

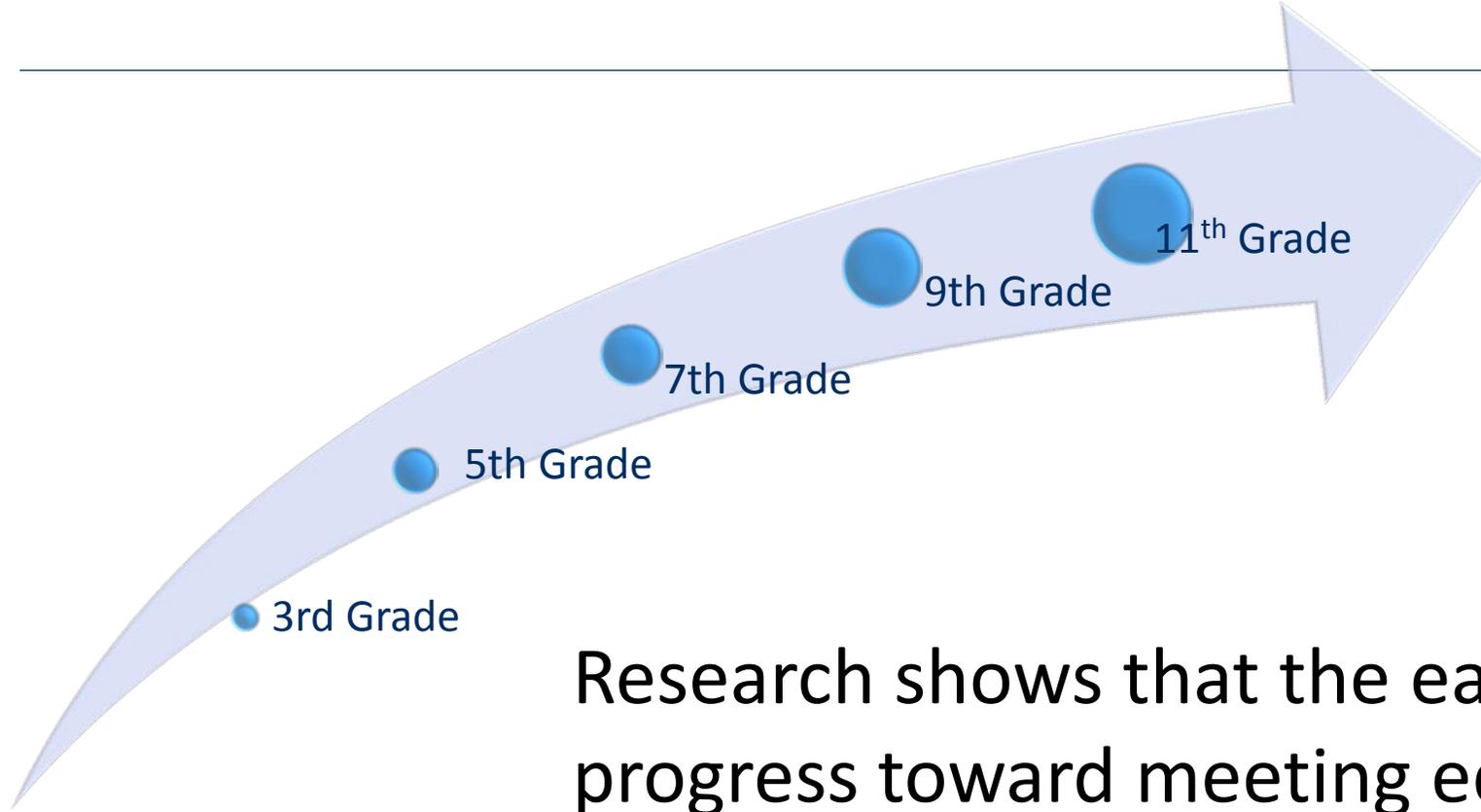
**ACT**<sup>®</sup> **Aspire**<sup>™</sup>



---

# Partnering with North Dakota since 2010

- Students meeting all benchmarks increased from 21% to 24%
- College/Career Readiness Campaign
- Scholarship availability based on ACT composite score
- Students are familiar with the ACT and motivation is high!
- What if students could know how they're progressing before they take the ACT?

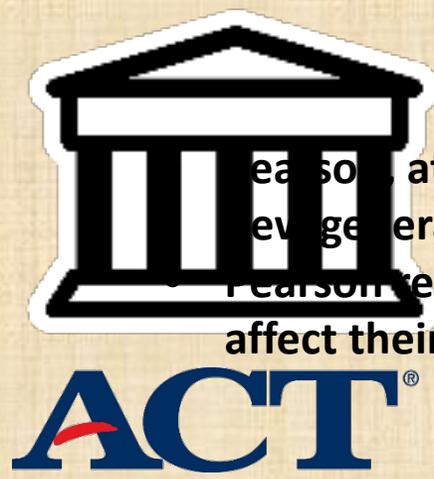


Research shows that the earlier we measure progress toward meeting educational standards, the more we can strengthen a student's chances to stay on target to succeed



# Fewer than 2 in 10 eighth graders are on target to be ready for college and career

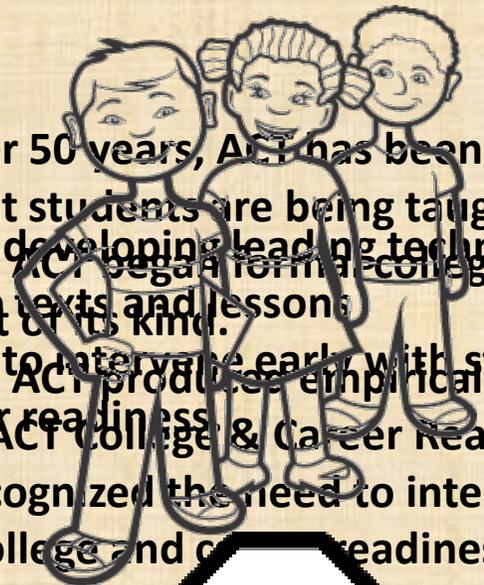




**Mission:** Helping people achieve education and workplace success



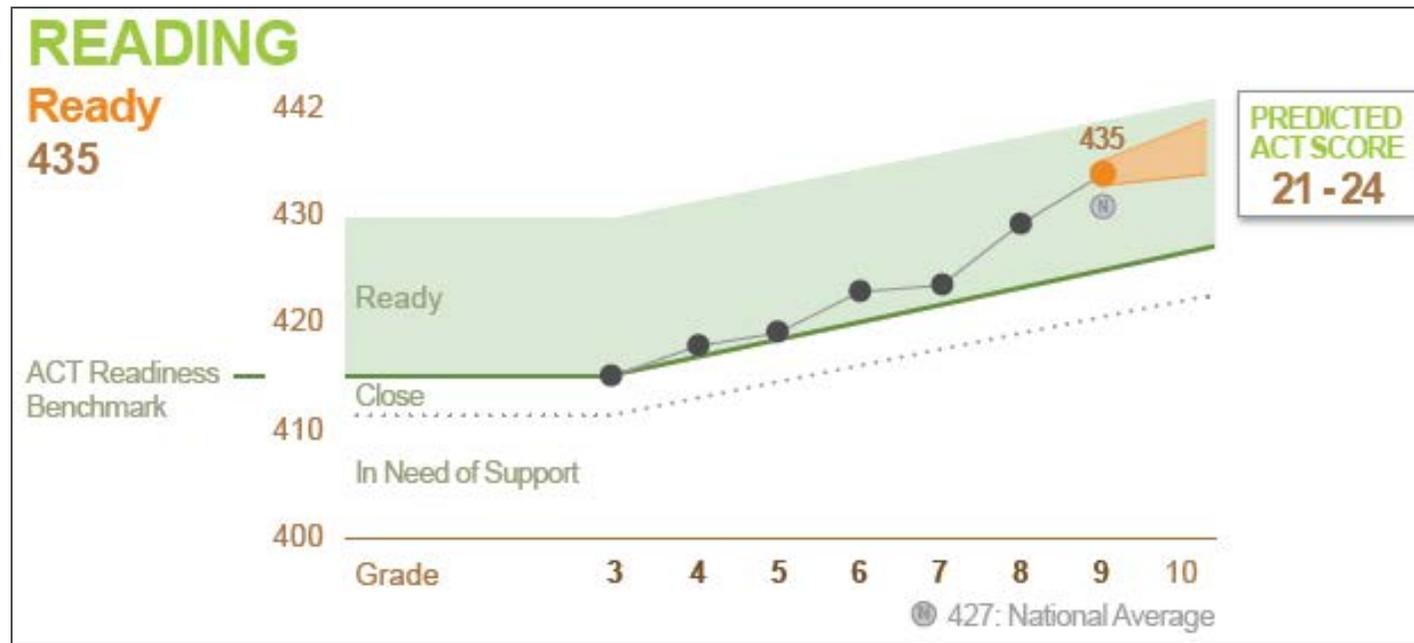
- For over 50 years, ACT has been at the forefront of research on what students are being taught.
- At the same time, is developing leading technology for a new generation of interactive texts and lessons
- In 1987 ACT began a formal college and career readiness program, the first of its kind.
- Pearson recognized the need to intervene early with students to affect their college and career readiness
- In 1997 ACT produced empirically based readiness standards as the ACT College & Career Readiness Standards
- Act recognized the need to intervene early with students to affect their college and career readiness.



