ACT

Replacing AzMERIT for 11<sup>th</sup> graders

# TUSD ACT PACKET AND TEST INFORMATION 2018-19

Dear Parents,

New this year- Your 11<sup>th</sup> grader (who started high school in 2016-2017) will take the ACT this year as their statewide assessment, they will not take the AzMERIT for state accountability.

Why the change? Last Spring, Arizona allowed district high schools to choose from the Menu of Assessments. Tucson Unified School District chose the ACT as the assessment for all of the high schools, because it serves for both state accountability and as a tool for students to enter college and beyond.

What is ACT? ACT is a national assessment test that TUSD will use <u>only to</u> <u>assess 11<sup>th</sup> grade students</u>, meaning that 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders are <u>not</u> tested by the state. TUSD 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students will be assessed through our District Benchmark Assessments.

#### What's Different?

The ACT is a one-day assessment that takes 4 hours, saving days of testing.

- The test assesses the students in Reading, English, Math and Science.
- The ACT provides insight to a complete package of services, helping students get ready for life beyond high school.
- The ACT is a college entrance tool
- The ACT is used by colleges as an admissions test and course placement test.
- The ACT is FREE for all 11<sup>th</sup> graders in Tucson Unified School District in the spring!
- Testing starts April 2<sup>nd</sup>

#### What does the ACT Offer?

- A college admissions test
- College course placement
- A career planning component
- Visibility to college and scholarship agencies across the country



Will my student be eligible for Merit Scholarships? YES! Potential merit scholarships are available for:

- University of Arizona
- Arizona State University
- Northern Arizona University
- Grand Canyon University
- Many other colleges and universities for students who achieve good scores.

## How to help my 11<sup>th</sup> grader prepare?

- Use the FREE ACT Academy
  online resource, click *Test Prep* www.act.org
- Kaplan provides free and pay test prep; go to www.kaptest.com
- Use other phone apps and websites for test prep.
- If your child has a language or learning need, please contact the school specialist regarding testing accommodations.

### Need more information?

- Talk to your High School Counselor.
- Go to <u>www.act.org</u>, click on Information for Students + Parents.