
High School Transition Policy

The Background:

Tennessee Code Annotated 49-6-6001(b) states that “(a)s a strategy for assessing student readiness to enter and succeed in postsecondary training, every public school student shall take a series of three (3) examinations, one (1) administered at grade eight (8), one (1) administered at grade ten (10), and one (1) at grade eleven (11). These assessments shall be approved by the commissioner of education and provide educators with diagnostic information to assist in developing interventions for the purpose of increasing high school graduation rates and improving student preparation for postsecondary achievement. Each year, the results of the examinations shall be analyzed and reported by the commissioner of education to the education committee of the senate and the education committee of the house of representatives.”

In past years the assessments offered by ACT were the only series of examinations that met the criteria of the statute. Since the commissioner’s approval of this series, other vendors have worked to create alternative assessment series. At present, the commissioner has approved two series of assessments – the Explore, Plan, and ACT series and the Readistep, PSAT and SAT series. In the future, other vendors may also come forward with exams that meet the criteria of the statute. This reality necessitates removing vendor-specific language from the policy.

Also, the High School Policy makes several references to specific ACT suite scores and mentions SAT equivalents. This policy amendment adds the appropriate SAT suite scores that are available at this time.

The Recommendation:

The SBE staff recommends the proposed amendments be adopted on final reading.