

Nebraska College Entrance Exam

In April 2016, the Legislature of Nebraska 104th session passed Section 79-760.03 of the Legislative Bill 930 which states that “no later than 2017-18 school year the State Department of Education shall administer a standard college admission test, selected by the State Board education, to students in the eleventh grade attending a public school in the state in lieu of the assessment for the one grade in high school as required under section 79-760.03. The department shall pay the expenses of administering such college admission test and may use funds from the Nebraska education Improvement Fund as provided in section 9-812.”

Nebraska Department of Education determined that moving forward with revised NeSA assessments for grade 11 students in 2016-2017 and then moving to a college entrance exam in 2017-2018 would present difficult transitions for Nebraska high schools in curriculum and instruction. A school survey was conducted seeking input from school and district administrators, and the Assessment and Accountability Committee also considered the transition timeline. Based on this information, NDE determined a Request for Proposal for a college entrance exam for 2016-2017 would be released.

A Request for Proposal was developed with input from multiple teams at NDE. The schedule for the RFP is below.

Schedule for NDE.CEX.2016.RFP

ACTIVITY	DATE/TIME
1 Release Request for Proposal	July 11, 2016, 5:00 PM
2 Last day to submit “Notification of Intent To Bid”	July 19, 2016, 5:00 PM
3 Last day to submit written questions	July 20, 2016, 5:00 PM
4 State responses to written questions posted to the Internet at http://www.education.ne.gov/ and/or http://das.nebraska.gov/materiel/purchase_bureau/vendor/services-rfp.html	July 22, 2016, 5:00 PM
5 PROPOSALS DUE – late proposals will not be accepted and will be returned unopened to Bidder.	August 9, 2016, 2:30 PM
6 Proposal opening Location: Department of Education, 6 th floor, State Board Room 301 Centennial Mall South Lincoln, NE 68509	August 9, 2016, 2:30 PM
7 Evaluation period	August 10-19, 2016
8 Oral Interviews/Presentations and/or Demonstrations (if required)	August 16-17, 2016
9 Post “Letter of Intent to Contract” to Internet at: http://www.education.ne.gov/ and/or http://das.nebraska.gov/materiel/purchase_bureau/vendor/services-rfp.html	September 2, 2016
10 Proposed contract finalization period	September 5, 2016 through October 4, 2016 , 2016

Two Proposals were received--one from ACT and one from the College Board, SAT.

- Five evaluators scored the proposals independently.
- ACT was scored highest by each individual evaluator.
- ACT received the highest total score overall.
- ACT offered the lower cost proposal.

	Cost per test	Cost X 22,000 Participants (estimate*)	Cost of Writing	Cost X 22,000 Participants (estimate*)	Total	Full cost per student-CORE Test and Writing
ACT	\$36.00	\$792,000.	\$11.00	\$242,000	\$1,034,000	\$47.00
SAT	\$38.25	\$841,500.	\$10.20	\$224,400.	\$1,065,900.	\$48.45

*NDE will only pay the cost of tests actually administered.

- ACT includes the following in its proposal:
 - ACT tests offered closely match the content of the current statewide tests: Reading/English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Writing.
 - ACT will participate in a study of alignment between ACT test content and Nebraska College and Career Ready standards in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science
 - Nebraska-oriented information about ACT for students, parents, and patrons will be developed by ACT in cooperation with NDE.
 - School sites are given the option of paper/pencil or online.
 - School sites that select online may also have students accommodated with a paper/pencil test.
 - ACT will support NDE in USDE peer review.
- Included on the ACT are the following tests. NDE made the decision in this one-year contract to include ACT-Writing as a statewide test.

Test	Content		
English	75 questions	45 minutes	Measures standard written English and rhetorical skills.
Mathematics	60 questions	60 minutes	Measures mathematical skills students have typically acquired in courses taken up to the beginning of grade 12.
Reading	40 questions	35 minutes	Measures reading comprehension.
Science	40 questions	35 minutes	Measures the interpretation, analysis, evaluation, reasoning, and problem-solving skills required in the natural sciences.
Writing Test	1 prompt	40 minutes	Measures writing skills emphasized in high school English classes and in entry-level college composition courses.