



**STUDENT ASSESSMENTS FOR  
TEACHER AND PRINCIPAL EVALUATION SERVICE PROVIDER  
PUBLICLY-AVAILABLE SERVICE SUMMARY**

**FORM C**

This form will be posted on the New York State Education Department's Web site and distributed through other means for all proposals that are approved in conjunction with this RFQ to allow LEAs to understand proposed offerings in advance of directly contacting providers regarding potential further procurements.

<b>Provider Information</b>	
Name of Provider:	ACT, Inc.
Provider Contact Information:	500 ACT Drive P.O. Box 168 Iowa City, Iowa 52243-0168 (319)337-1000
Name of Product Proposed:	EXPLORE
Does this product provide normative inferences about student growth? If so, how?	ACT's College and Career Readiness System assessments - EXPLORE, PLAN, and the ACT - are on a common score scale. This relationship means that students would be expected to receive the same score on EXPLORE, PLAN, and the ACT if they took all test batteries on the same day. When you compare students' EXPLORE scores (from grade 8 or 9) to their PLAN scores (from grade 10), you can interpret an increase directly and confidently as academic growth. Although the tests are on a common scale, there are some differences. PLAN is more difficult than EXPLORE in order to assess the greater academic development that may be expected of 10th graders. This is reflected in the different score ranges of the test batteries. The maximum score allowed on EXPLORE is 25, whereas PLAN test takers may score as high as 32, and ACT test takers may score as high as a 36. EXPLORE, PLAN, and the ACT, when used together as a longitudinal system, can measure growth as an entry-point in 8th or 9th grade, a mid-point in 10th grade, and a college and career transition point in 11th or 12th grade.
What are the grade(s) the proposed product covers:	8 <sup>th</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup> grade, with norms for each grade level
What are the subject area(s) the proposed product covers:	English, Math, Reading, Science

**Please provide an overview of your proposal for LEAs describing in detail the assessment, use of the assessment, and how your organization supports implementation of the assessment. (2 pages max)**

Far too many students are not ready for high school and college and are unsuccessful in transitioning throughout the educational pipeline. This is why it is critical to monitor student readiness early and often. EXPLORE® is based on a philosophy that the best way to determine students' readiness for further education and careers is to measure as directly as possible the knowledge and skills students will need in those settings.

Through various studies, ACT has reviewed the factors that are impacting student readiness and achievement. The Forgotten Middle, a study conducted in 2008, shows that, under current conditions, the level of academic achievement that students attain by eighth grade has a larger impact on their college and career readiness by the time they graduate from high school than anything that happens academically in high school. The report also reveals that, on average, 8th-grade students who are not on target for college and career readiness are much less likely to be ready for college and career by high school graduation than 8th-grade students who are on target.

The EXPLORE® program is designed to help 8th and 9th graders explore a broad range of options for their future. It prepares students not only for their high school coursework but for their post-high school choices as well. EXPLORE can serve as an independent program or as the entry point into ACT's College and Career Readiness System.

EXPLORE® contains four curriculum-based assessments: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science. The assessment is based on the major areas of high school and postsecondary instructional programs and measures the skills and knowledge needed for college success. Additionally, EXPLORE includes a career exploration component that stimulates students' thinking about future plans and relates personal characteristics to career options. EXPLORE can be administered anytime during the school year that is convenient for the school/district, within the mid-August – early-June testing window.

Based on the same college readiness standards as the ACT® test, EXPLORE delivers actionable data to help your leadership team advance student achievement and improve instructional tools. EXPLORE data will enable educators, students, and families to gain early insight into a student's level of preparedness for college and career by high school graduation. Access to EXPLORE data will:

- Provide the first step toward longitudinal student monitoring starting in 8th grade through high school
- Identify areas of academic risk and allow for early intervention
- Provide teachers with insight into student understanding, thereby informing instructional practices and areas needing improvement and more rigor.

<b>Estimated Service Provider Costs (non-binding)</b>	
<p>Fixed costs over a given academic year.</p>	<p>N/A - cost per student only</p>
<p>Per-student costs over a given academic year that are above the estimated fixed costs.</p>	<p>Price per student     \$8.50</p> <p>Reports and Supporting Materials</p> <p>Student Score Reports with Item Response – two copies per student</p> <p>Student Score Labels – two copies per student</p> <p>Using Your EXPLORE Results</p> <p>Student List Report</p> <p>Profile Summary Report by School (includes Presentation Packet, Early Intervention Roster, and College Readiness Standards Data)</p> <p>Item-Response Summary Report by School</p> <p>Item-Response Summary Report Interpretive Guide</p> <p>EXPLORE Test Booklet (for interpretation of the Item-Response Summary Report)</p> <p>School Data File with School Norms</p> <p>District Data File with District and School Norms (for district orders only)</p> <p>Interpretive Guide for Student and School Reports</p> <p>Districts will receive district-level reports and copies of school-level reports.</p>
<p>Time-and-materials costs that are limited to special services that are NOT required for standard administration during a given year (e.g., special professional development services at the start of a contract, standard setting if required, test augmentation if required, language translation fees for tests and supporting materials) and that are delineated on either a time-and-materials or a cost-per-service basis for each special service).</p>	<p>EXPLORE Sample Tests (not scored by ACT) - \$6.00/student</p>

**If approved as a provider of student assessments for teacher and/or principal evaluations, we are prepared to provide services to (Please indicate by clicking on the appropriate boxes below):**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b><u>All</u></b> Districts/LEAs in the State of New York, or
<input type="checkbox"/>	Only to those eligible Districts/LEAs indicated below: