

# 2015 | 2016 ACT Fee Waiver Eligibility Requirements

During 2015–16, ACT will again make fee waivers for the ACT® test available to economically disadvantaged high school juniors and seniors. Funds are limited, however, and once they have been exhausted, requests for waivers will be denied.

## Audits of Waiver Usage

In order to serve as many economically disadvantaged students as possible, only students who meet the 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.

**IMPORTANT:** When students do not follow through to test, they not only miss a valuable opportunity but also prevent others from testing at that test center. ACT encourages schools/agencies to emphasize to fee-waiver-eligible students the importance of sitting for the test. High no-show rates may indicate inappropriate distribution of waivers and may result in an audit.

## What the ACT Fee Waiver Covers

ACT Fee Waivers cover the basic fee for either the ACT (no writing) or the ACT with writing. This fee includes one report to the high school and up to four college choices.

Waivers may NOT be used to pay for any of the following: late registration fee; test date, test option, or test center changes; additional college choices; standby fee; other services; or residual (on-campus) testing.

## Usage Restriction

Eligible students may use a maximum of **TWO** 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, submits a standby request, or is approved for Special testing, **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](http://www.actstudent.org).

## 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 a US citizen or testing in the US, 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).
  - 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 (see table).

Number in Household (including student)	Total Annual Income Before Taxes* (in last calendar year)
1	\$21,775
2	\$29,471
3	\$37,167
4	\$44,863
5	\$52,559
6	\$60,255
Each additional	plus \$7,696 each

\*See <http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/income-eligibility-guidelines>

**See reverse for Fee Waiver Procedures**



# 2015 | 2016 ACT Fee Waiver Procedures

## Submitting Forms

- Fee waivers are valid through August 31 each year.
- Only current, official ACT Fee Waivers may be used.
- Altered, photocopied, or obsolete forms and requests on letterhead will NOT be accepted.
- Each waiver has a **serial number** printed in the top-right corner. Instructions for submitting the serial number online or returning the fee waiver form with a paper registration or Special Testing request are on the printed form under “Student Directions.”
- Students registering online must pay any fees not covered by the waiver with a credit card before submitting the registration.
- Each request is valid only if it is properly completed and personally signed by both the student and a school/agency official.

## Distributing Forms

Each summer, ACT ships fee waiver forms to high schools in the United States that had students who used fee waivers during the preceding academic year. The number of fee waiver forms mailed to each school is based on the number of waivers students at that school used the prior year.

**IMPORTANT: If a school had an unusually high proportion of fee waiver students who did not test, the number of fee waivers ACT sends will be based on the number of students who actually tested.**

ACT Fee Waivers are available to high schools, active Upward Bound projects, and qualifying not-for-profit assistance organizations. Officials who identify eligible students may contact ACT to order fee waivers. Fee waiver forms are normally delivered within ten working days of receiving the order.

Please monitor your fee waiver quantities. **Reorder only if needed** prior to the registration period for each test date.

To order or reorder fee waivers, contact ACT Student Services.

ACT Student Services      Phone: 319.337.1270  
PO Box 414                      Fax: 319.339.3032  
Iowa City, IA  
52243-0414

## Advising Eligible Students

As you identify eligible students and assist them with using the ACT Fee Waiver, please keep the following tips in mind:

- **Encourage students to follow through and actually test.** Please emphasize to students who register with a fee waiver the importance of sitting for the ACT. ACT has noted a higher-than-expected number of fee-waiver-eligible students who register but then do not test. When students do not test, they not only miss a valuable opportunity but may also prevent other students from testing at that center.
- **What happens when a student does not test?** Except for standby students denied admission, please advise fee waiver students who do not test to reschedule for a later ACT test date. Rescheduling will allow them to “reapply” the fee waiver to the new test date and may encourage them to follow through and test. Please note that the student will need to pay the Test Date Change fee. Late fees will also apply after the registration deadline has passed. Students who choose not to reschedule can register for another test date with their second fee waiver if it has not already been used.

Please discourage students from using two fee waivers simply to register twice—they do not receive the full benefits of their waivers unless they actually test.

