



One Counselor has a MILLION DOLLAR IMPACT

“I feel like our state is missing out by not promoting and favoring the ACT® test.”

Leslie Trundy, School Counselor, Morse High School

Leslie Trundy, a counselor at Morse High School in Bath, Maine, sought to put her students in a better position for college. Over the past 10 years, Trundy tracked Morse students’ merit awards resulting from SAT and ACT scores and found that of the 277 students who took both tests and qualified for merit awards at the University of Maine:



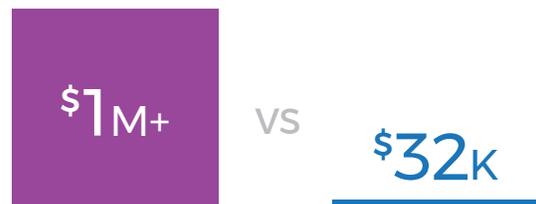
66% were offered some kind of merit award based upon their ACT score (compared to only 44% with their SAT score)



118 received greater amounts of merit awards based upon their ACT score (only 6 students received greater amounts based upon their SAT score)



Students were collectively offered \$262K more in total merit awards for their first year of college based upon their ACT scores (compared to \$8K with their SAT score)



Over 4 years of college, the amount of merit awards offered could add up to more than \$1 million for these students (compared to \$32,000 in possible merit awards over four years by those who took the SAT)

She realized her students may have been missing out on more scholarship opportunities—and, possibly, college altogether—by not taking the ACT.

All juniors at Morse High School are required to take the SAT® test, and as a result, many students don't take the ACT.

Trundy, an ACT test site supervisor for the past 11 years, has consistently encouraged students planning to attend a four-year college to take both the ACT and the SAT as a best practice. For students taking both tests, she saw a marked difference in merit awards students received at the University of Maine based upon their ACT scores compared to SAT scores.

In monitoring the relationship between Morse students' test scores and merit award packages received from the University of Maine, Trundy found that of the 277 students taking both tests within the past 10 years:

- 66% were offered some kind of merit award based upon their ACT score (compared to only 44% with their SAT score);
- 118 received greater amounts of merit awards based upon their ACT score (only 6 students received greater amounts based upon their SAT score);
- Students were collectively offered \$262K more in total merit awards for their first year of college based upon their ACT scores.
- Over 4 years of college, the total amount of merit awards offered could add up to more than \$1 million for these students*.

*All scholarships offered are renewable for up to 4 years

“When I’m talking with parents, I tell them that since your student is taking a rigorous coursework here at school, then it is worth your time and money to sign your student up for the ACT.”

Leslie Trundy, School Counselor, Morse High School

Trundy saw similar trends at other major universities around the country as well. For instance, the number of dual-tested Morse students meeting full scholarship eligibility requirements based upon ACT scores was higher than those meeting eligibility based upon SAT score at:

- The Ohio State University
- Miami University (Ohio)
- Hendrix College (Arkansas)
- Andrews University (Michigan)
- The University of Iowa

“The ACT is clearly an assessment of what a student learns in school. When you go to class, you are studying for the ACT.”

Leslie Trundy, School Counselor, Morse High School

While they may not apply to all students in all cases, Trundy's findings certainly support her practice of encouraging students to take the ACT: It both provides a strong measure of college and career readiness and could open doors to more scholarship and financial opportunities.

To find out more about the benefits of the ACT test and how to offer it to your students, go to www.act.org/state-and-district-testing.