



# MANSFIELD R-IV SCHOOLS

HOME OF THE LIONS

Sept. 7, 2017

Dear parents/guardians:

I need to forward you information we received from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). This involves the ACT test which students across the country take in preparation for attending a 2 or 4 year college program.

For the last two years the State of Missouri has been requiring all juniors attend a publicly funded school to take the ACT exam. In support this initiative the state has been paying for those exams. In August 2017 DESE was informed funds would not be available in the state's 2017-2018 budget to fund the cost of having all juniors take the ACT. As a result, DESE has communicated with schools to inform them of the situation. In summary, the directive to ACT test all juniors is no longer in effect.

So, your main question is likely, "how this affects your student?" To this question DESE has stated:

- With no directive to test all juniors, and with no funds from the state to pay for individual test, districts are returning to the former system.
- Prior to 2016 students and parents, with the assistance of the HS counselor, registered to take the ACT test. This is again the process.
- Registration to take the ACT test is done on-line.
- The cost of the testing will be the responsibility of the student and parent(s). If financial difficulties are inhibiting the taking of the ACT then please contact the MS/HS counselor, Melissa Bias
- Testing sites will revert to where they were before 2016. Information about testing locations is available when registering for a test.
- MHS is not a testing site despite having applied several times with ACT to become one.

Mansfield High School is disappointed in this situation and regrets having to "be the messenger." Despite this change MHS will continue offering the ACT preparation course for juniors in the spring semester. We strongly encourage all students who are planning to attend a post-secondary educational institution to take the ACT in their junior year after having completed this class.

I hope this information has addressed any questions you may have. As always, if you do have any questions please contact me or Mrs. Bias at 417-924-3236.

Respectfully,

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