



**Integrating Test Prep
Across the Curriculum**

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2024 Oklahoma/Arkansas ACT Summit

@collegespring

Welcome!



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Think back to when you
sat for the ACT...

How did you prepare?

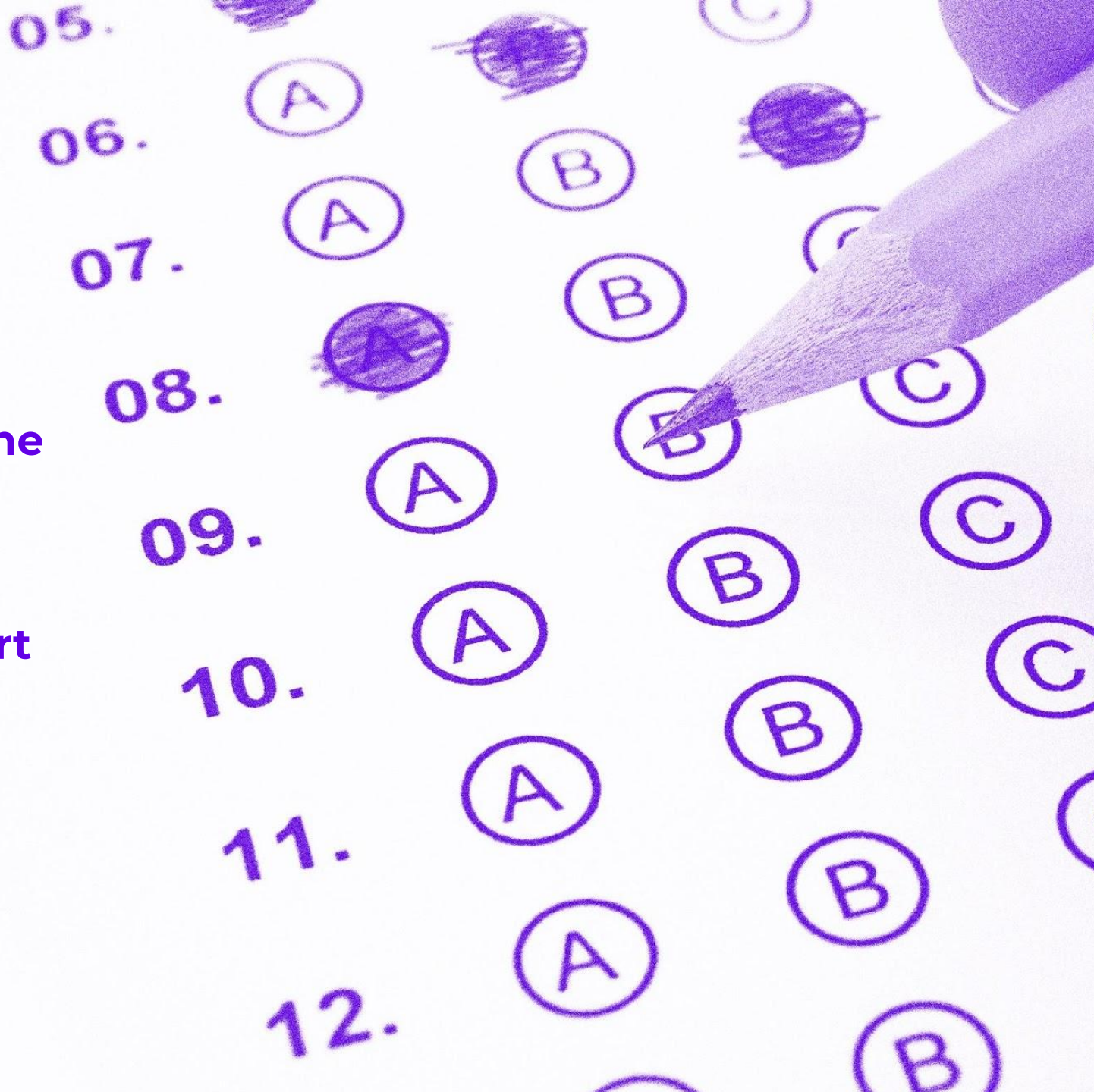
How did you feel walking
in to take the exam?



