



NDSA-03-2021

## **A Resolution in Support of the Temporary Suspension of Standardized Test Scores on College Applications**

**WHEREAS**, the North Dakota Student Association (NDSA) represents the voice of North Dakota's 45,000 public college and university students; and,

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of NDSA is to represent all students enrolled in the North Dakota University System (NDUS) and advocate on issues of higher education in support of access, affordability, quality, and the student experience; and,

**WHEREAS**, scores from standardized testing such as the ACT and SAT are generally used to determine an applicant's admission to a college; and,

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted education as it has been disruptive to learning and to high school students' ability to access standardized testing; and,

**WHEREAS**, on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the State Board of Higher Education (SBHE) authorized institutions to temporarily waive the requirement of standardized test scores that are normally submitted as part of the college application process<sup>[1]</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the temporary suspension will not go into effect until the fall semester of 2021 and will end the summer of 2022; and,

**WHEREAS**, the temporary suspension is intended to address "limitations to access higher education in favor of helping students more readily access higher education."<sup>[1]</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, the temporary suspension allows for colleges and universities to "remain flexible and adaptive in response to the limitations associated with COVID-19"<sup>[1]</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, the policy implemented by the SBHE is intended to "alleviate barriers to entry and access to education in the state"<sup>[1]</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, the North Dakota Student Association works to ensure that the future and potential students of higher education in North Dakota are supported and given every opportunity to succeed in their educational pursuits; so,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the North Dakota Student Association supports the temporary suspension of standardized testing scores as a requirement for the college application process in North Dakota; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the NDSA urges the State Board of Higher Education to continue to adopt policies that will alleviate the limitations and barriers surrounding higher education as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Approved by the NDSA General Assembly on Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

[1] <https://ndus.edu/2020/06/30/board-temporarily-suspends-act-sat-requirement/#:~:text=30%20Jun%20Board%20temporarily%20suspends%20ACT%2FSAT%20requirement&text=The%20temporary%20waiver%20will%20be,the%202021%2D2022%20recruitment%20year.>