



# Sumner County Board of Education

Del R. Phillips III, Ph.D.

Director of Schools

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Dear Parents, Families, and Community Partners:

As we begin the school year, I am excited to share that the Tennessee Department of Education will again offer the *ACT Senior Retake Opportunity* for all public school seniors. If your student took the ACT as a junior, he/she will have the opportunity to retake the ACT **at no cost**. If your student is a senior and has yet to take the ACT, he/she may also take the exam for free this fall. Our school will offer the *ACT Senior Retake Opportunity* on October 3.

The ACT is a powerful national measure of readiness in terms of the cumulative academic knowledge and critical thinking skills **valued by both employers and postsecondary institutions**. The Tennessee General Assembly, as part of the *Tennessee Student Assessment Transparency Act* of 2016, approved an opportunity for seniors to retake the ACT if they took the ACT during their junior year. National data indicate that retaking the ACT typically leads to a composite score improvement of one–two points. In Tennessee, our state data indicate that students who retake the ACT typically increase their score by one–three points. By increasing their scores, students can open more doors for postsecondary education and high-quality employment.

Last year, nearly 26,000 students participated in the *ACT Senior Retake Opportunity*, and 40% of those students improved their composite score. As a result of retaking the ACT, Tennessee students gained access to over **\$21 million in HOPE scholarship funds**, and **thousands of students** were able to avoid remedial coursework in postsecondary. Increasing the percentage of students who graduate high school with improved ACT scores will allow for more students to start their next phase in life on pathways to success.

Seniors who are eligible for the *ACT Senior Retake Opportunity* will be automatically registered for the retake. The test will take place at school on October 3 during regular school hours. We expect all seniors to participate in this opportunity. If you have questions or need more information, please contact your student's school counselor.

Sincerely,

Jennifer V. Brown, Ed.D

Deputy Director of Schools

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