



October 5, 2007

Principal Freda Deskin
Astec Charter Middle High School
2401 Nw 23Rd Ste 33
Oklahoma City, OK 73107

Dear Principal Deskin:

I would like to inform you of a change in ACT policy that will provide greater opportunities for your students to attend college and to be more prepared once there. For some, it will increase the likelihood that they will not be required to enroll in developmental coursework but go straight into college level courses. ACT is now offering students that qualify **TWO** fee waivers to take the ACT College Entrance Exam. This opportunity will help more of your students achieve their college aspirations and should positively impact the overall ACT scores for your school and district.

Our research indicates that students who take the ACT for the first time as juniors and re-test as seniors obtain higher scores than those students that take the test only once during their senior year. For last year's Oklahoma graduates, the average score for students who took the ACT more than once beginning in the junior year was **21.3**, compared with a score of **18.3** for students who took it only one time as seniors. By expanding the number of fee waivers offered, we hope to see an increase in the number of students prepared for and attending postsecondary institutions, particularly those that would be first-generation college students.

There are several advantages to first taking the test during the junior year and retesting in the senior year:

- Schools and districts can see positive changes in their ACT averages.
- ACT's *College Readiness Standards* can be employed with the junior year ACT results to give students a virtual roadmap for what they need to do to improve their score in their senior year.
- Utilizing the results from the junior year test provides opportunities for counselors to make positive interventions regarding senior year course selections, college choices, and potential college majors based on the results of the UniACT interest inventory.

By offering two fee waivers to qualifying students, ACT hopes that more students will have an opportunity to earn a college degree and secure a productive future for themselves, their families and for future generations. Thank you for your role in preparing your students and strengthening the future of Oklahoma.

Sincerely,

Judy Trice
Secondary Education Consultant for Oklahoma



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