



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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ALABAMA ACT SCORES REMAIN STEADY FOR 2016
State in its Third Year of Testing 100 Percent of Students

Montgomery, Ala. – National achievement levels on the [ACT](#) test went down this year compared to last year among U.S. high school graduates, but [Alabama’s](#) average ACT composite score has remained steady, a notable accomplishment as average scores tend to decrease with a broadening of the testing base.

The state’s average composite score for 2016 *public school* graduates is 18.7, compared to the national average of 20.8, according the annual [ACT Condition of College- & Career-Readiness Report](#), one of the multiple measures now used to determine college- and career-readiness of Alabama’s high school students. Alabama is in its third year of statewide administration of the [ACT](#), which began in 2013-14 with all public high school juniors tested. A total of 20 states administered the ACT to all public school graduates in this year’s class.

There were approximately 50,529 ACT-tested *public* high school students and graduates in 2016, compared to 33,541 in 2012. Implementation of statewide testing has [significantly decreased](#) the percent of Alabama students who take the ACT for the *first time* as seniors: African Americans down to 2.8 percent from 72 percent in 2008; Hispanics down to 2.9 percent from 67 percent in 2008; and Whites down to 2.2 percent from 56 percent in 2008.

AL Average ACT Scores by Race/Ethnicity	2016 Score
Black/African-American	16.2
American Indian/Alaskan Native	17.9
White/Caucasian	20.2
Hispanic/Latino	17.7
Asian	23.4
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	17.3
Two or more races	19.7
Did not respond	17.2
Composite Score	18.7

“By providing greater access through the statewide administration of the [ACT](#) test, we are able to get a more comprehensive picture of the number of students who are meeting college- and career-ready [benchmarks](#),” said Interim State Superintendent of Education Dr. Philip Cleveland.

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“While there is room for improvement, we are encouraged by the consistent growth in the right direction. Through Alabama’s PLAN 2020 and its improvement strategies, we will continue to work toward ensuring our students are on track for success in college and the workforce, upon graduation from high school.”

[ACT](#) defines college- and career-readiness as the knowledge and skills needed to be successful. [ACT College Readiness Benchmarks](#) specify the minimum scores needed on each ACT subject- area test (English, math, reading, and science) to indicate that a student has a 50 percent chance of earning a grade of B or higher in a typical credit-bearing, first-year college course in that subject area.

Percent of Students Ready for College-Level Coursework	Alabama	National
English Composition	48	61
Mathematics	21	41
Science	21	36
Reading	31	44
All Four Subjects	14	26

This year, for the first time, [ACT](#) has provided an indicator of career-readiness based on ACT composite scores by including details on how Alabama students are progressing toward the [ACT National Career Readiness Certificate \(NCRC\)](#). Attainment of [ACT NCRC](#) levels indicates workplace employability skills that are critical to job success.

Progress Toward Career Readiness Based on ACT Composite Score	Alabama	National
Gold	52	68
Silver	33	24
Bronze	13	7
Needs Improvement	2	2

For more information, contact ACT Public Relations at 319-337-1147. Neither ACT nor the Alabama State Department of Education releases local district or school data. Contact district and school offices for local information.

****Note: Links to reports are for all students in Alabama. ALSDE reports only the public school results which is a separate report.***

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