



**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**MOLLY M. SPEARMAN**  
*STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION*

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** District Superintendents

**FROM:** Elizabeth Jones  
Director, Office of Assessment

**DATE:** March 23, 2015

**RE:** High School Science ACT<sup>®</sup> Assessment

The South Carolina Department of Education requires that all districts administer all portions of The ACT to all 11th grade students, including the science portion of the test, to comply with the requirement for a college- and career-readiness assessment.

On November 21, 2014, I sent a memo to all district superintendents with the subject of "Update on Assessments for spring 2015." In that memo, I communicated the Department's then-current position about The ACT science test in grade 11. The following is an excerpt from that memo.

The administration of The ACT test to grade 11 students is being funded by the state for accountability purposes. While The ACT science test score is not needed for accountability purposes, students who desire that ACT, Inc. report The ACT composite score to colleges, scholarship agencies, or other entities must take The ACT science test; therefore, districts must offer The ACT science test.

While the memo clearly stated that districts were required to offer the science test to all students, the Department and many districts considered the science test as optional for individual students. After an extensive review of Acts 155 and 200 and discussions with ACT, Inc., the Department has determined that, along with The ACT English, mathematics, reading, and writing tests, the science test must be administered to students in grade 11. Acts 155 and 200 mandate a college- and career-readiness assessment must be administered to all students entering the 11th grade for the first time in the 2014–15 school year. According to ACT, Inc., The ACT is not a complete measure of college- and career-readiness unless it includes the science test scores.

We regret the late notice of this announcement. However, since the ACT, Inc. administrative procedures require students not taking the science tests to remain in their seats while other students complete the test, this announcement should not require schools to adjust their testing schedules.

If you have questions, please contact Kevin Fatica at [KJFatica@ed.sc.gov](mailto:KJFatica@ed.sc.gov), (803) 734-8282.

cc: District Test Coordinators