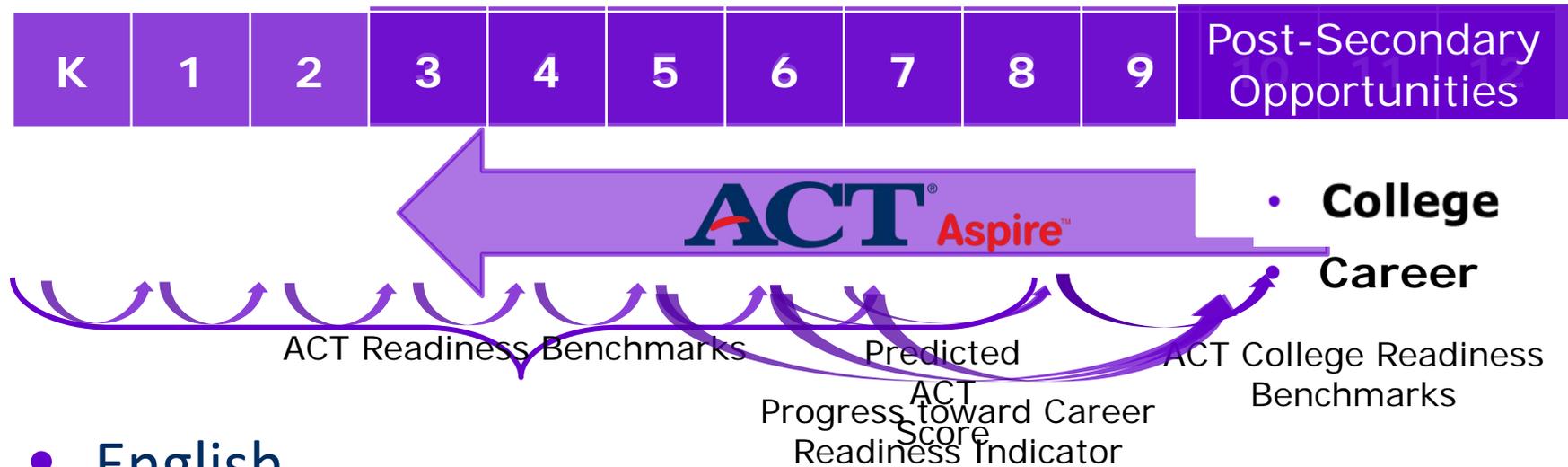
**Mission:** To help people make more of their lives through learning

# Goals

- Measures student growth towards college and career readiness grades 3-10
- Identifies early learning gaps to help all students graduate from high school ready for college and career opportunities



# Longitudinal View of Readiness



- English
- Mathematics
- Reading
- Science
- Writing



# Operational since April 2014

- 3 million students through Fall 2015 administration
  - 50/50% online/paper
  - Expect **1.3** million students in spring 2016
  - Assessed students in 47 states and 3 US Territories
  - 6 states provide the assessment statewide
  - Computer Based and Paper Based
- Online System can assess 300K students in one hour
  - Options for Districts
    - Browser based
    - Desktop Application (most popular in 2015!)
    - iPads (new in spring 2016 for summative assessments)
- Fall 2015 administration
  - Most students in one day: 120K
  - Most students in one hour: 22K

# What does ACT Aspire offer?



- ✓ Multiple question types: constructed response, selected response, and technology-enhanced
- ✓ Subject areas: English, math, reading, science, and writing
- ✓ Grades 3–8 and early high school (grades 9–10)
- ✓ Modular administration of subjects and grades available
- ✓ Online delivery of assessments with traditional paper-and-pencil option

# Support for districts



1.888.802.7502

[actaspire\\_implementation@actaspire.org](mailto:actaspire_implementation@actaspire.org)

[Home](#) [Training and Manuals](#) [Exemplar Items](#) [Technology Set-up](#) [ACT Aspire Portal](#) [Reporting Resources](#) [News](#)

## Home

Thank you for choosing ACT Aspire as your local student assessment program.

This site includes resources and links that will help you learn about, prepare for, and deliver the ACT Aspire assessment.



## Training and Manuals

[Training and Manuals](#) >

Click here for step-by-step instructions for interacting with Organization and SDU files, PNP and test session set-up, authorization tickets, accommodations, paper test material handling, manuals, training videos, and an interactive calendar of training events.

## Exemplars

[ACT Aspire Exemplar Items](#) >

Click here to access ACT Aspire sample test questions for all grades and subjects. Give educators and students the opportunity to interact with the TestNav computer-based testing platform prior to a live testing experience.

## Technology Set-up

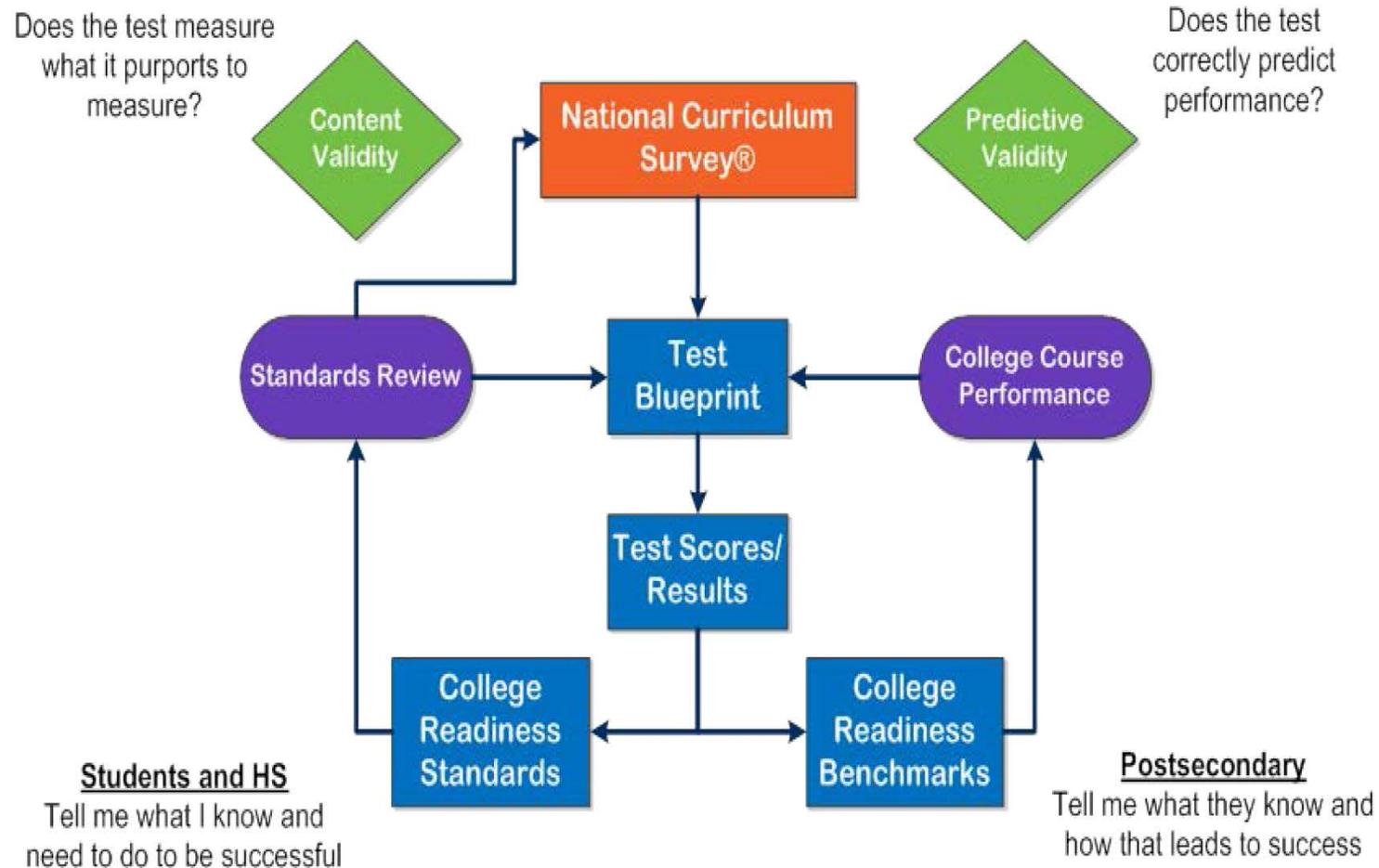
[Technology Resources](#) >

The ACT Aspire assessment is comprised of several technology based components that work together to deliver test content to students. Information and resources for SystemCheck, ProctorCache, TestNav 8, and general technical help documents can be found by clicking the link above.

