Standardized Testing Guidance for Parents

Testing Requirement

Direct Payment Schools are required to test all Opportunity Scholarship and ESA+ scholarship students in grades 3-12 each year. The following information is provided as a courtesy to parents. Please contact your school administrator for information about their plans for testing students. Parents are not responsible for the cost of these required tests.

Grades 3 and 8: Designated Nationally Standardized Test

Beginning in the 2026–27 school year, schools must select one of the following designated assessments for scholarship recipients in 3rd and 8th grade:

- i-Ready (Standards Mastery)
- NWEA MAP
- Renaissance Star
- California Achievement Test (CAT 6)
- CTP (ERB)
- Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS)
- Stanford Achievement Test
- TerraNova NEXT

Grades 4-7, 9, 10, 12: Nationally Standardized Test

Schools must select a nationally standardized test to measure achievement in the following areas:

English grammar;
Reading;
Spelling; and
Mathematics.

Alternatively for Grades 9, 10, and 12, schools may select a nationally standardized test or other equivalent measurement that measures competencies in the verbal and quantitative areas.

Grade 11: ACT

All 11th-grade scholarship students must take the ACT. We encourage you to contact your school administrator about their plans for testing 11th grade students.

SEAA will reimburse schools for the cost of tests for 3rd, 8th, and 11th grade students for each Opportunity Scholarship student. See the chart below for ACT-specific information.

Paying for the ACT

Student Group/Cost	Who Pays?	Additional Notes
Opportunity Scholarship students	SEAA covers the cost of the ACT (up to $68).	SEAA reimburses Direct Payment Schools (not parents).
ESA+ students who are not also Opportunity Scholarship students	Parents or Direct Payment Schools.	Parents may use ClassWallet account funds to pay for the ACT.
Students who register independently for the ACT	SEAA will issue payment to the Direct Payment School, which can reimburse the parent for the ACT cost.	Applies only to Opportunity Scholarship students who register independently for the ACT.
Other costs	Not covered.	The following costs are the responsibility of the parent or school: • Test administration expenses • Additional tests • Optional ACT Science and Essay sections

ACT Testing Options

- **Online or Paper:** Either format is acceptable.
- **Location:** The ACT must be administered at an official ACT testing site. Contact your school or consult the ACT website for information about testing dates and locations.
- **Timing**: Students may take the test in fall or spring.

Deadlines

The school is responsible for test score results, not the parent. Direct Payment Schools must submit test results for scholarship students from the previous school year by **July 15**.

Noncompliance

Testing is a statutory requirement, and refusing to comply with program requirements can impact eligibility for award funding.

Students with Disabilities

If your child has a disability that affects testing, the school should select an educationally appropriate test and keep documentation supporting the test choice on file for SEAA review.

Questions?

Contact your school administrator or scholarship program support team at **855-330-3955**.