



14 August 2015

Re: Support Letter for Statewide Administration of the ACT

Dear Superintendent Hofmeister:

On behalf of the Oklahoma Business & Education Coalition, I am pleased to recommend support for the one-year pilot program to administer the ACT exam to all students at the 11th grade level in Oklahoma. Not only does this program represent a solution to boost accessibility to higher education programs, it can also be part of a larger holistic approach to improving educational outcomes in the state of Oklahoma.

Oklahoma has been designated as an ACT state by the State Regents for Higher Education. However, at present, approximately 25% of Oklahoma's eligible high school students do not take the ACT exam. The reasons for this are varied, but one important reason is exam cost. Administering the ACT at no expense to students will remove this barrier and will assist them in making decisions about their futures. In fact, as has been the case in other states that require all high school students to take the ACT, it opens doors of opportunity for those who may not have thought college was a viable option.

For students who may not be interested in a traditional four-year college degree, ACT will provide a STEM score and a baseline to predict how well they might score on WorkKeys. This will also provide information about possible career paths. As it is predicted that by 2020, 62% of all jobs will require skills beyond a high school diploma, this is a very important point in favor of this program.

In addition to helping the students, administering the ACT in this manner will help the state gather good information on how to gauge the current abilities of our students in comparison to other states with similarly administered programs. At present, this includes 12 other states that administer to all juniors and 23 states that have some sort of statewide or district optional contract to provide ACT to students.

Based on observations of comparable programs, I believe that this one-year, optional pilot program will demonstrate favorable enough results to warrant continuation. In the long term, it will offer a unique opportunity to enhance higher education learning opportunities for Oklahoma students and consequently improve future workforce development and overall quality of life for Oklahomans.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Hudecki, Ed. D.
Executive Director
Oklahoma Business & Education Coalition