



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Michael Sentance  
State Superintendent  
of Education

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 10, 2016

CONTACT: Communication  
334-242-9950  
[comm@alsde.edu](mailto:comm@alsde.edu)

Alabama  
State Board  
of Education

Governor  
Robert Bentley  
President

Matthew S. Brown, J.D.  
District I

Betty Peters  
District II

Stephanie Bell  
District III

Yvette M.  
Richardson, Ed.D.  
District IV  
Vice President

Ella B. Bell  
District V

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.  
District VI

Jeff Newman  
District VII

Mary Scott Hunter, J.D.  
District VIII  
President Pro Tem

Michael Sentance  
Secretary and  
Executive Officer

## ALABAMA ACT ASPIRE SCORES SHOW INCREASE FOR THIRD STRAIGHT YEAR

*Alabama Students Improve in All Subjects in Nearly Every Grade Tested*

**Montgomery, Ala.** – Alabama public schools students have completed the third year of ACT assessments and the [results](#) show progress toward increased achievement. This most recent round of *ACT Aspire* assessment scores shows increased proficiency as Alabama students continue to move toward greater levels of college and career readiness.

Michael Sentance, State Superintendent of Education, said although there is plenty of work to do to ensure all Alabama graduates are fully prepared for life after high school, he is encouraged by the incremental improvements on *ACT Aspire* assessments.

“Teachers and administrators throughout Alabama are working tirelessly to make sure students receive a quality education. This is no easy task, but momentum is moving in the right direction,” Sentance said. “Although we continue to improve compared to previous years, we must make sure Alabama students reach a level of educational attainment that equals or exceeds that of students across the country and internationally.”

In spring 2016, a total of 383,279 students in Grades 3-8 and 10 took the third year of [ACT Aspire assessments](#), which are aligned with the [Alabama College- & Career-Ready Standards \(CCRS\)](#). The *ACT Aspire* assessment is administered in late spring during the closing weeks of the school year to ensure student learning continues as long as possible. The assessments, which can be administered in computer-based or paper/pencil format, have scores that are shown in levels of “Exceeding, Ready, Close, or In Need of Support” for students in Grades 3 through 8 and 10 for reading and mathematics, and in Grades 5, 7, and 10 for science.

-more-

## ALABAMA ACT ASPIRE SCORES SHOW INCREASE FOR THIRD STRAIGHT YEAR

*Alabama Students Improve in All Subjects in Nearly Every Grade Tested*  
November 10, 2016

### ACT Aspire Math – Percentage Proficient (Scored Ready or Exceeding on Assessment)

Grade	2016	2015	2014
3 <sup>rd</sup>	59	54	52
4 <sup>th</sup>	53	48	45
5 <sup>th</sup>	45	43	39
6 <sup>th</sup>	54	50	43
7 <sup>th</sup>	37	33	31
8 <sup>th</sup>	31	27	29
10 <sup>th</sup>	18	*	*

### ACT Aspire Reading – Percentage Proficient (Scored Ready or Exceeding on Assessment)

Grade	2016	2015	2014
3 <sup>rd</sup>	37	35	35
4 <sup>th</sup>	41	38	38
5 <sup>th</sup>	36	34	34
6 <sup>th</sup>	42	43	42
7 <sup>th</sup>	36	34	35
8 <sup>th</sup>	45	44	48
10 <sup>th</sup>	32	*	*

\* With the sunseting of *ACT Plan* in 2015, *ACT Aspire* was administered to students in [Grade 10](#) for the first time in spring of 2016.

## ALABAMA ACT ASPIRE SCORES SHOW INCREASE FOR THIRD STRAIGHT YEAR

*Alabama Students Improve in All Subjects in Nearly Every Grade Tested*  
November 10, 2016

This is Alabama's second year assessing science using *ACT Aspire*. Students statewide show an increase in grades tested.

### **ACT Aspire Science – Percentage Proficient (Scored Ready or Exceeding on Assessment)**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
5 <sup>th</sup>	39	37
7 <sup>th</sup>	36	33
10 <sup>th</sup>	23	*

The *ACT Aspire* represents a significant change from how student achievement has been defined in the past and helps to showcase student and school academic performance. The expectation of what students must know and be able to do on state assessments has become more rigorous.

State, system, and school level data can be found at the ALSDE [Data Center](#) (Click tab for 2015-16 data). Assessment results for the *Alabama Alternate Assessment* can be found here as well.

Please contact ALSDE Communications with questions at 334-242-9950 or via e-mail at [comm@alsde.edu](mailto:comm@alsde.edu).

###