---

# Overview of ACT Aspire Summative

# The Science of ACT Assessments



---

# ACT CCRS (College Career Readiness Standards) and

## ACT Aspire RC (Reporting Categories)

- A criterion referenced test aligned to the ACT College and Career Readiness Standards; empirically developed and unique to ACT
- Reporting categories along trajectory shared by ACT CCRS
- Research derived ACT CRS; directly contributed to CCSS
- Powerful reporting with Benchmarks

- 
- A test optimized to provide highly reliable and valid information in just 4.5 hours for all 5 subject areas
  - Subject areas:
    - Reading, English, Writing, Mathematics, Science
  - Grades 3-Early High School (EHS)
  - Modes: paper and online (via TestNav)
  - Item Types: selected response, constructed response and technology enhanced items

---

# ACT Aspire Accessibility

- Accessible paper forms include contracted & uncontracted braille + large print (all subjects & grades)
- Accessible online forms include audio for sighted students + audio for non-sighted students (mathematics, science, and writing only)
- Spanish audio (mathematics, science, and writing only)
- Pretest items appended to each form

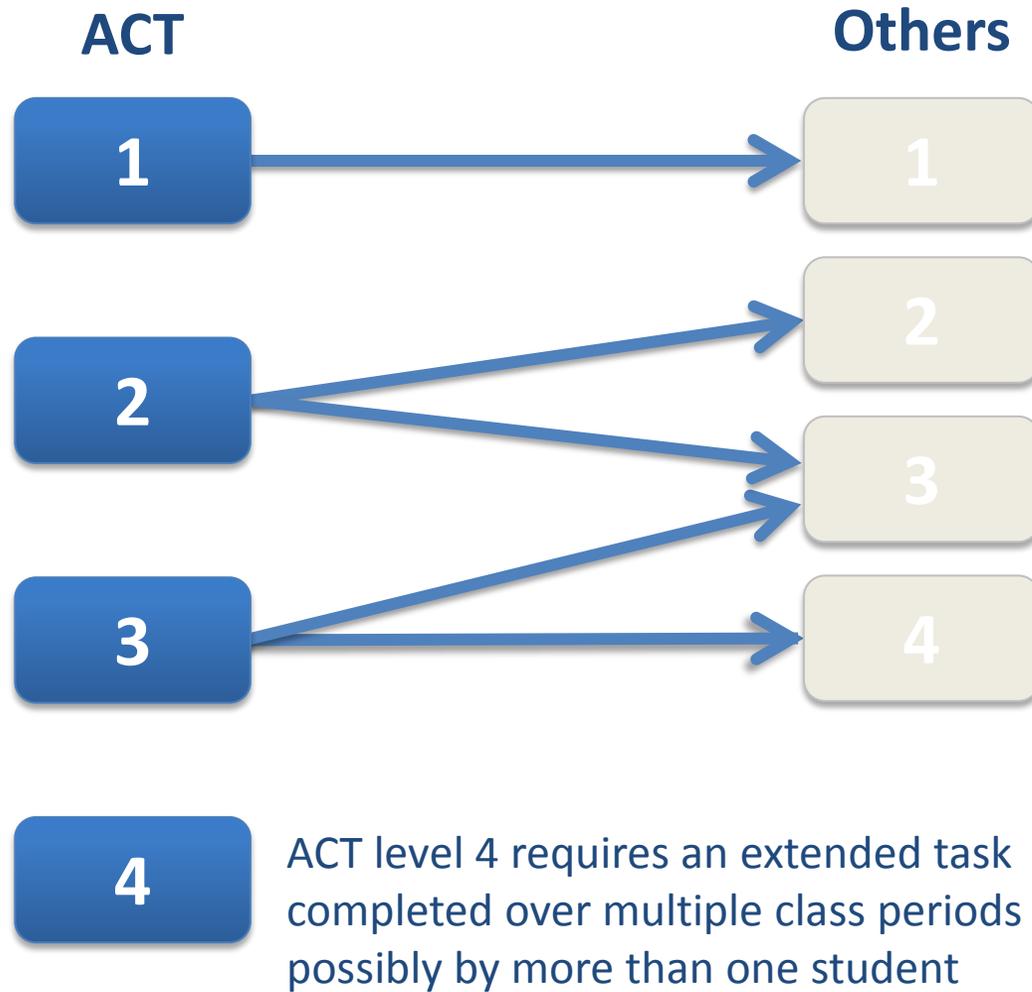


# About STUDENTS

- How are they progressing toward college and career readiness?
- How well are they keeping up and learning for the grade?
- How well are they continuing to grow in what they can do using the important skills from prior years?



# ACT Aspire Depth of Knowledge



---

ELA

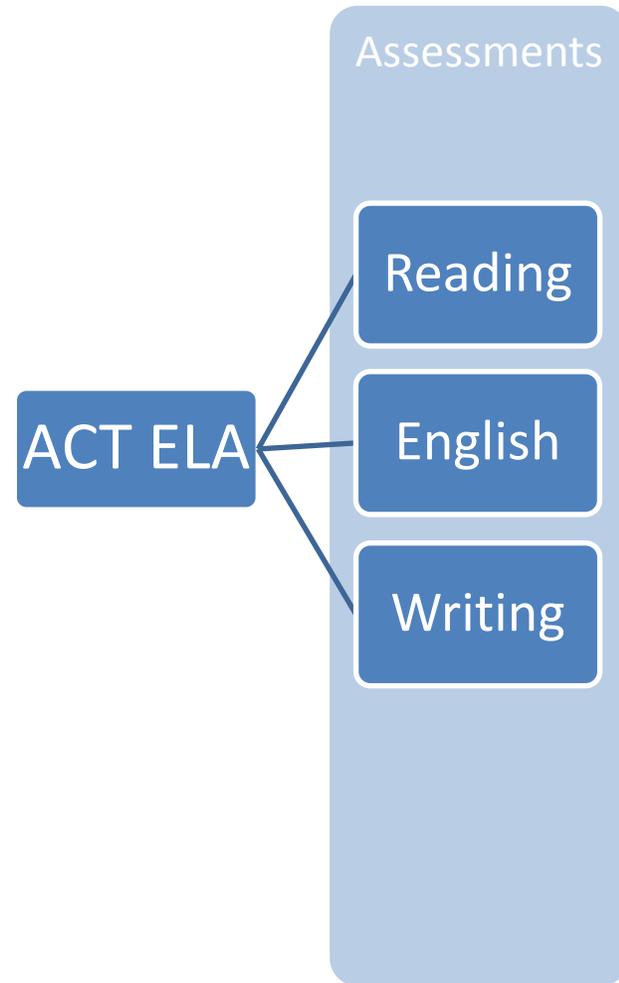
---

## Identify students' readiness on a college and career readiness trajectory-- ELA

- Measures key components
  - Reading increasingly complex texts; emphasis on nonfiction text types and using evidence
  - Writing texts for a range of real-world purposes; emphasis on expository/argumentative
  - Progression of language skills to support reading and writing



## ELA Assessments

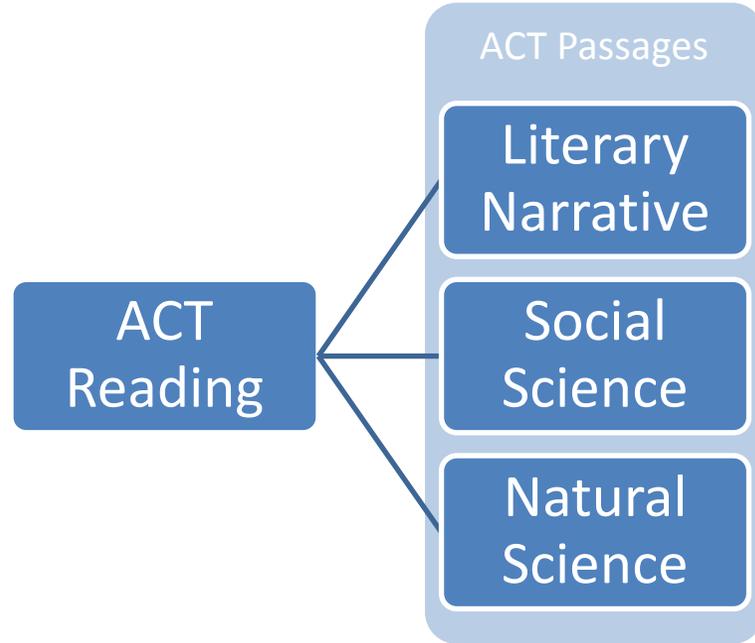


NOT conflated.  
That's by design.

Supports clearer  
inferences and  
more actionable  
results

Overlap? Yes!  
Integrated? Yes!

