

Steps to help your child feel comfortable and find success taking tests:

1. Each Learner needs to understand basic computer functions in order to feel comfortable taking the test. Familiarize how the test questions are laid out and how to scroll, drag and drop text, highlighting text, selecting answer for multiple choice questions, and how to type in written answers. Please refer to last page for Free Typing resources.

Go to this **practice website** with your child and complete the Online Tutorial practice:
<http://parcc.pearson.com/tutorial/>

2. Each Learner should take a practice test in each subject area PRIOR to testing. Having experience navigating through the subject tests will alleviate anxiousness and stress, in addition to understanding the content being asked. Go to this practice test website and complete a practice

Language Arts test and a Math test:

<http://parcc.pearson.com/practice-tests/>

3. To practice **Science**, go to this practice test website:

http://www.pearsonaccess.com/cs/Satellite?c=Page&childpagename=Colorado%2FcoPALLayout_v2&cid=1205794393643&pagename=coPALPWrapper

4. If you need to find supporting worksheets and practice pages for all grades and topics, so go this website: select by grade level and subject

<http://www.greatschools.org/gk/worksheets/?category=reading-2>

5. All Learners are invited to attend a **Testing Computer Lab** on each campus to learn how to access these websites and learn the skills needed to succeed on the test. If you have a computer checked out from VCA, please bring your computer for at least one of the Lab days so our IT Department can set it up for testing. Your Learner can then bring and use that computer they are familiar with for their testing.

Computer Labs will be held in Delta on Tuesdays from 3:00 – 5:00pm in the Kitchen

At Surface Creek on Wednesdays from 1:00 – 3:00pm in the computer lab

At North Fork on the 1st Thursday of the month from 10:00am-3:00pm

Please plan to attend.

6. For test prep for the **PSAT for 10th graders**, please go to the Free website:

<https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/new-sat/new-sat-tips-planning/new-sat-how-to-prep/a/full-length-psat-nmsqt> Take a diagnostic quiz to unlock personalized practice questions for each subject, plus helpful tips on planning study time

You can also begin SAT test prep on the Khan Academy website.

College In Colorado also offers FREE ACT and SAT test practice at:

[https://secure.collegeincolorado.org/College Planning/Test Prep/ default.aspx](https://secure.collegeincolorado.org/College%20Planning/Test%20Prep/default.aspx)

7. **ACT preparation:** VCA will be offering two ACT Prep sessions on each campus.

Session 1 – Jennifer Gauthier will teach a session focused on test overview and areas to focus on for each content area.

Session 2 - Cristen Chermack will focus on test taking skills, timed test methodology, and tips to raise scores.

Each session will be from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the Fridays and campuses listed below. Learners may attend any campus or session that fits into their schedule. Vision Charter Academy will provide some snacks and lunch.

North Fork - Session 1 on February 26 and Session 2 on March 4

Surface Creek - Session 2 on March 25 and Session 1 on April 1

Delta - Session 1 on March 25 and Session 2 on April 1

Please ask your Advisor for an ACT Prep Handout and preparation booklet with more information. These additional resources may also help you prepare:

https://secure.collegeincolorado.org/College_Planning/Test_Prep/Test_Prep.aspx

<http://www.actstudent.org/sampletest/>

<https://www.collegeincolorado.org/>

<http://www.princetonreview.com/college/free-act-practice-test.aspx>

<http://www.4tests.com/act>

<https://www.number2.com/>

<http://www.freetestprep.com/acttests.php> offers a cool flashcard feature.

<http://www.sparknotes.com/testprep/books/act/chapter1.html> offers a very good Test Taking Tips section with sample questions and how to answer them.

8. Improving upon typing/keyboarding skills will greatly improve how easily and quickly a Learner moves through the computerized testing. The following are a few Free resources to help practice and develop typing skills:

<http://www.typingtest.com/games.html> Good for beginners with fun games

<https://www.typing.com/student> Great lessons on correct finger placement for all skill levels from beginner to professional. Log in to track progress and earn badges of completion. Many games are also available to reinforce skills. VCA has created individual learner accounts for each of our full-time learners to practice typing skills. Please ask your HQC or Advisor for your log-in.

9. Please view this brief video on how to help with test anxiety:

<http://www.greatschools.org/gk/videos/how-to-help-your-child-ease-test-anxiety/>

10. Also view this brief video on how tests make our brains work better:

<http://www.greatschools.org/gk/videos/testing-makes-our-brains-work-better/>