Essential Questions for Today

.....

- Who is CollegeSpring?
- How can districts/schools set the stage for integrating test prep across the curriculum?
- How can EVERY teacher support test prep?
- How can I learn more?



Who is CollegeSpring?

Our Story

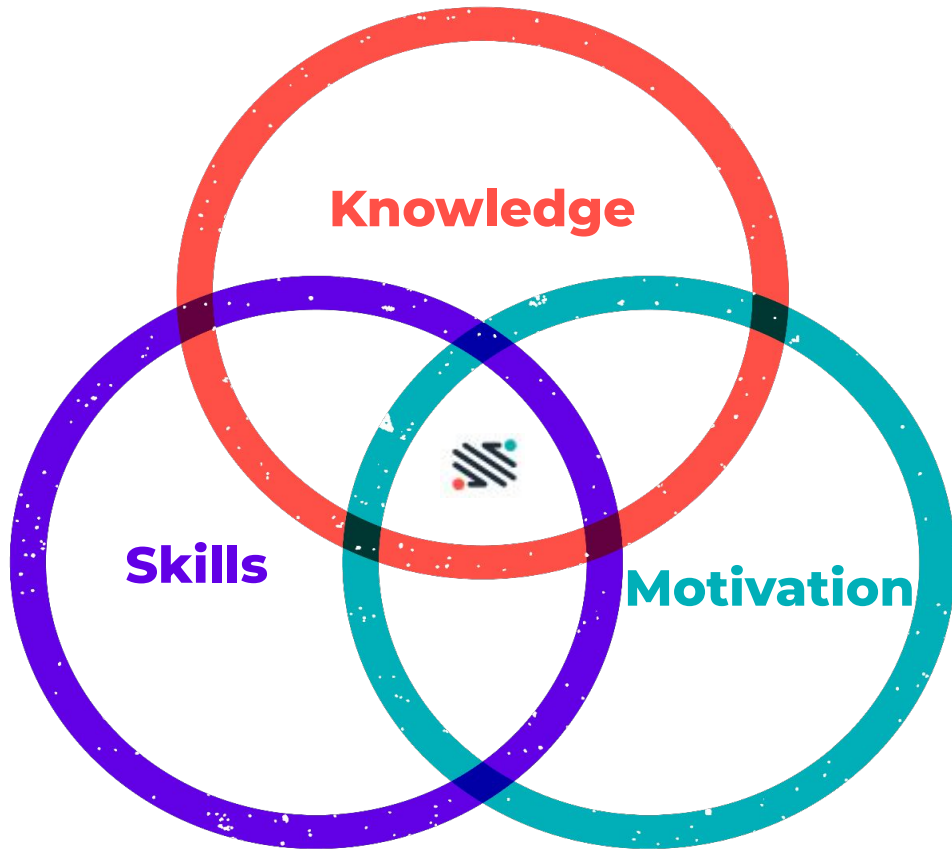
College Spring is a mission driven 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Our Mission

In partnership with educators, we help students impacted by poverty demonstrate their full potential on college and career readiness assessments that unlock better opportunities after high school.



Test Confidence Transforms Results



More than just a test

Doing well on college and career readiness assessments requires more than tips and tricks.

Students need to have **knowledge** about why the test matters, and how it can change their future trajectories; they need to feel **motivated** to use this test as a lever to unlock opportunity; and they need the academic **skills** to perform effectively.

All of these things combined build their Test Confidence, leading to results that set students up for success as they pursue their postsecondary aspirations.