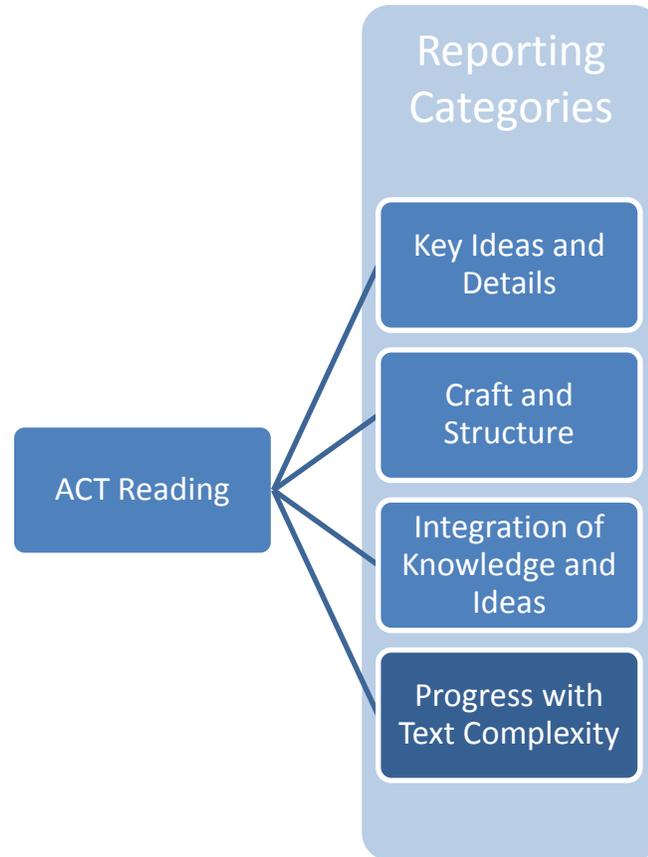
# ELA Assessments: Reading



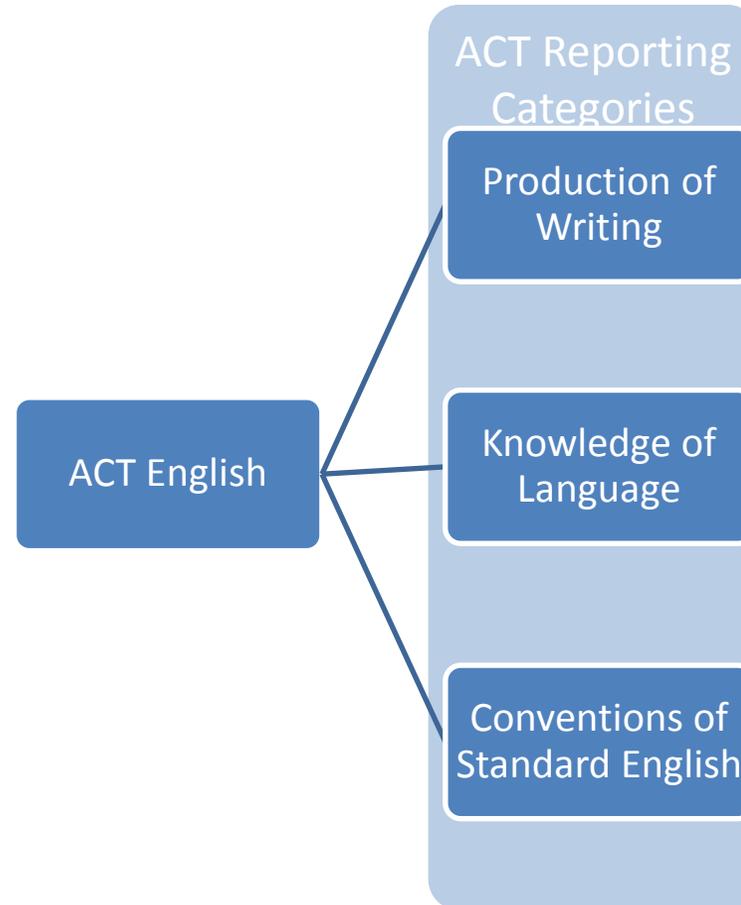
Number of passages by text complexity for the ACT Aspire reading assessments

	Grade Level						
	3	4	5	6	7	8	EHS
Basic	3	2	1				
Straightforward	1	2	2	1	1		
Somewhat challenging				2	2	2	1
More challenging						1	1
Complex							1

# ELA Assessments: Reading Reporting Categories and Claim Structure

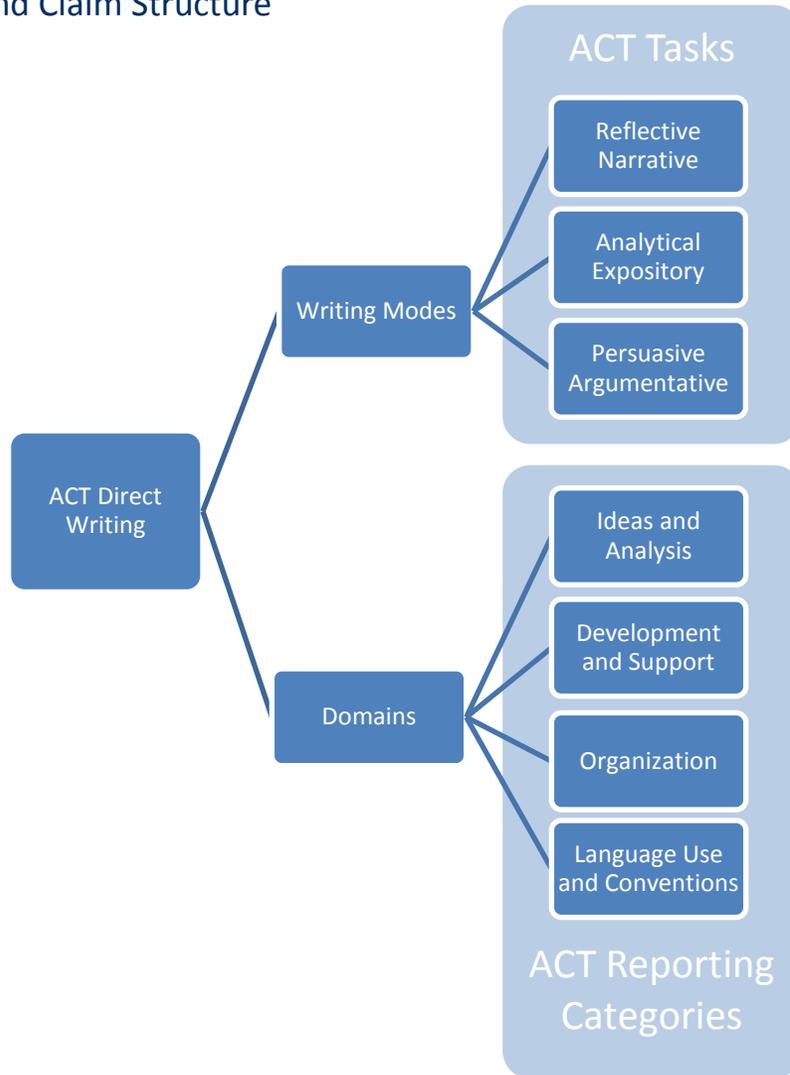


## ELA Assessments: English



# ELA Assessments: Writing

Reporting Categories and Claim Structure



## ELA Assessments: Writing

### Writing Modes and Tasks by Grade

Grade	Writing Mode
3	Reflective Narrative
4	Analytical Expository
5	Persuasive Argumentative
6	Reflective Narrative
7	Analytical Expository
8	Persuasive Argumentative
EHS	Analytical Expository

- One ACT Aspire Writing direct-writing task at each grade
- Designed to spiral through text types over the years
- Heavier emphasis on expository/argument in upper grades
- Genres differ, but writing emphasis is the same

---

# Mathematics

---

# ACT Aspire Mathematics: Coherence across the grades

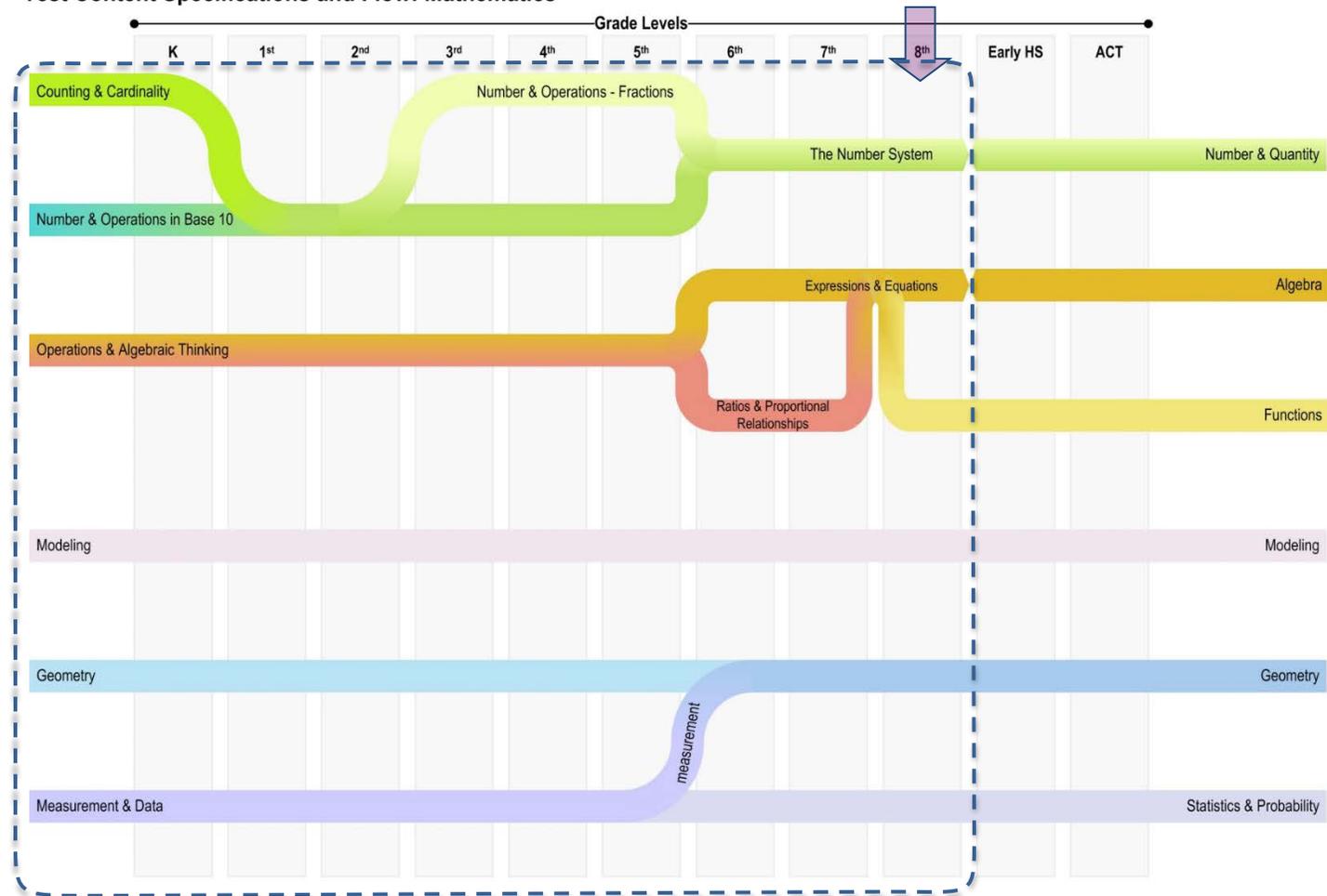
Coherence—The big picture

- Clusters are connected
- Grades are connected
- Practices are connected
- Trajectory of readiness

