

ARKANSAS SENATE
95th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2025
Amendment Form

Subtitle of Senate Bill 183
CONCERNING STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENTS FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION
PURPOSES.

Amendment No. 2 to Senate Bill 183

Amend Senate Bill 183 as engrossed S2/4/25 (version: 2/4/25 02:06:56 PM):

Page 1, delete lines 9 through 15, and substitute the following:

"AN ACT CONCERNING STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENTS; TO AMEND THE UNIVERSAL ACT ASSESSMENT PROGRAM ACT; TO AMEND THE TYPES OF ASSESSMENTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS MAY PROVIDE TO STUDENTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

AND

Delete the subtitle in its entirety and substitute:

"TO AMEND THE UNIVERSAL ACT ASSESSMENT
PROGRAM ACT; AND TO AMEND THE TYPES OF
ASSESSMENTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS MAY PROVIDE TO
STUDENTS."

AND

Page 1, delete everything after the enacting clause, and substitute the following:

"SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18, Subchapter 16 is amended to read as follows:

Subchapter 16 – Universal ~~ACT~~ Assessment Program Act



6-18-1601. Title.

This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Universal ACT Assessment Program Act".

6-18-1602. ~~Definitions~~ Definition.

As used in this subchapter:

(1)(A) ~~"ACT Assessment"~~ "Assessment" means a test of student educational development that measures student readiness for future learning and that may be used by institutions of higher education as part of their admissions, placement, and scholarship processes and by high schools to improve college and workforce readiness; ~~and~~

~~(2) "Smart Core" means:~~

~~(A) The college and career readiness curriculum by that name under the rules of the State Board of Education; or~~

~~(B) A college and career readiness curriculum that is:~~

~~(i) Established by rules of the state board in coordination with the Division of Higher Education; and~~

~~(ii) Substituted for the curriculum named "Smart Core".~~

"Assessment" includes without limitation:

(i) The ACT test;

(ii) The SAT;

(iii) The CLT;u

(iv) The PreACT;

(v) The PSAT 8/9;

(vi) The PSAT 10;

(vii) The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test; or

(viii) The CLT 10; and

(2) "CLT" means the Classic Learning Test administered by Class Learning Initiatives, LLC.

6-18-1603. Creation.

There is created in the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education the Universal ACT Assessment Program to be developed, implemented, and administered by the division as provided in this subchapter.

6-18-1604. Purpose.

The purpose of the Universal ACT Assessment Program is to:

- (1) Improve the college readiness of all students in grade eleven (11);
- (2) Prevent or minimize the continued remediation of nearly fifty percent (50%) of all students entering Arkansas institutions of higher education in one (1) or more subjects because they do not meet the college recommended readiness score ~~of nineteen (19) or higher on the ACT Assessment~~ an assessment;
- (3) Advance the number of students, including students of low income, English-language learners, and minority students, taking ~~the ACT Assessment~~ an assessment while in grade eleven (11) to increase the number of first-generation college students;
- (4) Increase the college participation rates among all racial and ethnic groups;
- (5) Improve preparation for college and the workforce;
- (6) Improve the course selection patterns of high school students;
- (7) Increase the early identification of college-ready students; and
- (8) ~~Support students participating in the Smart Core by providing a baseline for their college and workforce readiness and an opportunity to benefit from earlier remediation or course selection review;~~ and
- (9) Provide a link between what students have learned, what they need to learn, and what is necessary in order to be college or workforce ready, or both, by providing expectations and measuring their progress.

~~6-18-1605. Smart Core and ACT Assessment.~~

~~(a) The General Assembly finds that students who take the recommended Smart Core courses or students who take additional courses after completing the Smart Core continue to perform better on the ACT Assessment than students who take less than the recommended core.~~

~~(b) The recommended core courses according to ACT Assessment officials include:~~

- ~~(1) Four (4) years or more of English;~~
- ~~(2) Three (3) years or more of mathematics;~~
- ~~(3) Three (3) years or more of social studies; and~~
- ~~(4) Three (3) years or more of natural sciences.~~

6-18-1606. Implementation.

(a) Beginning with the ~~2017-2018~~ 2025-2026 school year, the Universal ACT Assessment Program may provide each student in grades nine (9), ten (10), eleven (11), or twelve (12) with the opportunity to take ~~the ACT Assessment~~ an assessment while in grades eight (8), nine (9), ten (10), eleven (11), or twelve (12) without any charge by using school district funding, including National School Lunch Act funds, 42 U.S.C. § 1751 et seq., to pay for the exams as approved by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education.

(b) A public school district shall allow a student to choose to take ~~the ACT Assessment~~ an assessment under subsection (a) of this section in grade ten (10) or grade eleven (11).

6-18-1607. Rules.

The Division of Higher Education and the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education shall develop rules for the administration of this subchapter.

6-18-1608. Reporting.

The Division of Higher Education and the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education shall submit a combined annual report to the Legislative Council by December 1 of each year that ~~establishes:~~

- (1) Establishes compliance with this subchapter, ~~provides;~~
- (2) Provides data on the number of participants in the Universal ACT Assessment Program, ~~and outlines~~
- (3) Outlines the impact of this program on the college readiness of high school seniors and the remediation rates at institutions of higher education."

The Amendment was read the first time, rules suspended and read the second time and _____

By: Senator J. Dotson

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Secretary