Setting the Stage

Establish Shared Understanding

- **Review** the test structure

Test	Domain	Details	Time
English	Grammar & Mechanics	75 questions m/c with 4 options	45 minutes
Math	General Topics - Algebra 2	60 questions m/c with 5 options	60 minutes
Reading	Literary & Informative	40 questions m/c with 4 options	35 minutes
Science	General (biology, chemistry, physics)	40 questions m/c with 4 options	35 minutes
Writing [optional]	Essay Prompt	1 Essay	40 minutes

Establish Shared Understanding

- **Review** the test structure
- **Examine** tested standards

COLLEGE SPRING		ACT
Standard and Lesson Alignment		
Unit: ENGLISH		
Lesson	CCSS Standard	ACT Standard
Organization	W.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience.	Org.301 Sentence placement Org.302 Conclusions
Punctuation	L.2 Conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling	SST.301 Punctuation and Conjunctions PUN.301 Commas PUN.302 Punctuation
Knowledge of Language	L.3 Knowledge of Language	KLA.301 Redundancy and Wordiness KLA.302 Style and Tone

Establish Shared Understanding

- **Review** the test structure
- **Examine** tested standards
- **Align** on your school goals



Build a College-Going Culture

- **Celebrate** achievement
- **Believe** all students have a college option
- **Encourage** growth mindset



Encourage Early Test Prep - It's not just for Juniors!

- **Why is building test confidence important before grade 11?**
 - Students learn to successfully set and work toward **personal and academic goals**.
 - Teachers help students gain ability to accurately **assess their strength and growth areas**, and provide students with a well-grounded sense of **confidence, optimism, and growth mindset**.
 - Both teachers and students understand that **the test does not define a student**; it is an **opportunity to unlock** future opportunities.
 - Teachers help students **develop habits, skills, and approaches** that can be applied to other future situations, leading to life-changing results.

Build and feed your college-going culture!

Join the Conversation!

How else can districts and schools set the stage for test prep across the curriculum?

<http://tinyurl.com/ACTatCollegeSpring>



Every Teacher Can (and Should) Support Test Prep





How to Support Test Prep

.....

1. Connect test standards to course standards
2. Incorporate consistent test taking strategies
3. Build test prep components into class content
 - Question of the day!
4. Write test items in the exam's format

Connect Test Standards to Course Standards

ACT College and Career Readiness Standards are all easily accessible via the ACT.org website:

- [English Standards](#)
- [Mathematics Standards](#)
- [Reading Standards](#)
- [Science Standards](#)
- [Writing Standards](#)

Incorporate Consistent Test Taking Strategies

Example: AFEC

CollegeSpring encourages students to use the **AFEC strategy** when answering questions on the ACT.

- **A - Anticipate the answer**
- **F - Find the answer**
- **E - Eliminate**
- **C - Confidently choose**

AFEC Strategy for Math

- **A - Anticipate the solution by calculating the problem**
 - Do a quick check after you do each question. The test writers predict potential mistakes by students and include those mistakes as answer choices. Ask yourself:
 - Did I find the number the question is asking for?
 - Can I quickly verify my answer?
 - Is my answer reasonable and logical given the context of the question?
- **F - Find the answer choice closest to what you came up with; hold onto it while you evaluate to eliminate the other options.**
 - Next, you will go back to the answer choices and find the one that matches what you came up with. This is where you will hold that answer in your mind.
- **E - Eliminate the choices that you believe are wrong**
 - Eliminate the other choices, so you can confidently choose the answer you found. If you end up unsure of more than one option, you can revisit the problem with the answer options in mind to figure out which fits best.
- **C - Confidently choose the option that best answers the entire question**

AFEC Strategy for Reading

- **A - Anticipate the answer without looking at the answer choices**
 - Since this test focuses on your reading skills, read the passage first, and then read the questions that follow focusing on one question at a time. Using what you learned in the passage, determine what the answer might be before looking at the answer choices. Go back into the passage to find what you believe the answer actually is.
- **F - Find the answer that most closely relates to what you thought; hold onto it**
 - Next, you will go back to the answer choices and find the one that matches what you found in the passage. This is where you will hold that answer in your mind.
- **E - Eliminate the answer options that are obviously wrong; find the trap in answer choices that might be partially correct, but don't completely answer the questions - eliminate those, as well.**
 - Eliminate the other choices, so you can confidently choose the answer you found. If you end up unsure of more than one option, you can revisit the passage with the answer options in mind to figure out which fits best, based on
- **C - Confidently choose the option that best answers the entire question**

