



www.lsc.ohio.gov

# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

**H.B. 82**  
**134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

## **Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement**

[Click here for H.B. 82's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Cross and Jones

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

Dan Redmond, Budget Analyst

### **Highlights**

- Making the state-funded administration of the ACT and SAT college admissions tests voluntary for high school students may reduce GRF expenditures by up to \$1.9 million annually starting in FY 2025 at the earliest.

### **Detailed Analysis**

#### **State-funded administration of ACT and SAT made optional**

Current law generally requires all students in eleventh grade to take a college admissions test as part of the state's College and Work Ready Assessment System. Beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after the first day of July following the bill's effective date, the bill makes student participation in the state-funded administration of the college admissions test voluntary. While the test becomes voluntary for students, the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) must continue to offer it to all juniors. The state contracts with ACT Inc. and the College Board to administer the ACT and SAT, respectively, to eleventh grade students in the spring of each school year. School districts choose annually which of the two college admissions examinations that their students will take. The state pays \$40 per student for the ACT and \$36.35 per student for the SAT. The ACT is, by far, the most popular option. For FY 2019, the state spent approximately \$4.9 million from the GRF to administer both tests. A large majority of this amount, \$4.4 million, was for the ACT. That year, about 122,600 eleventh grade students in public and nonpublic schools took either the ACT or SAT.

Not all high school students intend to or will enroll in college. According to data from the Pell Institute, around 60% of Ohio high school graduates go directly to college.<sup>1</sup> If this same percentage opted to take the college admissions test, GRF expenditures for the tests would decrease by approximately \$1.9 million annually assuming no change in the state's cost per test. However, the percentage that will take the test is likely higher than 60%. Some students may plan to defer enrollment in college but still would be interested in taking one of the tests as a junior. Higher percentages of students opting to take the test will decrease the state's savings. The table below estimates the state's annual costs of administering the ACT and SAT at various hypothetical student participation rates, starting with a baseline of 100% under current policy, and the state savings under various reduced participation rate scenarios. If the bill goes into effect during the 2021-2022 school year, the class of 2026 would be the first class affected. Under that scenario, any reduction in state costs for these tests would begin to accrue in FY 2025, when the class of 2026 is generally required to take one of the college admissions tests under current law.

Estimated Cost of State-Administered ACT/SAT Under Various Participation Scenarios					
Test	100% of 11 <sup>th</sup> Graders	60% of 11 <sup>th</sup> Graders	70% of 11 <sup>th</sup> Graders	80% of 11 <sup>th</sup> Graders	90% of 11 <sup>th</sup> Graders
ACT	\$4,394,080	\$2,636,448	\$3,075,856	\$3,515,264	\$3,954,672
SAT	\$465,062	\$279,037	\$325,543	\$372,050	\$418,556
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,859,142</b>	<b>\$2,915,485</b>	<b>\$3,401,399</b>	<b>\$3,887,314</b>	<b>\$4,373,228</b>
Difference from 100% Scenario		-\$1,943,657	-\$1,457,743	-\$971,828	-\$485,914

HB0082IN/zg

<sup>1</sup> Ohio Legislative Service Commission, *Ohio Facts 2020*, page 66.