# How are students progressing toward college and career readiness?

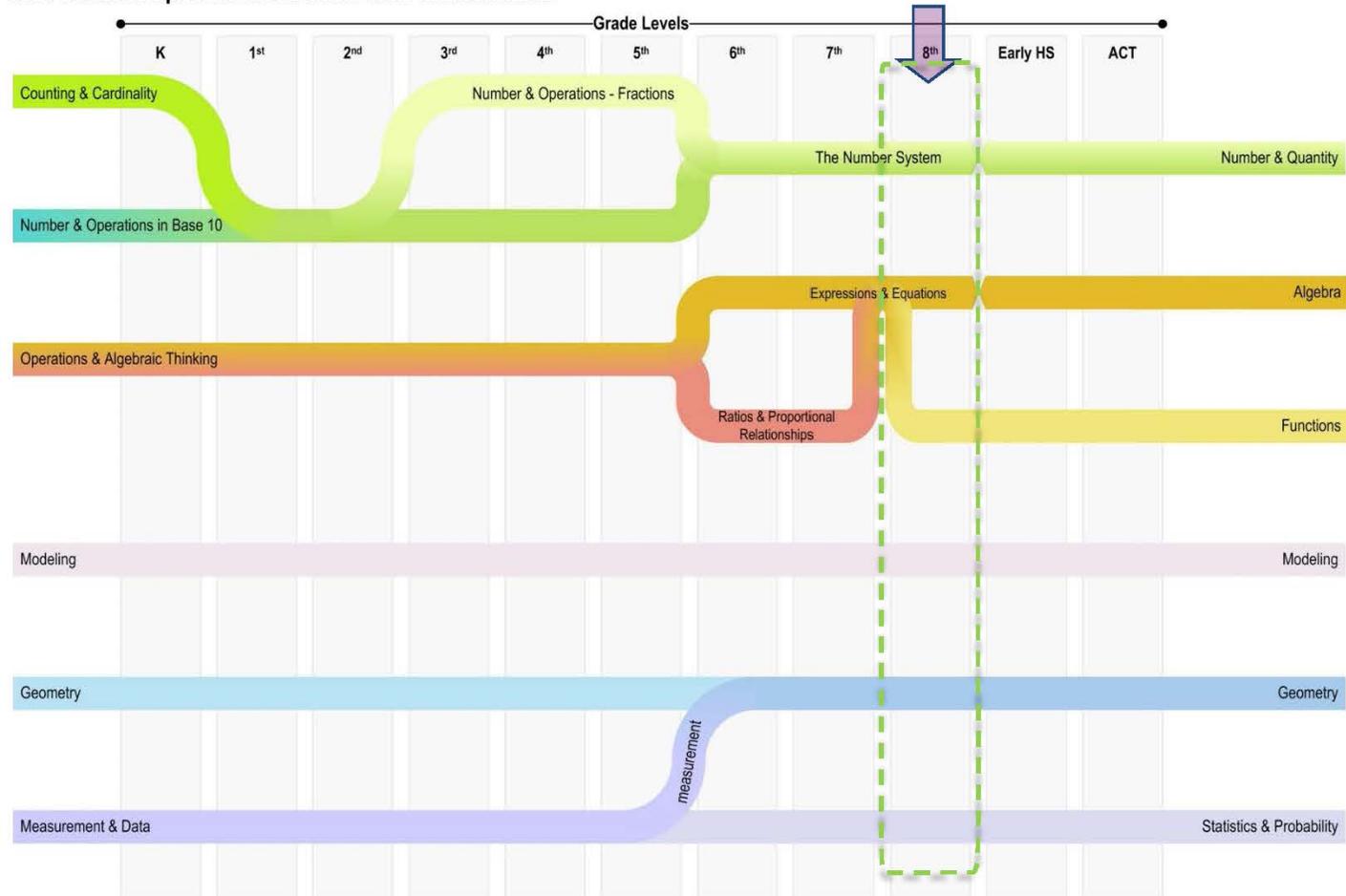
ACT Aspire Mathematics—8<sup>th</sup> grade example

Test Content Specifications and Flow: Mathematics



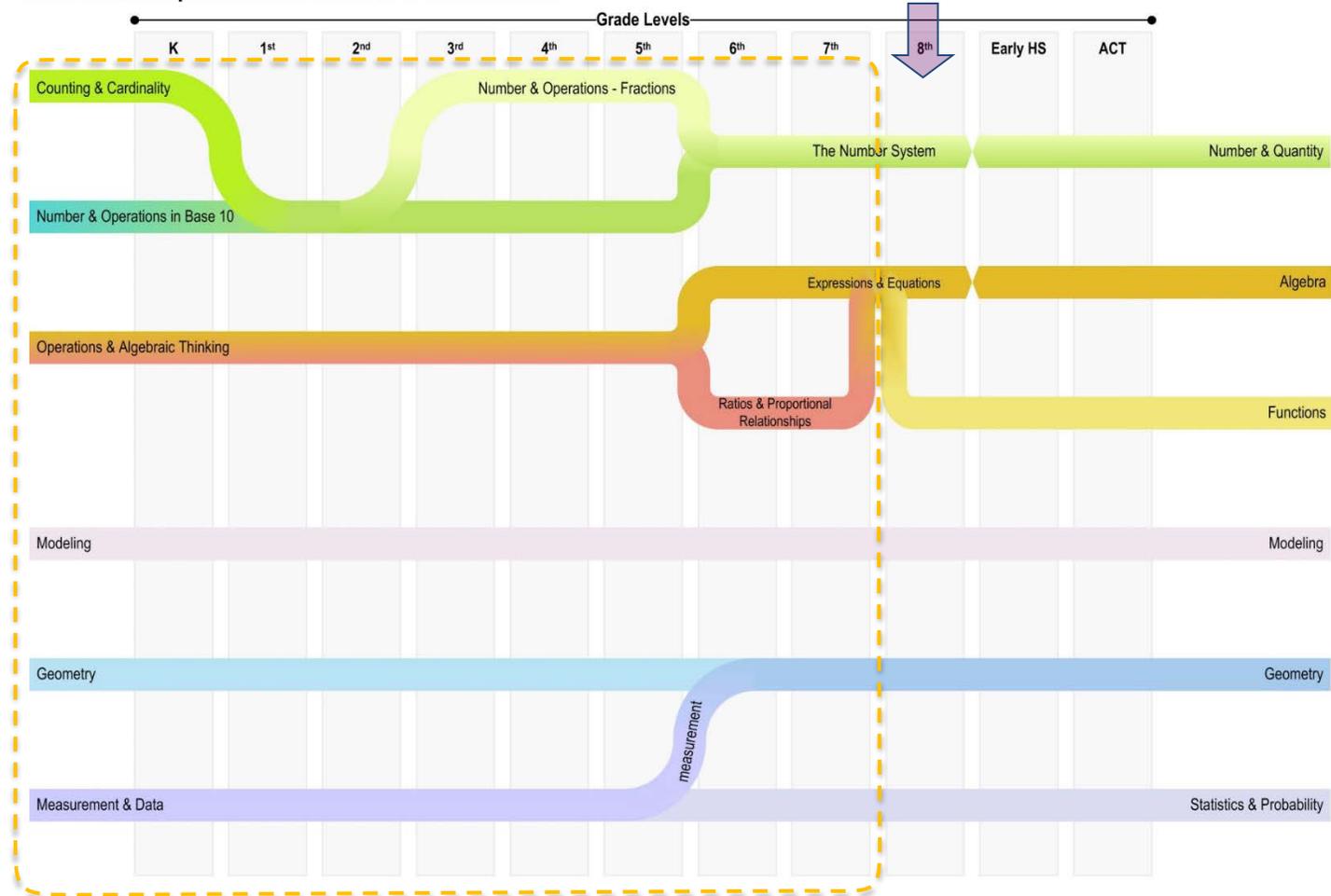
# How well are students keeping up and learning the new mathematics for the grade?

Test Content Specifications and Flow: Mathematics



# How well are students continuing to grow in what they can do using the important math from prior years?

Test Content Specifications and Flow: Mathematics





# ACT Aspire Mathematics

Justification & Explanation

## Example: Justification & Explanation (JE)

- JE tasks elicit evidence of skills along a progression of JE skills
- Includes content
- Multiple tasks for each student, with a JE reporting category score so that students and teachers have reliable information about this valuable part of mathematics

