

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

TO: Dr. Michael Riggle

FROM: Dr. Rosanne Williamson

RE: Public Hearing for a waiver or modification of ILCS 18-8.05 (F)(2)(i) to administer the ACT plus writing exam on March 3, 2015

DATE: January 5, 2015

**Recommendation – Waiver of School Code Mandates:**

In order to administer the March 3 State-funded ACT under optimal testing conditions and meet required testing procedures, the administration recommends having only juniors in attendance. The district must apply for a waiver of ILCS 18-8.05 (F)(2)(i) to exempt other students from attending school and still count March 3 as a pupil attendance day. In keeping with School Code guidelines (105 ILCS 5/2-3.25g), the Board must conduct a public hearing for a waiver of such mandates within the School Code.

**Notes:**

(105 ILCS 5/2-3.25g) (from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.25g)

Sec. 2-3.25g. Waiver or modification of mandates within the School Code and administrative rules and regulations.

(105 ILCS 5/18-8.05)

Sec. 18-8.05. Basis for apportionment of general State financial aid and supplemental general State aid to the common schools for the 1998-1999 and subsequent school years.

(F) Compilation of Average Daily Attendance.

(2) Days of attendance by pupils of less than 5 clock hours of school shall be subject to the following provisions in the compilation of Average Daily Attendance.

- (i) On the days when the assessment that includes a college and career ready determination is administered under subsection (c) of Section 2-3.64a-5 of this Code, the day of attendance for a pupil whose school day must be shortened to accommodate required testing procedures may be less than 5 clock hours and shall be counted towards the 176 days of actual pupil attendance required under Section 10-19 of this Code, provided that a sufficient number of minutes of school work in excess of 5 clock hours are first completed on other school days to compensate for the loss of school work on the examination days.

**Background:**

The ACT Plus Writing provides a college and career readiness determination. In fact, the Illinois Interactive Report Card (iirc) currently defines college and career readiness based upon students' ACT performance: *A college-ready composite score of 21 or higher on the ACT shows that students have learned important academic skills that they will need in order to succeed in college and careers.*

Northfield Township H.S. District 225 will have "banked" a sufficient number of minutes of school work in excess of 5 clock hours on other school days to compensate for the loss of school work on the March 3 State-funded administration of the ACT Plus Writing.

The only required State assessment test is PARCC. The ACT is no longer a required State assessment; therefore, Section 18-8.05 (F)(2)(i) of the Illinois School Code does not apply and a waiver must be filed with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).