

Madam Chair and Committee Members, my name is Dave Heistad. I am the Executive Director for Research, Evaluation and Assessment in Bloomington Public Schools. I am here to testify in favor of House File 3107.

The federal government requires all high school students to be tested once in reading and math. Nationally and in Minnesota an increasing share of students and parents are opting out of the state tests. In Minnesota opt outs are up 44% in three years, in Bloomington opt outs have increased over 1100% from 13 to 160 students. Parents and students appear to value nationally-recognized college readiness exams (i.e., ACT or SAT) over state test scores. The federal government allows a state or district to apply to replace the high school state tests with a nationally recognized assessment, such as the ACT. North Dakota and Oklahoma have already been approved to allow districts to choose between the ACT and their state high school exams.

Since Bloomington started paying for the ACT for all 11<sup>th</sup> grade students in 2014, the percentage of students of color taking the ACT has doubled and the percentage of these groups of students with ACT Math scores of 18 or higher have increased 50% as seen on the PowerPoint graph.

Scores for over 3,000 students who have taken both MCA and ACT math tests in Bloomington correlated highly. The tests identify the same number of students proficient, partially proficient and not proficient.

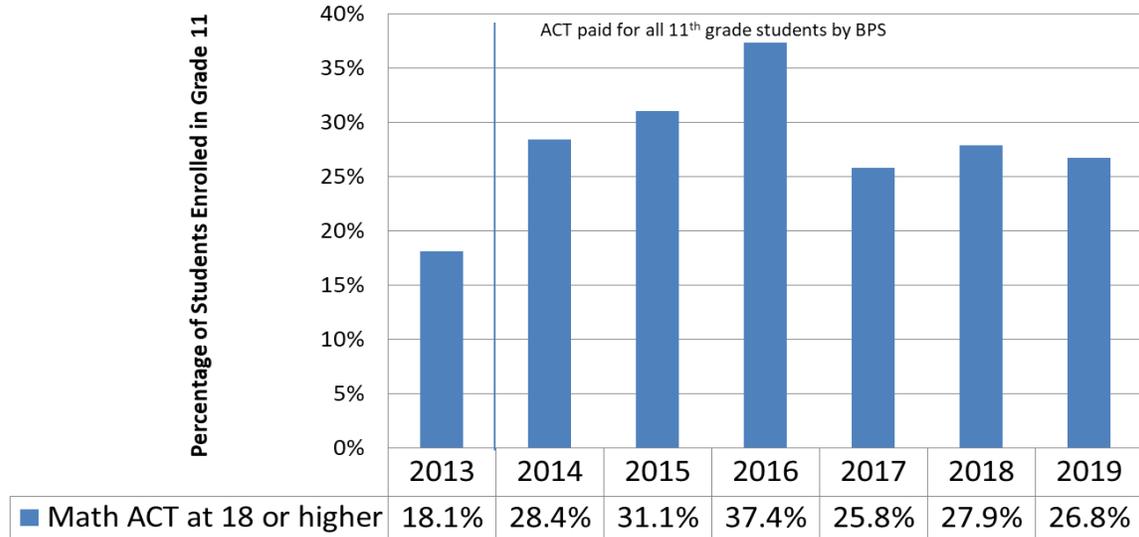
The ACT Reading and Math tests were constructed to align with national college readiness standards. In order to meet the federal requirement for administering a Local Option test, we also needed to show that the content of ACT items were sufficiently aligned MN State Standards to be used as a replacement for the MCAIII Reading and Math assessments.

With the help of the Minnesota Department of Education and a nationally recognized assessment consulting firm, ACS Ventures, Bloomington conducted alignment studies of ACT Reading with MCAIII Reading and ACT Math with MCAIII math. Five expert math teachers and 5 expert reading teachers from around the State of MN met for two days to judge the rigor and alignment of every item on three forms of the ACT. Alignment with and coverage of Minnesota standards was substantial.

The ACT assessments have been subject to thorough bias reviews. My colleague Julio Caesar is here to answer specific questions about the bias studies and Dr. Michael Rodriguez has submitted written testimony to this committee regarding the value of piloting the ACT in place of the MCAIII.

Percentage of BPS Students of Color who scored 18 or higher on ACT Math by year

### Math ACT at 18 or higher for Students of Color



- ACT scores for college freshman have been summarized for every public and private college in MN by the Office of Higher Ed
- The 25<sup>th</sup> percentile and 75<sup>th</sup> percentile for ACT Composite, English, and Math are presented on the following slide
- A Math score of 18 or higher would likely be one of the factors needed to be accepted at a four year institution like MN State Mankato, Bemidji, Crookston, or Southwest State.

#### ACT Scores of First-time, Degree-seeking Students Admitted to Minnesota 4-Year Colleges, 2016-2017

Institution Name	Number submitting ACT scores	Percent submitting ACT scores	Composite		English		Math	
			25th Percentile score	75th Percentile score	25th Percentile score	75th Percentile score	25th Percentile score	75th Percentile score
<b>Public Universities</b>								
University of Minnesota-Crookston	192	92%	20	24	18	23	18	25
University of Minnesota-Duluth	2,110	99%	22	26	20	26	22	27
University of Minnesota-Morris	357	95%	22	28	21	28	22	27
University of Minnesota-Rochester	142	98%	22	27	21	26	22	26
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities	5,467	93%	26	31	25	32	25	31
Bemidji State University	790	97%	20	24	18	23	18	25
Minnesota State University Moorhead	790	91%	20	25	19	25	19	25
Minnesota State University-Mankato	2,274	93%	20	24	19	25	18	23
Saint Cloud State University	1,587	88%	18	24	20	23	19	25
Southwest Minnesota State University	406	82%	18	23	16	22	17	24
Winona State University	1,555	98%	20	25	20	25	19	25