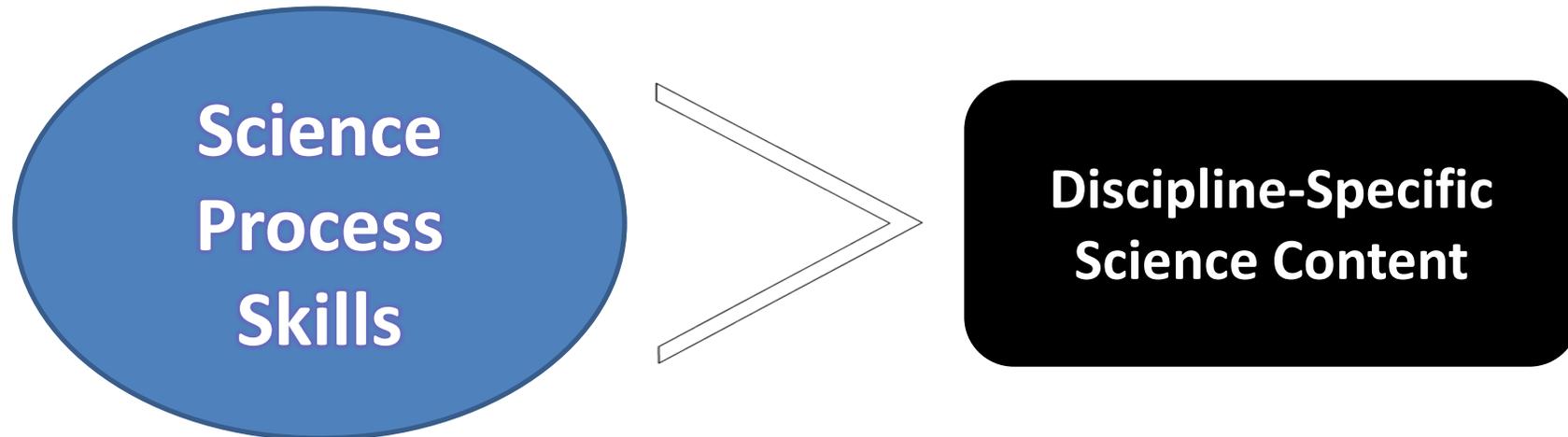
---

# Science

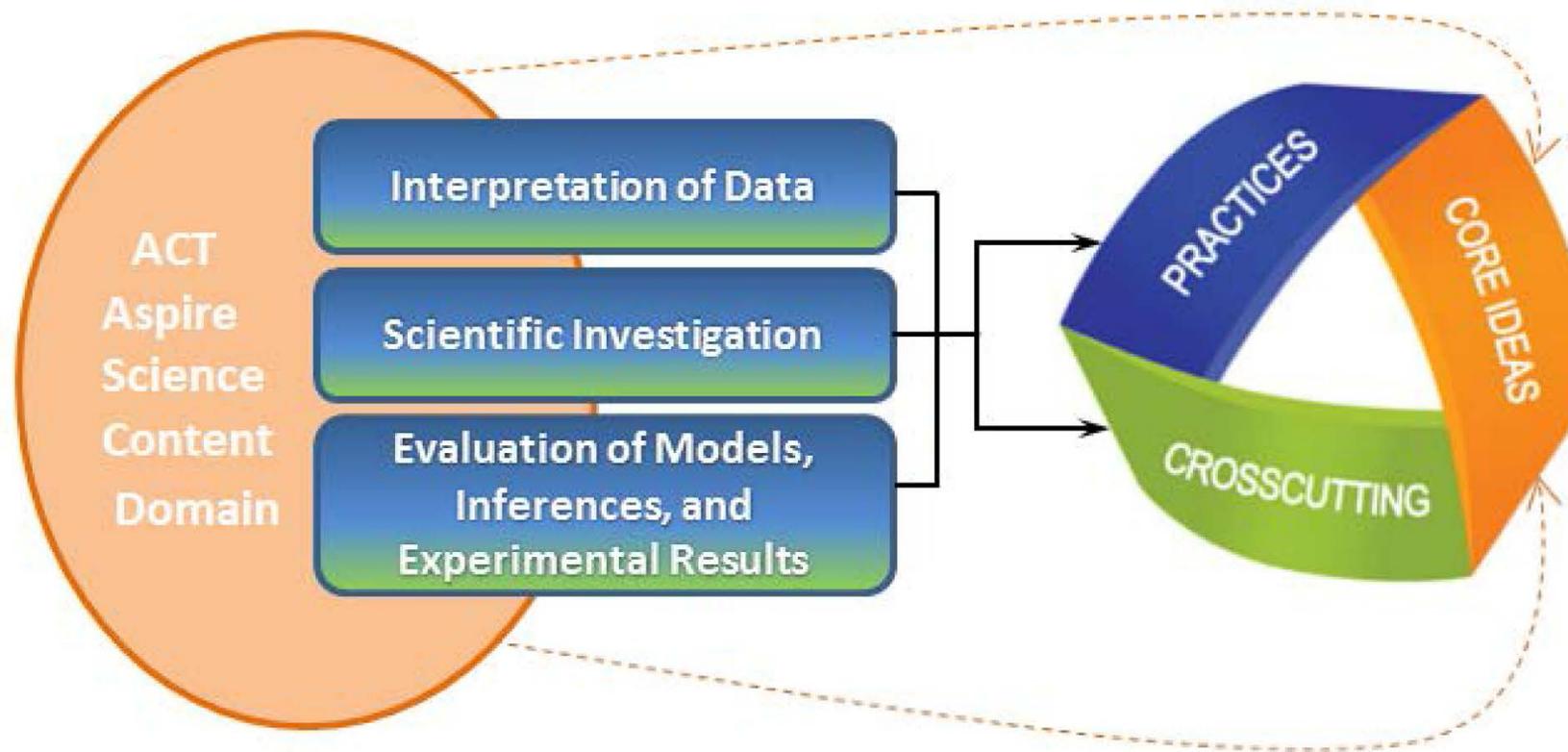
# WHY FOCUS ON SCIENCE PROCESS?

Our National Curriculum Survey tells us that:

- Science curricula is highly varied, particularly at the lower grades (what particular content do we test, and when?)
- Science Process is more important as prerequisite for success in 1<sup>st</sup> year science courses

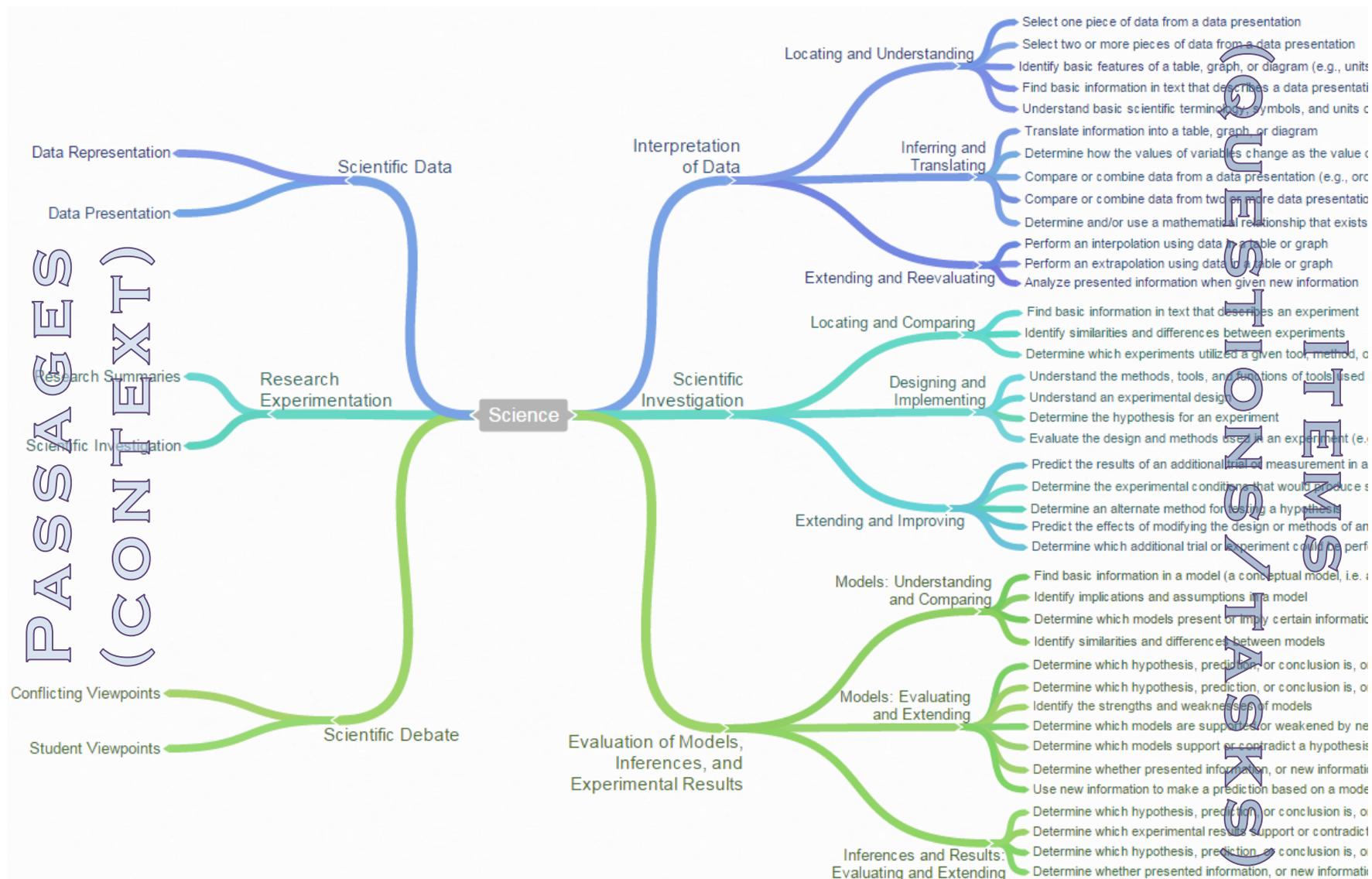


## ACT Aspire Science Construct and the 3 NGSS\* Domains



\*The part of the graphic showing the domains of the NGSS is a registered trademark of Achieve. Neither Achieve nor the lead states and partners that developed the Next Generation Science Standards was involved in the production of, and does not endorse, this product.

