



What is CERT?

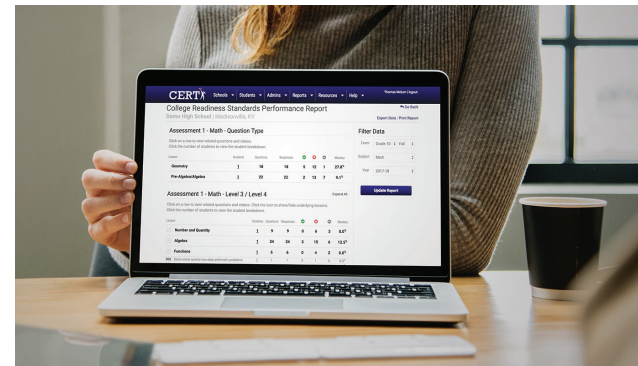
CERT is the premier online/offline assessment platform sweeping through high schools across the country.

Why? CERT generates data on the most relevant standard set to high school students, parents, and teachers – the ACT College and Career Readiness Standards, and the SAT College and Career Benchmarks, as well as state specific standards.

- ★ CERT assesses students in an ACT/SAT identical format as a universal screener
- ★ CERT provides individualized remediation based on standards-based performance
- ★ CERT generates a variety of reports to inform district admins, school RTI systems, and classroom instruction.
- ★ CERT starts informing educators as early as grade 6
- ★ CERT is a universal screener and Response to Intervention (RTI) tool



Take the assessment online/offline, instantly grade, and watch videos from an expert tutor



Measure individual mastery rates for specific College Readiness Standards

How are Schools Using CERT?

CERT is used in a variety of ways based on different school models. In general, the CERT assessment is administered online or paper-pencil three times per year (fall/winter/spring) to all students in a school. Immediately afterwards, remedial tools are available to students and CCR data is available to educators on a variety of levels. Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) are provided specific data to remediate students individually or as a group.





CERT Assessment Info and FAQs

CERT: The why and the how, as it relates to GEAR UP Kentucky

CERT is a screening and remediation tool developed to provide test results and corresponding data for teachers/administrators to identify where students are in need of intervention. It has been selected as the preferred tool for college and career readiness standards assessment for GEAR UP Kentucky (GUK) students.

GUK is providing CERT for our partner schools' Full Service Cohorts (FSC), which are all students entering 7th and 8th grade in Fall 2020; CERT assessments will be provided for them each year through 12th grade. GUK is also providing CERT for our partner schools' rising Priority Service Cohort (PSC) students (non-FSC seniors) in either 10th or 11th grade (school choice), as well for PSC 12th graders who are near benchmark (within 2-3 points).

In order for GUK to determine grant objective completion for State Objectives 1 through 4 and National Objectives 1 and 2, all GUK students must take the assessment two times per year; it is recommended that FSC students take it three times. Research shows that the more times a student takes a college readiness assessment (eight has been identified as the ideal number), the more accurately it projects student success at the postsecondary level.

FAQs

1 How does CERT meet the Kentucky Department of Education's expectations for College Readiness Assessments?

KDE has placed major emphasis on ACT as the primary college readiness indicator since 2006-2007. While KDE allows for other measures of college readiness, like AP scores, etc., those are not the primary measures. Additionally, KDE is measuring state proficiency through ACT as well, which means that the ACT standards and performance on the ACT is the most valued portion of any school's/district's accountability index.

CERT is aligned to the ACT and specifically assesses students' skills as related to ACT College Readiness Standards; it provides real-time group and individual data to teachers, as well as remediation tools for students. Currently, CERT is the most-used assessment at the high school level in the state of Kentucky; it is assessing what the state values in terms of college readiness and proficiency.

2 Is there a CERT/ACT crosswalk document?

CERT has no crosswalk document, as CERT replicates ACT in terms of content, standards, timing, number of questions, subcategory proportions, passage formatting, etc. Thus, the need for crosswalk or connection documents – to help with score calculations (CERT scores on the 1-36 scale), standard conversions (CERT measures both KAS and ACT CRS), or proportions – is eliminated.

3 What options are there for delivery of CERT in my school?

CERT is provided three times in each academic year for our Full Service Cohorts, 7th & 8th grade for the 2020-2021 academic year. As part of the GUK-school partner memorandum of understanding, schools agree to utilize the CERT assessment two times per academic year for FSCs and PSCs.

GUK PSC's senior year students will take CERT up to three times during one academic year of high school, either 10th or 11th grade (school choice). Additionally, PSC 12th graders who are near benchmark on the ACT (within 2 points) will have the opportunity to take the CERT up to three times. NOTE: Once a school chooses 10th or 11th grade, they must maintain that grade choice for the remainder of the GUK cycle.

