



November 14, 2011

Dear Parent or Guardian,

In preparation for the state's new accountability model and in alignment with the Common Core Standards, North Carolina will begin administering the *PLAN*, *WorkKeys*, and the *ACT Plus Writing* assessments starting this year. Students in grades 10, 11, and 12 are required to participate in the designated assessments as explained below. There is no cost to your child or to the school system for the administration of these assessments. The *PLAN*, *WorkKeys* and *ACT Plus Writing* are all assessments that are developed and provided by ACT, Inc. in Iowa City, IA.

The *PLAN* is a curriculum based achievement test in English, Math, Reading, and Science, that measures college and career readiness, serves as a midpoint assessment, and is also a predictor for the *ACT*. The *PLAN*, which is administered to all students in Grade 10, will be given on a designated day between December 5 and 16, 2011. Enloe Magnet High School will administer the *PLAN* to all students in Grade 10 on December 15, 2011. Information about the *PLAN* can be found at <http://www.actstudent.org/plan/index.html>

WorkKeys, which is administered to students in Grade 12 who are CTE concentrators with at least one Level II credit, will be given the online assessment during February, 2012. The purpose of the *WorkKeys* is to assess a student's job skills so that future employers can select, hire, train, develop and retain a high-performance workforce. <http://www.act.org/workkeys/>

The *ACT Plus Writing* assessment will be administered to all students in Grade 11 on March 6 with a makeup day on March 20, 2012. The *ACT* includes the same elements as the *PLAN*, plus a writing component. <http://www.actstudent.org/index.html>

Students testing with accommodations, including LEP students, who have an up-to-date IEP or 504 Plan will receive a separate letter from the school regarding the accommodation request process for the *ACT Plus Writing*. Because the *ACT Plus Writing* is provided nation-wide there are no accommodations for LEP students with just LEP Plans. Only IEP or 504 Plans are considered by the ACT. This letter must be signed and returned to the school for appropriate submission to the ACT.

The NC Department of Public Instruction approved the implementation of the ACT in preparation for the state's new accountability model which is called Common Core and to provide additional diagnostic tools for students and their teachers. This year, the ACT assessments will not count for accountability purposes although the test results can be

used by students for college admissions purposes. However, next year the ACT assessment will count as part of ABCs and as part of the 95% requirement for testing. PLAN is only used for diagnostics. It is not considered as part of accountability calculations at this time.

For additional information regarding the ACT assessments, please feel free to go to <http://www.act.org/>. Questions can also be answered by contacting your school, the school system's Testing Office at 856-3788 for the PLAN and ACT assessments, or the CTE Office at 431-7446 for the WorkKeys.

Sincerely,

Beth Cochran
Principal