

SB 63

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We do not support this legislation. Non-public school students can continue to take the test through the ACT National Testing program which would keep their personally-identifiable test scores from being viewed by anyone except who they personally choose to release reports to, as opposed to the state access testing program which gives the state access to the student's personally identifiable test data.

The bill itself does not discuss what data the state receives from ACT for students taking the state access ACT test. It only mentions a requirement of a report of aggregate data from the department of Education to the committee. The use of the term aggregate initially led us to believe that the state would only receive aggregate data from ACT but that is not correct as we have verified with Scott Smith, Director of Career, Standards and Assessment at the Department of Education.

Scott Smith informed us that their department would have access to personally identifiable test score data for each individual student who takes the free state access test. The data would not be published as individual-identifying scores but the information would be utilized to create the report of aggregate data.

In speaking with leaders in the homeschool (non-accredited private school) community across Kansas, our collective experience tells us that most homeschool families would not be comfortable with the state receiving their student's personally identifiable data regardless of whether it is published or not.

As homeschool organizations, we would not be comfortable encouraging homeschool families to utilize this free state access ACT test especially since it is not explicitly stated that in taking the test they are consenting to give their personally identifiable data to the state department of education including their individual ACT scores, demographic information and survey questionnaire responses.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify regarding this proposal.

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