# Science Domain



PASSAGES  
(CONTEXT)

SCIENTIFIC  
INVESTIGATION  
TECHNIQUES  
AND  
EVALUATION

# ACT Aspire Scores

## Subject Scores

Reading

English (Language)

Writing

Mathematics

Science

## Supplemental Scores

ELA Combined Score

STEM Combined Score

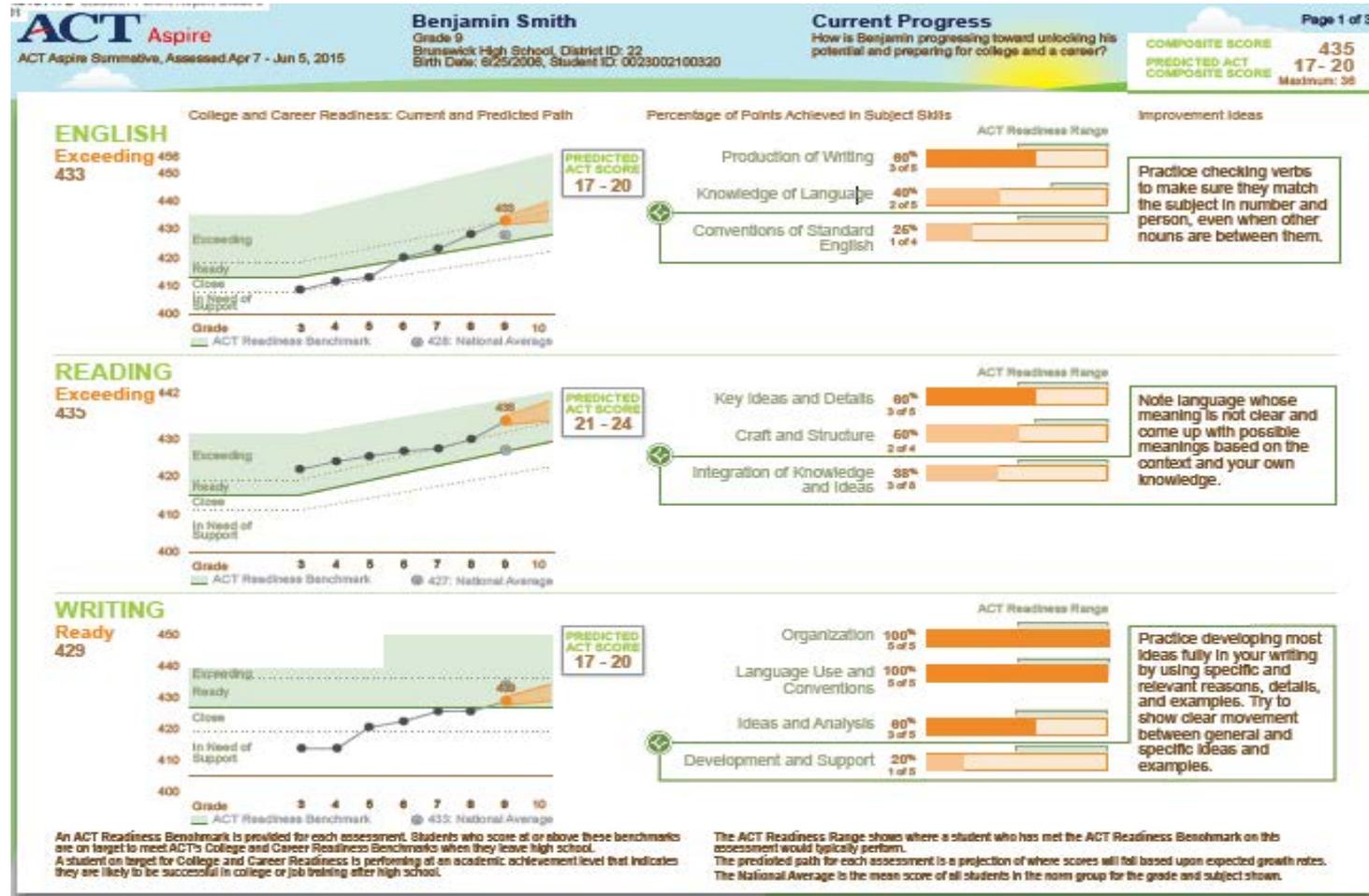
Progress with Text Complexity Indicator

Progress toward Career Readiness

ACT Aspire Composite Score

Predicted ACT Subject Scores

# After the assessment.....



See scores are estimates of student knowledge and achievement. The student's actual achievement could be slightly higher or lower than the scores shown.

© 2015 by ACT, Inc. All rights reserved. ACT, Inc.—Confidential Restricted. www.DiscoverACT.org Created 5/12/2015

# After the assessment.....

ACT Aspire  
Summative, Assessed Apr 7 - Jun 5, 2015

**Benjamin Smith**  
Grade 9  
Brunswick High School, District ID: 22  
Birth Date: 6/25/2008, Student ID: 0023002100320

**Supplemental Scores**  
How can additional performance measures inform decisions?

Page 3 of 3

---

### NATIONAL PERCENTILE RANK

Subject	Percentile
English	78 <sup>th</sup>
Reading	74 <sup>th</sup>
Writing	68 <sup>th</sup>
Science	89 <sup>th</sup>
Mathematics	80 <sup>th</sup>

Your ranks show the percentage of other grade 9 students in the nation who received a score that is the same as or lower than yours.

For example, a rank of 78 for your English score means 78% of students earned that score or below.

---

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

English, Reading and Writing Combined Score

**Ready**  
432

Your English Language Arts (ELA) score represents your overall performance on the English, reading, and writing tests. The ACT Readiness Range represents the typical performance of students who meet the ACT Readiness Benchmarks in English, reading, and writing.

The ability to communicate thoughts and ideas clearly and to read and understand increasingly complex information is foundational to academic success in all subjects.

### PROGRESS WITH TEXT COMPLEXITY

Students must read and understand increasingly complex texts to prepare for the reading demands of college and career. Examples of factors that contribute to text complexity are vocabulary level and sentence structure. The reading test measures progress with text complexity by checking for understanding of texts from a range of complexity levels.

**Sufficient Progress**

Yes  No

Continue to build reading experiences with increasingly complex texts about a variety of subjects. Reading routines should include some careful reading of challenging texts with a focus on unfamiliar language and ideas that are central to the meaning.

---

### STEM

Science and Mathematics Combined Score

**Ready**  
436

Your STEM score represents your overall performance on the science and math tests. The ACT Readiness Range represents the typical performance of students who meet the ACT Readiness Benchmarks in science and math.

Developing strong science and math skills opens the door for you to take interesting courses and pursue engaging college majors that may lead to rewarding STEM careers in the future.

Taking challenging high school or vocational courses in science and math can improve your opportunities to find STEM careers in a wide variety of industries, such as Health Care, Engineering, Education, and Technology.

### PROGRESS TOWARD CAREER READINESS

**435**  
Composite Score

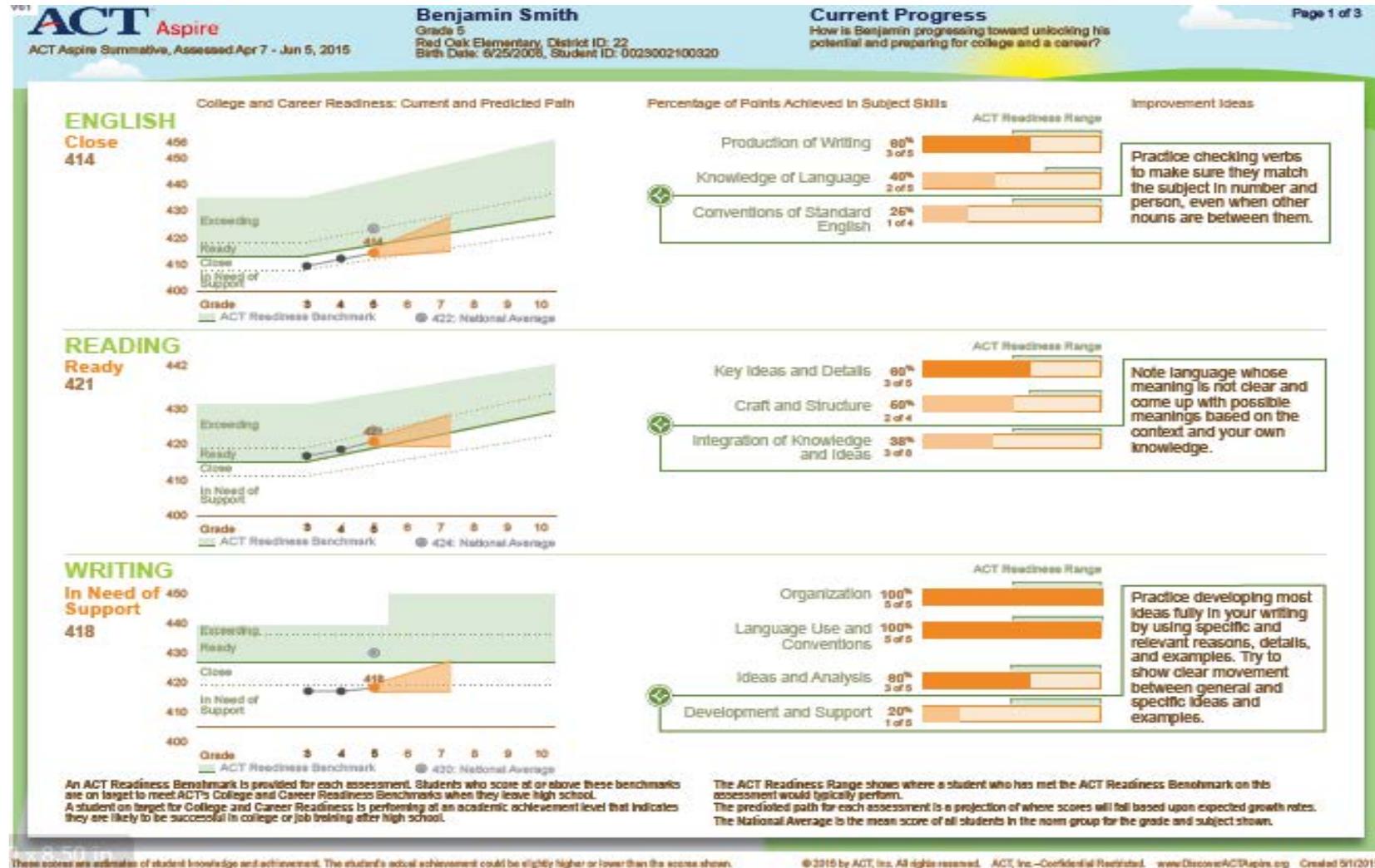
You are making progress toward a Gold level on the ACT NCRC.

