



## **Issue Brief** – State ACT/SAT Accountability Measures

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### **Background**

Tenn. Code Ann. §49-6-6001(b)(1) requires every public school shall take an examination at grade eleven (11), which shall be approved by the commissioner of education and provide information to assist in developing interventions for the purpose of improving student preparation for postsecondary achievement. Current State Board of Education Policy 2.103 requires all Tennessee students, beginning within the 2017-18 school year, to complete the ACT or SAT prior to graduation, if the student was enrolled in a Tennessee public school during their eleventh (11th) grade year. The majority of Tennessee students elect to take the ACT, under the state college readiness testing program, districts can choose to administer the SAT to all eleventh-grade students during a school day at no cost to students and calculate its results into their accountability framework.

As part of the Tennessee Student Assessment Transparency Act of 2016, the General Assembly voted to allow each student who takes a postsecondary readiness assessment as a high school junior to be provided the opportunity to retake it as a senior free of cost. Current accountability reporting of ACT/SAT participation rate includes only a cumulative summary participation rate percentage, rather than an individual breakout reporting by test type. All districts participation rates are reported, regardless of whether or not required participation rates are reached, which often results in an inaccurate comparison of districts due to unique factors in each district.

### **TSBA Position - SUPPORT**

TSBA urges the General Assembly to enact legislation to designate that ACT/SAT accountability reporting include ACT/SAT participation rate percentages by individual test type, as well as only publicly reporting specific participation rates for schools and districts that have met the minimum accountability threshold for ACT/SAT participation rate, as required by State Board of Education Policy.