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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Jacob Oliva

DATE: August 14, 2020

SUBJECT: Florida to Provide Free ACT/SAT for Florida Public High School Students

Contact Information:

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The purpose of this memorandum is to announce an exciting new initiative that will allow public high school students in the state of Florida to participate in the ACT or SAT assessment free of charge during the 2020-21 school year as part of [Florida's CARES Act plan](#). The primary purpose of this program is to allow all high school students, especially traditionally underserved populations, to have at least one opportunity to take the SAT or ACT in order to qualify for admission to a postsecondary institution and/or to qualify for a Bright Futures scholarship.

As part of this program, districts will choose whether to administer either the SAT or ACT to all schools in the district. So that students will be able to use scores from this administration to their fullest benefit, districts are expected to ensure that students participate in an administration that will result in college-reportable scores. Likewise, districts should make every effort to offer a school-day test administration in order to further diminish any barriers to testing for applicable students.

When determining which students are afforded tests under this initiative, districts should consider whether students will have other opportunities to take a free test under some other initiative such as fee waiver programs and the Florida Partnership with College Board. Furthermore, districts should consider upcoming seniors who might have missed an opportunity to take the ACT or SAT this past spring or summer, and districts should also be strategic in considering local opportunities this fall and again in spring for those students who might need other opportunities to test later in the school year.

It will be left up to districts to determine which dates to offer testing, depending upon which test districts choose, and on which dates the tests are offered by ACT and College Board after the statewide contracts are executed.

The number of free tests available to districts will be allocated proportionately by district high school enrollment, including fair and equitable funding for free tests for high school students enrolled in charter schools within each district.

JACOB OLIVA
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Florida to Provide Free ACT/SAT for Florida Public High School Students

August 14, 2020

Page Two

As with the Florida Pre-College Entrance Examinations for grade 10 students, the Bureau of K-12 Student Assessment will work with ACT, the College Board and districts to manage this process. The Bureau will provide more information about this opportunity as soon as possible. If you have questions, please contact Teri Williams at Teri.Williams@fldoe.org.

JO/vv

Attachment