

FairTest

National Center for Fair & Open Testing

for further information:

Jesse Mermell: (617) 864-4810

Bob Schaeffer: (239) 395-6773

for use with annual ACT score release -- 12:01am Wednesday, August 13, 2008

THE ACT, A DIFFERENT COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TEST BUT NOT NECESSARILY A BETTER ONE

The surge in the number of high school seniors taking the ACT reflects a growing movement away from the SAT but does not mean the ACT is a superior exam, according to the National Center for Fair & Open Testing (FairTest).

“The ACT is a different test, not a better one,” explained FairTest Public Education Director Bob Schaeffer. “ACT has had more consumer friendly policies, such as not requiring all test-takers to sign-up for an unnecessary, expensive ‘writing’ section and allowing students to choose which scores a college receives. But, like the SAT, the ACT remains a less accurate and less fair predictor of undergraduate performance than high school grades.”

“The best policy for approach for students is test-optional admissions, in which neither the ACT nor SAT is required,” added FairTest Executive Director Jesse Mermell. “That is why more and more colleges and universities are moving away from requiring either test.” FairTest now tallies 760 accredited, bachelor-degree granting institutions which do not ask all or many applicants to submit ACT or SAT scores before admissions decisions are made.”

-- 30 --

ACT Fact Sheet – <http://www.fairtest.org/facts/act.html>

Lists of test-optional colleges -- <http://www.fairtest.org/optinit.htm>

2008 COLLEGE BOUND SENIORS AVERAGE ACT SCORES

Approximately 1.42 million test takers

	COMPOSITE SCORE	2007-2008 CHANGE
GENDER		
Female	21.0	0.0
Male	21.2	0.0
ETHNICITY		
African-American or Black	16.9	-0.1
American Indian or Alaskan Native	19.0	+0.1
Asian-American or Pacific Islander	22.9	+0.3
Caucasian-American, White	22.1	0.0
Hispanic	18.7	0.0
Other/No Response	21.7	+0.1
ALL TEST-TAKERS	21.1	-0.1

source: ACT; calculations by FairTest