 20.0	National: 21.1.
<b>2008:</b>	LCPS: 20.1	State: 20.3	National: 21.1.
<b>2007:</b>	LCPS: 20.2	State: 20.2	National: 21.2.
<b>2006:</b>	LCPS: 20.0	State: 20.1	National: 21.1.
<b>2005:</b>	LCPS: 19.9	State: 20.0	National: 20.9.
<b>2004:</b>	LCPS: 19.7	State: 19.9	National: 20.9.

**LCPS, state and national scores on the four components of the ACT, 2003-09:**

**2009**

English:	LCPS: 19.6	State: 19.3	National: 20.6
Mathematics:	LCPS: 19.1	State: 19.6	National: 21.0
Reading:	LCPS: 20.7	State: 20.7	National: 21.4
Science:	LCPS: 20.0	State: 20.0	National: 20.9

**2008**

English:	LCPS: 19.9	State: 19.6	National: 20.6
Mathematics:	LCPS: 19.2	State: 19.8	National: 21.0
Reading:	LCPS: 20.9	State: 21.0	National: 21.4
Science:	LCPS: 20.1	State: 20.2	National: 20.8

**2007**

English:	LCPS: 19.9	State: 19.6	National: 20.7
Mathematics:	LCPS: 19.4	State: 19.7	National: 21.0
Reading:	LCPS: 21.0	State: 20.9	National: 21.5
Science:	LCPS: 20.1	State: 20.2	National: 21.0

**2006**

English:	LCPS: 19.5	State: 19.3	National: 20.6
Mathematics:	LCPS: 19.3	State: 19.6	National: 20.8
Reading:	LCPS: 20.6	State: 20.7	National: 21.4
Science:	LCPS: 20.2	State: 20.1	National: 20.9

## 2005

English:	LCPS: 19.4	State: 19.4	National: 20.4
Mathematics:	LCPS: 19.1	State: 19.4	National: 20.7
Reading:	LCPS: 20.6	State: 20.6	National: 21.3
Science:	LCPS: 20.0	State: 20.1	National: 20.9

## 2004

English:	LCPS: 19.8	State: 19.4
Mathematics:	LCPS: 19.2	State: 19.4
Reading:	LCPS: 21.0	State: 20.8
Science:	LCPS: 20.0	State: 20.2

## 2003

English:	LCPS: 19.3	State: 19.3
Mathematics:	LCPS: 18.8	State: 19.3
Reading:	LCPS: 20.3	State: 20.6
Science:	LCPS: 19.9	State: 20.1

### **ACT Participation: LCPS, Statewide, Nationwide, 2004-09**

A total of 927 **LCPS** graduates took the 2009 ACT test, compared with 835 in 2008, 860 in 2007, 802 in 2006, 845 in 2005, 837 in 2004 and 812 in 2003. A total of 12,434 **New Mexico students** took the 2009 ACT, compared to 11,951 in 2008, 11,663 in 2007, 11,539 in 2006, 11,858 in 2005, 11,912 in 2004 and 11,871 in 2003. A total of 1,480,469 **students nationwide** took the ACT in 2009; 1,421,941 in 2008; 1,300,599 in 2007; 1,206,455 in 2006; 1,186,251 in 2005 and 1.186 in 2004.

Most New Mexico high school students take the ACT college entrance exam. In 2008 (2009 figures are not yet available), about 63 percent of seniors took the ACT, compared to about 60 percent in both 2006 and 2007. About 12 percent of students took the SAT test in 2008, compared to about 13 percent who took the SAT test in 2006 and 2007.

## **ACT and SAT Background**

The SAT continues to be the more popular of the two tests nationwide. In 2008, almost 1.519 million college-bound high school seniors took the SAT, compared to nearly 1.5 million in both 2006 and 2007. In critical reading, the average score in 2008 was 502, the same as in 2007. It was 503 in 2006, 508 in both 2004 and 2005. The average score in mathematics was 515 in 2008, the same as in 2007. It was 518 in 2006, 520 in 2005 and 518 in 2004. The average national score in writing in 2008 was 494, the same as in 2007. The average score in 2007, the first year the writing test was given, was 497.

In general, more students on the East and West coasts take the SAT, while more students in South, Midwest and West take the ACT. With several universities recently choosing to accept ACT scores, every state in the union now accepts both best test results from applying students.

The ACT, based in Iowa City, Iowa was first administered in 1959 and became nationwide in 1960. ACT originally stood for American College Testing. In 1996, the name was changed to just ACT.

The SAT Reasoning Test, formerly called the Scholastic Aptitude Test and Scholastic Assessment Test, is administered in the U.S. by the private College Board of New York. The test is developed, published and scored by the Educational Testing Service.

The SAT was introduced in 1901 as the Scholastic Achievement Test and used mainly by colleges and universities in the northeast U.S. In 1941, the College Board changed the test's name to the Scholastic Aptitude Test. The test became much more widely used in the 1950s and 1960s and once was almost universal.

The success of SAT coaching schools, such as Kaplan, Inc. and the Princeton Review, forced the College Board to change the name again. In 1990, the name was changed to Scholastic Assessment Test. In 1994, the name was changed to simply SAT. The New SAT (officially the SAT Reasoning Test) was first offered on March 12, 2005.

The average score on the reading portion of the 2007 SAT was 502, out of a possible 800. That is down one point from 2006. The average scores in math (515) and writing (494) were down three points each.

For more information, visit [www.act.org](http://www.act.org), [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and [www.ped.state.nm.us/AssessmentAccountability/satScores.html](http://www.ped.state.nm.us/AssessmentAccountability/satScores.html).