

August 19, 2015

The Oklahoma Education Association applauds the State Department of Education in its effort to offer the ACT to all high school juniors free of charge next semester. Approximately 75 percent of Oklahoma students currently take the ACT. By offering the test for free, many students who wouldn't otherwise take it – due to either the financial burden or a belief that they wouldn't do well on the test – will discover that college is now within their reach.

The OEA believes that Oklahoma needs to adopt a more common sense approach to high stakes standardized testing of our students. Oklahoma employers and colleges use the ACT to determine our students' readiness for careers and college. We appreciate that State Superintendent Joy Hofmeister is prioritizing our state's resources and our students' time to ensure that both are spent on testing that provides meaningful feedback and real-world value.

Alicia Priest President