

LAWSUIT WON! NO MORE FLAGGING ACT SCORES

Thanks to a lawsuit against the ACT test company, students requesting accommodations will no longer have physical or learning disabilities identified when their test scores are sent to prospective colleges.

From [Education Week](#):

CT has stopped telling colleges whether students who took the admissions exam have disabilities, a practice that sparked a lawsuit last summer.

As part of that lawsuit, the Iowa-based test maker submitted documents in the U.S. District Court in Los Angeles saying that as of Sept. 15, it has stopped "flagging" the scores of students with disabilities.

ACT spokesman Ed Colby said that in 2003, the company stopped telling colleges in score reports that students had taken the test with accommodations.





But there was a second form of flagging that students challenged in an August lawsuit against ACT. It was based on information that students voluntarily provide in the "student profile" survey that's part of the registration process. One of those questions asks if students have a physical or learning disability.

ACT had continued to send that information to colleges, but now it states will no longer do so

At worst, this practice of the ACT to continue to send disability information to prospective colleges seems to have been deliberate way to evade previous anti-flagging policies...and it could mislead students who voluntarily provided information with the idea that it would only be used for internal purposes by the ACT. At best, it was all just a misunderstanding and lack of oversight sharing materials with colleges.

Thankfully the practice is ended for good. The ACT is often the first choice for many science- and math-focused high school students compared to the SAT because only the ACT includes scientific reasoning. From Education Week again:

"The lawsuit is not over, because the students and their families are still asking the court for damages for their experience, and to certify the case as a class action, representing all students who have been affected by ACT's prior disclosures."

* It's important to add that many students choose to disclose their dyslexia in their college applications as dyslexia. Many believe that it didn't negatively affect their admission or scholarship applications and may have even helped.