Build Test Prep Components into Class Content

- What could this look like?
 - Start class with an ACT question of the day
 - Work in related mini lessons
 - Break up class time with supplemental material
 - Implement alternating practice test and answer days
 - Turn answering practice questions into a game or group activity



ACT Question of the Day
.....
$$(x + 4) \times (x - 2) = -9$$

What are all the solutions to the equation above?

A. $x = -4; x = 2$
B. $x = -4; x = -2$
C. $x = 1, x = -1$
D. $x = -1$

Write Test Items in the Exam's Format



**Did You
Know?**

**English, Reading, and Science
are all multiple choice questions
with four (4) choices of **plausible** distractors.**

Math has five (5) choices.

Join the Conversation!

How have you integrated test prep into your classroom? What are you going to try next?

<http://tinyurl.com/ACTatCollegeSpring>



Learn More

CollegeSpring ACT Course

Includes:

- **40 subject lessons**
- **6 Motivation and Mindset** lessons
- **10 College Knowledge** lessons
- **2 practice tests**
- Equates to **full-school year program** in length
- More than **1,000 practice questions**



ACT Course Outline

Overview Unit

- What is the ACT?
- Test-Taking Strategies

English Unit

- English Test Overview & Approach
- Topic Development
- Organization
- Knowledge of Language
- Sentence Structure
- Punctuation
- Verbs

Reading Unit

- Reading Test Overview & Approach
- Key Ideas & Details
- Word Meaning
- Text Structure & Relationships
- Arguments
- Multiple Texts
- Purpose & POV
- Drawing Logical Inferences & Conclusions

Essay Unit

- Essay Overview & Approach
- Ideas & Analysis
- Development & Analysis
- Organization
- Writing the Essay

Math Unit

- Math Test Overview & Approach
- Number & Quantity - Fractions, Decimals, Percents (Rational Numbers)
- Number & Quantity - Exponents, Absolute Values, Square Roots (Irrational Numbers)
- Number & Quantity - Factors, Primes, Factorials
- Algebra - Ratios, Rates, & Proportions
- Algebra - Single or Multi-Step Expressions & Equations
- Algebra - Inequalities
- Algebra - Quadratic Equations
- Algebra - System of Equations
- Functions
- Geometry - Lines, Angles, Geometric Figures, & Graphs
- Geometry - Trigonometry
- Statistics & Probability - Statistical representation & Probability

Science Unit

- Science Test Overview & Approach
- Interpretation of Data
- Scientific Investigation
- Evaluation of Models, Inferences, & Experimental Results

Motivation & Mindset Unit

- SMART Goal Setting
- Tracking SMART Goals
- Fixed vs Growth Mindset
- Strategies for Building Growth Mindset
- Intrinsic & Extrinsic Motivation
- Motivation Setbacks & Success

College Knowledge Unit

- Why Go To College
- Types of Colleges
- The Common Application
- College Majors
- The Activities List
- Personal Statements
- Selecting a College
- Junior Year Action Plan
- Types of Financial Aid
- Scholarships

Practice Tests Unit

- Practice test #1
- Practice test #1 Reflection
- Practice test #2
- Practice test #2 Reflection

Every lesson includes:



Teacher Materials

Every lesson contains a slideshow presentation for teachers, with specific differentiated instruction for ELL, above, and below grade level students.



Student Materials

Students complete assignments over each lesson in the LMS that can integrate with teacher gradebooks. Real time data measures engagement and progress. At two checkpoints, students take diagnostic practice exams that measure progress.



- Contact us to continue the conversation!**

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Questions?

Our CEO's OpEd - Hechinger Report
<https://lnkd.in/gcdGUQGR>



**Thank
You**