



For Immediate Release

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Classic Learning Test Celebrates One Year in Florida

Since September 8, 2023, more than 120,000 Florida students have taken the CLT college entrance exam

September 5, 2024: Thanks to the leadership of Governor Ron DeSantis, September 8 marks one-year since the Florida Board of Governors voted to approve the Classic Learning Test (CLT) as an admissions test at all public universities in the state. More than 120,000 Florida students have since taken the CLT college entrance exam, which is now an approved alternative to the SAT and ACT.

Like the SAT and ACT, the CLT assesses critical skills such as reading comprehension, writing, and mathematics, among others. However, unlike the other tests that change according to educational or cultural trends, CLT exams also emphasize foundational logic and reasoning skills, which are largely absent from other tests. Additionally, the CLT sources its reading passages from classic and historical texts that have withstood the test of time.

“Florida Education Commissioner Manny Diaz and the Florida Board of Governors made a bold decision a year ago to make Florida the first state to expand college entrance exam opportunities for students beyond the conventional duopoly,” said Jeremy Tate, president and CEO of CLT. “It is an honor to have since had the opportunity to provide a classically inspired testing option to more than 120,000 Florida students and we look forward to helping many thousands more students to further their education in the years to come.”

Five months prior to the Board of Governor’s decision, Governor Ron DeSantis signed House Bill 1537. That law allowed Florida high schools to provide the CLT to 11th graders to satisfy the state’s graduation requirements. The bill also allowed Florida students to use their CLT scores to qualify for Florida Bright Futures and Florida Medallion scholarships.

During the subsequent school year, students from more than 50 Florida school districts took the CLT test and more than 1,540 Florida students have met the required CLT scores to qualify for a Bright Futures scholarship.

“Following the state's authorization allowing Florida school districts to administer the CLT alongside the SAT and ACT, Hillsborough County Public Schools proudly added the CLT as an option for our students,” said Christie Raburn, executive director of high school education for Hillsborough County Public Schools. “We are pleased to report that 1,331 of our juniors and seniors who took the test achieved a concordant score for the Grade 10 ELA assessment, and



3,544 earned a concordant score for the Algebra 1 End-of-Course exam. These results underscore the value of offering diverse testing options to meet the varied needs of our students.”

In April 2023, CLT developed a concordance report demonstrating that while the CLT takes a unique approach to testing its scores map to the SAT and ACT.

“For decades, high school students have had to take college entrance exams that are both utterly boring and rife with ideological bias,” Tate said. “The CLT, on the other hand, transcends today’s controversies with its focus on the world’s greatest works of literature and philosophy. It is our sincere hope that through this focus the CLT can be more than just another standardized test for students. Instead, we hope that it helps to spark a lifelong yearning to learn.”

CLT exists to reconnect knowledge and virtue by providing meaningful assessments and connections to seekers of truth, goodness, and beauty.