

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Thursday, February 13, 2020
- TIME:** 3:00 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW55
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Winder, Den Hartog, Crabtree, Lent, Rohn (Buckner-Webb), and Ward-Engelking
- ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Senator Woodward
- NOTE:** The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.
- CONVENED:** **Chairman Mortimer** called the Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:03 p.m.
- PAGE FAREWELL:** Senate Page **Sarah Young** thanked the Committee for the opportunity and shared that she felt privileged to be involved in the legislative process, and that she felt her experience had helped her prepare for her future career in law practice.
- Vice Chairman Thayn** asked Ms. Young to expound on her plans for the future. **Ms. Young** shared that she hopes to go to law school and become a judge.
- Chairman Mortimer** read aloud the letter of recommendation he had prepared for Ms. Young and gave her a gift of appreciation.
- PRESENTATION:** **Katherine Lawrence**, Director of State Government Relations for ACT, Inc. (ACT), thanked the Committee for the opportunity to present. She shared a brief history of ACT, Inc. She shared that moving forward, ACT is looking to offer online testing with test scores returned within 48 hours. Additionally, students will be able to retake specific subject matter sections of the test in order to focus on improving their scores. **Ms. Lawrence** went on to share that ACT offers fee waivers to take the test twice for low-income students, and that number will be increased to four fee waivers per student by September of 2020.
- Kaliko Oligo**, Director of State Partnerships for ACT, told the Committee how ACT deployed the test to states. He went on that ACT is working on college and career readiness to work toward preparing students for the workforce as well as post-secondary education. **Mr. Oligo** told the Committee that his team had studied data to provide information on possible career paths for students. **Mr. Oligo** told the Committee that the ACT is based on Common Core standards. He went on that 26 states use a college admissions test to measure student achievement for state data or for federal testing compliance. **Mr. Oligo** responded to Committee questions that the ACT concordance table allows students to compare their scores with the SAT and ACT to see if they had scored advanced, proficient, basic, or below basic in certain subject areas.
- DISCUSSION:** **Vice Chairman Thayn** asked how ACT would modify their test to meet Florida's new content standards. **Mr. Oligo** responded that ACT would provide ACT standards data to Florida for their review, and that they could create a test that would align with Florida's new standards.

In response to **Senator Rohn's** question about the equality of opportunity SAT and ACT tests offer to students, **Ms. Lawrence** told the Committee that standardized tests acted as an equalizer for students who cannot afford college without scholarship assistance.

Senator Den Hartog asked how the ACT would engage students who are not interested in post-secondary education. **Ms. Lawrence** responded that while the ACT measures college readiness, there is a program to measure career readiness as well. **Mr. Oligo** added that ACT offers a program to track a student's career interest and readiness from the eighth grade on.

Chairman Mortimer asked what the future holds for standardized testing. **Ms. Lawrence** responded that ACT is working to make the test serve students' futures. **Mr. Oligo** responded that ACT is working to provide resources to help educators respond to their students' test scores. He went on that ACT is reassessing how they deliver their test questions in order to accurately assess students' proficiency and needs.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 3:58 p.m.

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

Morgan Howard
Secretary