Progress Toward Career Readiness is an early indicator of your future achievement on the ACT National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC). The ACT NCRC is an assessment-based credential that documents foundational work skills important for job success across industries and occupations.

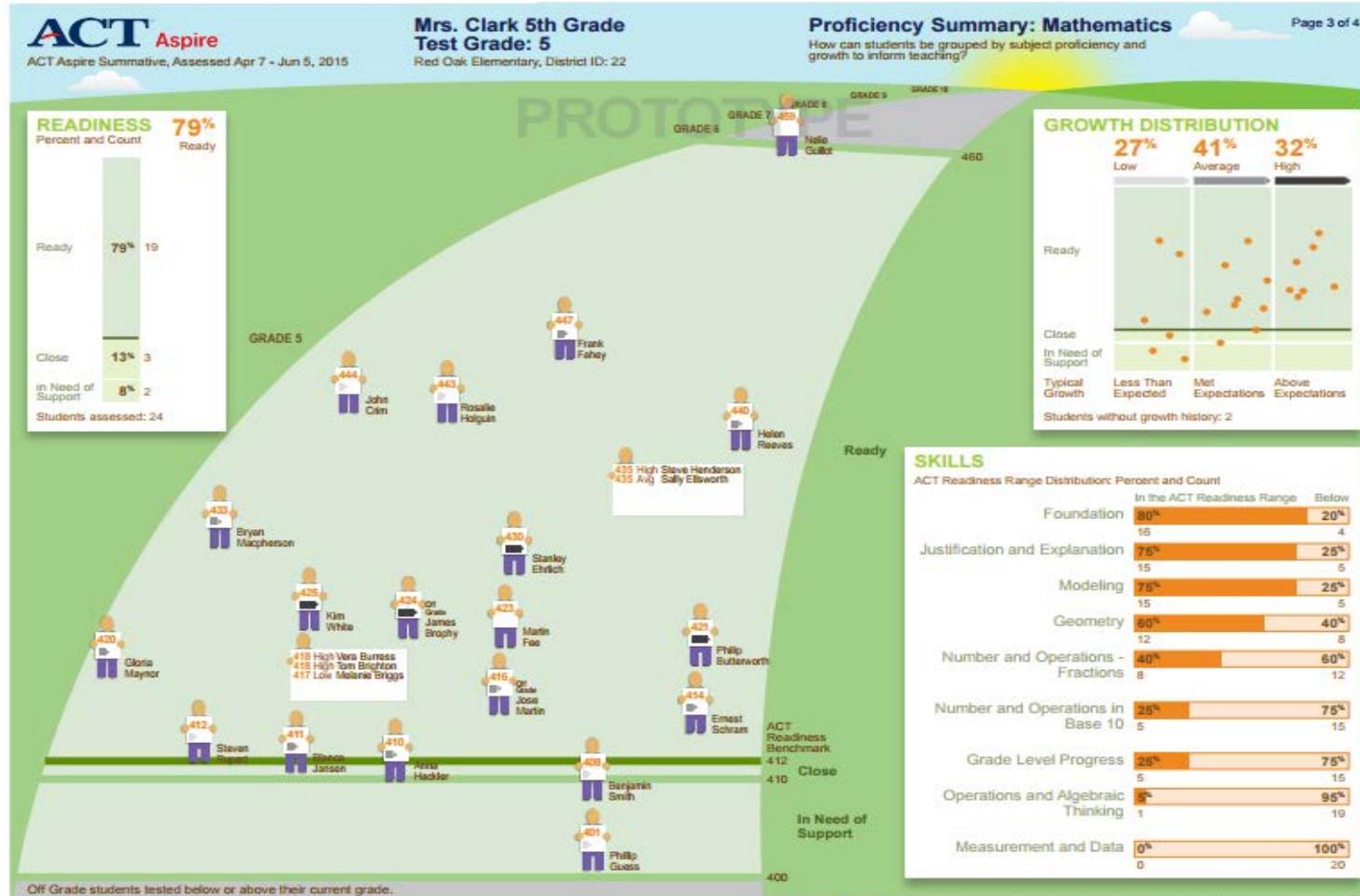
Learn how NCRC performance relates to job skill requirements:  
<http://www.act.org/workkeys/briefs/files/NCRCRequirements.pdf>  
This information is not to be considered a substitute for actual performance on the ACT NCRC.

All scores are estimates of student knowledge and achievement. The student's actual achievement could be slightly higher or lower than the scores shown. © 2015 by ACT, Inc. All rights reserved. ACT, Inc.—Confidential Restricted. www.DiscoverACT.org Created 5/1/2015

# After the assessment.....

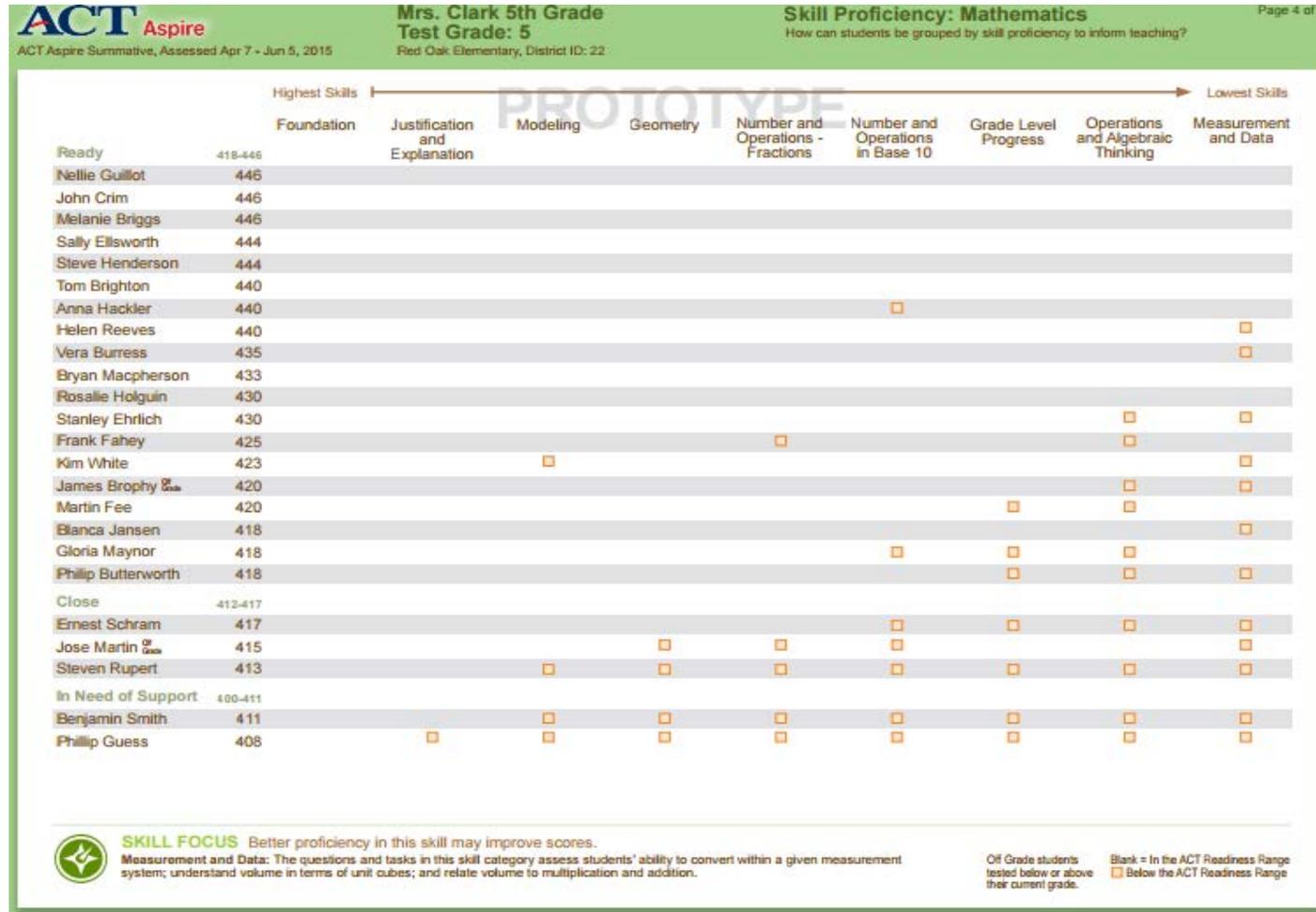


# Teacher reports



© 2015 by ACT, Inc. All rights reserved. ACT, Inc.—Confidential Restricted. www.DiscoverACTAspire.org Created 5/1/2015

# Teacher reports



# What does all of this mean for North Dakota students?