4 If my school prefers to use a different assessment, is that okay?

While GUK recommends that all schools take advantage of the CERT program, it is allowable to utilize a different assessment as long as the school provides assessment result data to GUK each time the assessment is given to GUK students (both FSC and PSC). GUK requires this data to measure state and national objectives aligned to improving individual student performance on college readiness assessments, improving cohort performance on college readiness assessments, and improving systemic performance on college readiness standards, as well as to gauge the impact on reducing student need for remediation in postsecondary education.

CERT FAQs, cont.

5 Why does GUK need access to my school's ACT assessment data?

GUK needs this data to measure student achievement from their CERT scores. We will share with CERT for comparison to Kentucky and national college readiness assessment data. Obtaining ACT data is crucial to determining if GUK achieves objectives 1-4 in our grant proposal.

6 Is this a paper-based or online assessment?

The recommendation is that students take the assessment online. However, if schools want to deliver both the paper-based and online versions of the assessment to give students practice (no more than three times per year total), they may. CERT has cautioned schools who may not have reliable internet service against utilizing the online version. GUK will provide the printed materials and scoring if a school chooses to take the paper-based version. GUK will cover the cost for all necessary materials for the paper-based test.

7 How are paper-based assessments scored? How are these scores uploaded?

There are two options:

- 1) Students or teachers transfer their answers from paper to online answer sheet. Scores automatically available.
- 2) Teachers may use the SnapGrader, an iPad app developed by CERT to "snap" a picture of the one page CERT answer sheet and automatically import and score assessments. This app can be loaded on to as many iPads as you would like.

8 How are CERT scores reported?

Once online CERT assessments are completed, scores automatically upload for school and GUK use.

9 What are the CERT testing windows? Are these testing window dates firm?

The CERT testing windows are:

Fall – August 15 to November 15; Winter – December 1 to February 15; and Spring – February 15 to June 30.
Schools are able to adjust these testing windows to meet their needs, if desired.

10 How and when will CERT training occur for school staff?

CERT training will occur prior to the beginning of the school year for one school-designated CERT point of contact and the GUK district program manager. This will be a half-day training and these two individuals will become the CERT 'experts' for their school. Following this training and the first round of CERT testing, there will be an hour-long webinar training provided to all school staff. This webinar will be recorded and posted online for teachers who are not able to attend the live webinar. CERT provides the webinar after the first round of testing so they may use real data from the schools' students when delivering the training.

In addition, CERT provides a web-based chat program where teachers/administrators may engage with CERT staff. CERT is developing a series of recorded videos that address specific questions and scenarios.

11 How does my school use Clever, CERT's data reporting tool?

CERT utilizes Clever Development and Integration, a tool that provides CERT access to Infinite Campus (IC). Clever has an agreement with IC that allows CERT to access school-level data and provides a quick, easy and safe connection to upload student data into CERT.

In order to get started using Clever, someone from your school or district will need to contact Clever (upon receiving contact information from GUK). Once this contact is made, all necessary information and permissions will be given between the school/district and Clever. Once Clever confirms that all is ready to launch, someone from your school/district will need to contact CERT (contact info to come) and CERT will then enable its program on behalf of the school/district through Clever.

If a school/district chooses not to use CERT as its assessment, then they are responsible for uploading everything through ad hoc reports.

Have more questions about CERT? Send them to Laura Negron at laura.negron@ky.gov.



CERT Registration Form

School Name: _____

1. Please designate your participation in the GEAR UP Kentucky-provided CERT assessment for the academic years 2020- 2021 through academic year 2024-2025?

Check all that apply:

Middle school _____ (Full Service Cohorts - 7th & 8th grade 2020-2021)

High school _____ (Priority Service Cohorts - 10th or 11th grade, 12th grade near benchmark - 2-3 pts)

Note: in choosing 10th or 11th grade, you agree to continue using that same grade for the remainder of the GEAR UP cycle)

2. If you will not be administering CERT to your Full Service Cohort, please answer the following questions related to the assessment you will be administering.

- Name of assessment?
- Frequency of administration?
- How will this data be shared with GEAR UP Kentucky (GUK)?
- When will this data be shared?
- Does the assessment provide a college readiness benchmark score?

3. In addition to providing CERT assessments to Full Service Cohorts, GUK will also provide the assessment to members of the Priority Service Cohort (PSC) who have not reached ACT benchmarks. as well as rising PSC students – in either 10th or 11th grade (school choice). In which grade will you administer the GUK-provided CERT assessment to rising PSC students?

10th grade _____

11th grade _____

4. How many times each year will you deliver the GUK-provided CERT to your Full Service Cohort students and rising Priority Service Cohort students (grade 10 or 11)?

Circle one in each cohort:

Full Service Cohorts:	2	3	
Priority Service Cohort:	2	3	N/A

5. How will you administer the assessment to students?

Paper _____

Online _____

6. Which testing windows will you utilize? Please circle all that apply (one assessment per window).

Fall

Winter

Spring

7. Please provide information for the preferred point of contact. This will be the person to whom all CERT communication will be sent. This person should also be prepared to attend a minimum of 2 half-day training sessions, either virtual or in-person, during the course of the year.

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL COMPLETING FORM: _____