



DEPARTMENT OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION &  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

## Bright Flight Eligibility Accommodation for 2020 High School Seniors

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Earlier this year, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ACT, Inc. and the College Board announced the cancellation of their spring test dates through June for the ACT and SAT. As concerns about the spread of the virus have continued into the summer, the disruption of the administration of these national testing programs has continued. While some testing has resumed, the number of testing sites has been limited as well as reduced capacity at the testing sites that are available.

This situation is particularly problematic for 2020 high school seniors that planned to take the test in April and June in order to attempt to meet the ACT or SAT score requirement for the Bright Flight program. On April 1, the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development announced the extension of the date on which 2020 seniors could achieve a qualifying ACT score for the Bright Flight Scholarship to the July national test date. However, as the situation has continued to evolve, it has become clear this accommodation will not be sufficient to ensure all deserving students have an opportunity to qualify.

Both ACT, Inc. and the College Board have added additional test dates for this fall. In order to ensure 2020 high school seniors have the opportunity to qualify for the Bright Flight Scholarship, the MDHEWD will further extend the testing deadline to October 31, 2020. The 2020 seniors who achieve a qualifying ACT or SAT score on any national test date prior to this deadline and who are otherwise eligible can receive the scholarship.

	ACT	SAT Math	ACT Verbal
As a reminder, the qualifying scores for 2020 high school seniors are listed below.			
Top 3%	31 or above	800	780 or above
Top 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Percentiles	30	790 – 799	770 - 779

It is important to also note that funding for the Bright Flight program for the 2020-2021 academic year has been reduced by approximately \$10 million. As a result, awards for the students qualifying in the top three percent of test takers will be reduced from \$3,000 to \$1,800 and those in the top fourth and fifth percentiles will not receive an award.

Students who achieve a qualifying score by the July testing date will be considered eligible for an award at the beginning of the Fall 2020 semester. Students who achieve a qualifying score between July and the October deadline will not be eligible initially for a fall semester award. Once MDHEWD receives information regarding such student's eligible score, which may not occur until early January, the student will be notified of their eligibility and reimbursement for the fall semester will be provided to the institution where the student was enrolled. To be eligible, the student must meet all other eligibility requirements for the program, including enrolling in an eligible Missouri institution full-time during the 2020-2021 academic year unless the student receives a formal deferment as provided in statute.