



www.lsc.ohio.gov

OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

H.B. 326
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 326's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Ritter and Newman

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Patrick Campbell, Budget Analyst, and other LBO staff

Highlights

- Requiring the nationally standardized college admission assessments selected for the College and Work Ready Assessment System for high school students to include the Classic Learning Test may increase Department of Education and Workforce GRF expenditures by up to hundreds of thousands of dollars annually.
- The Ohio State University and any other public college and university that chooses to require standardized test scores for admissions may experience increased administrative workload to develop new admission criteria.

Detailed Analysis

Under continuing law, each school district must select one nationally standardized college admissions test from the College and Work Ready Assessment System to administer to eleventh grade students in the spring of each school year. Currently, the test options are the SAT and the ACT exams. The state pays the costs of the college admissions tests administered under the College and Work Ready Assessment System. However, a parent or guardian may elect for their student not to participate in the test. In general, the state-funded administration of the college admissions test is available to students attending public and chartered nonpublic schools¹ as well as home-educated and nonchartered nonpublic school students that request to take the test at their district of residence. The bill requires the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW)

¹ According to DEW, the state will pay for the ACT or SAT for all eleventh grade students attending a chartered nonpublic school that is not accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS). The state will only pay for the ACT or SAT for an eleventh grade student that attends an ISACS-accredited school with a state scholarship.

and the Chancellor of Higher Education to include the Classic Learning Test (CLT) as one of the nationally standardized assessments that may be administered under the College and Work Ready Assessment System.

The state-funded administration of the college admission assessments are funded by GRF line item 200437, Student Assessment, in the DEW budget. DEW's current contracts with ACT, Inc. and the College Board to offer the state-funded ACT and SAT exams, respectively, provide for up to 100,000 ACT exams and up to 25,000 SAT exams to be administered each year, for a total of up to 125,000 exams per year. Under those contracts, DEW pays \$45 per ACT test and \$51 per SAT test for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years, for a total cost of up to \$5.8 million annually.

DEW's assessment system costs may increase by up to the hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to offer the CLT. The current cost per test for students who take the CLT is \$69, which is comparable to the \$68 per test base registration fee for the standard ACT or SAT taken outside of the state-funded opportunity. Assuming the maximum 125,000 tests are taken and, hypothetically, 1% (1,250) of students switch to the CLT from the ACT or SAT (in the same proportions that are assumed in the current contracts), the cost differentials between the tests yield a net marginal cost of \$28,500 (see the table below). The actual number of students that will take the CLT is uncertain. As a point of reference, for every 1% of students that switch, state costs would increase by the same marginal \$28,500 amount. Therefore, the net state cost increases to \$142,500 if 5% of the 125,000 students switch and to \$285,000 if 10% switch. However, DEW may be able to negotiate a lower price with the testing vendor for the administration of the CLT, as it has for the ACT and SAT. Ultimately, the magnitude of any new costs to administer the CLT will depend on the number of tests administered, the test a student would have otherwise taken (if any), and the terms of the state's contract with the testing vendor.

Estimated Costs of State-Administered Classic Learning Test Under Various Participation Scenarios							
Test	Cost Per Test	Test Count (Current Law)	Test Count (1% CLT)	Test Count (5% CLT)	Annual Cost (Current Law)	Annual Cost (1% CLT)	Annual Cost (5% CLT)
ACT	\$45	100,000	99,000	95,000	\$4,500,000	\$4,455,000	\$4,275,000
SAT	\$51	25,000	24,750	23,750	\$1,275,000	\$1,262,000	\$1,211,250
CLT	\$69	0	1,250	6,250	\$0	\$86,250	\$431,250
Total		125,000	125,000	125,000	\$5,775,000	\$5,803,500	\$5,917,500
Total Marginal Cost Compared to Current Law					--	\$28,500	\$142,500

Public colleges and universities that require standardized test scores for admissions may experience increased administrative workload to develop new admission criteria that includes the CLT – mainly updating procedures and training staff. As of the 2025-2026 admissions cycle, only the Ohio State University requires either ACT or SAT scores for all first-year applicants.