



MEMO

DATE: November 21, 2016
TO: Arkansas Public School Students' Parent or Guardian
FROM: Hope Allen, Director of Student Assessment
SUBJECT: The ACT® State Test Administration Spring 2017

During the spring of 2017, Arkansas will provide an opportunity for all Grade 11 students enrolled in an Arkansas public school to take the ACT exam free of charge on a designated school day. This is an important milestone in our state since most institutions of higher education use the ACT exam to determine entrance requirements and scholarship opportunities including the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship. Depending on your local school district's decision, the ACT will be administered on either February 28, 2017, for paper testing, or during the February 28 – March 14, 2017, window for online testing. Even though these dates are not the national test dates advertised by ACT, your child or ward will receive a college reportable score. It is my sincere hope that this opportunity will allow more Arkansas students to have access to this exam than ever before.

The Office of Student Assessment understands parents' real concerns regarding data privacy of your child or ward. ACT does collect and share personally identifiable information with its subsidiaries and affiliates. The full ACT Privacy Policy can be viewed online at www.act.org/privacy.html. Please note that the ACT privacy policy is the same for any ACT test administration whether your child or ward takes the assessment on one of the national test dates or on the Arkansas scheduled date(s). Information gathered is used to match your child with scholarship opportunities based on the pre-test inventory that is required by ACT.

Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-109 *et seq.* ("The Student Online Personal Information Protection Act of 2015"), online services are restricted in the use of public school students' personally identifiable information. The Arkansas Department of Education takes seriously its responsibility to protect the personal information of Arkansas students. In order to maintain the highest level of protection of personal information, it is the policy of the Department that your child's/ward's personal information shall not be disseminated to the ACT's Educational Opportunity Service (www.actstudent.org/college/eos.html) - which students opt into during test registration and which is free of charge - if you, acting as parent/guardian, revoke consent on behalf of the child/ward.

If you decide for your Grade 11 child or ward to participate in the Arkansas administration of the ACT, no other action is necessary. However, if you have privacy and/or data concerns and do not want your child or ward to take a college reportable ACT, you have the right to waive the opportunity to participate. Please complete the refusal form and return it to your local school by February 1st, 2017, only if you want to waive this opportunity for your child. Please contact your local school or district if you have additional questions.