

PRESS RELEASE

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Cobb ACT Scores Increase; Top State & Nation

The Cobb County School District's recently graduated class of 2014 has outperformed its peers across the state and nation on the ACT assessment for college readiness. The average Composite score of 22.2 was one-tenth of a point high than last year's score, almost 1.5 points higher than the state average of 20.8, and topped the national Composite score of 21.0.

The ACT assessment measures high school students' overall educational development and their readiness for the challenge of core college classes. Cobb students improved their scores from last year in Math, Reading and Science, while the English score was unchanged. Cobb graduates continue to exceed state and national averages in all four subject areas tested (See Table I). Nine of Cobb's 16 high schools posted average composite scores higher than the national average (See Table III).

ACT performance data also indicates that specific student groups are making measurable progress as well. From 2010 to 2014, composite scores for African-American students increased from 18.3 to 18.6, and Asian students' scores climbed from 24.6 to 27.3. Multi-ethnic students scored one-tenth of a point higher than last year's 21.6, and over the last five years the average has increased a full point (20.7 to 21.7). White students' average composite score increased two-tenths of a point, from 24.0 in 2013, to 24.2 in 2014.

"I am very proud of our students for continuing to excel on the ACT. The ACT is an important barometer for colleges and universities," said Superintendent Chris Ragsdale. "Our students showed improvement in three of four subject areas, and continued to surpass their peers at the state and national levels. More and more Cobb students are taking the ACT, and it is unusual to see scores increase at the same time the percentage of test-takers increases. That is a testament to the quality of our high school instruction, and the commitment of our teachers. Overall, these scores are a very positive indicator. Of course, we plan to study the data carefully, school by school, to determine where improvements may be targeted."

Students taking more rigorous classes in science or math tended to have higher ACT scores, promoting the value of advanced classes at the high school level. For example, Cobb students who participated in a high school math course sequence that included Algebra I and II, Geometry, Trigonometry, and Calculus, had scores more than five points higher than students with less than three years of math coursework. Similarly, students taking advanced science classes that included General Science, Biology, Chemistry and Physics scored more than two points higher than those taking less than three years of science. (See Table II).

Results reflect the performance of 3,663 Cobb high school seniors (50 percent of all 2013-2014 graduating seniors) who took the ACT voluntarily in either their sophomore, junior or senior year. Scores for individual Cobb high schools can be found in Table III.

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- Cobb's scores exceeded those of the state and national in all sections of the ACT, including English, Math, Reading, Science, and the Composite score, for the ninth consecutive year.
- 3,663 Cobb students participated in the ACT during their junior or senior year of high school. Of these students, 72% demonstrated readiness for college level coursework in English, 49% in Math, 53% in Social Studies, and 43% in Science. Overall, 32% are college ready in all content areas.
- Students taking a more rigorous course of study in high school tend to have higher scores than those taking a minimum curricular sequence. Students taking four or more years of math scored almost 3 points higher on the ACT than students taking less than three years of math.
- Four high schools had composite scores higher than 24.0 points (Walton: 25.8, Pope: 25.2, Wheeler: 24.6, Lassiter: 24.3).
- Nine high schools had composite scores higher than the national average of 21.0 (Walton: 25.7, Pope: 24.8, Lassiter: 24.7, Wheeler: 24.5, Kennesaw Mountain: 23.7, Harrison: 23.3, Hillgrove: 21.8, Allatoona: 21.6, Kell: 21.5)
- On the optional Writing Test, the average combined score for Cobb test takers was 21.8 compared to the State average of 20.7

**Cobb County School District
Five Year Comparison
American College Testing (ACT) Assessment Scores
For College Bound Seniors
2010 - 2014**

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NATIONAL</u>	<u>GEORGIA</u>	<u>COBB</u>	<u>Exceeded NAT Avg</u>	<u>Exceeded GA Avg</u>
<u>Composite</u>					
2014	21.0	20.8	22.2	Yes	Yes
2013	20.9	20.7	22.1	Yes	Yes
2012	21.1	20.7	22.2	Yes	Yes
2011	21.1	20.6	22.4	Yes	Yes
2010	21.0	20.7	22.2	Yes	Yes
<u>English</u>					
2014	20.3	20.3	21.8	Yes	Yes
2013	20.2	20.2	21.8	Yes	Yes
2012	20.5	20.1	21.8	Yes	Yes
2011	20.6	20.1	22.1	Yes	Yes
2010	20.5	20.1	21.8	Yes	Yes
<u>Math</u>					
2014	20.9	20.5	21.8	Yes	Yes
2013	20.9	20.3	21.7	Yes	Yes
2012	21.1	20.6	22.0	Yes	Yes
2011	21.1	20.7	22.5	Yes	Yes
2010	21.0	20.7	22.3	Yes	Yes
<u>Reading</u>					
2014	21.3	21.4	22.7	Yes	Yes
2013	21.1	21.2	22.6	Yes	Yes
2012	21.3	21.0	22.6	Yes	Yes
2011	21.3	20.8	22.6	Yes	Yes
2010	21.3	20.9	22.4	Yes	Yes
<u>Science</u>					
2014	20.8	20.7	21.9	Yes	Yes
2013	20.7	20.5	21.8	Yes	Yes
2012	20.9	20.5	21.9	Yes	Yes
2011	20.9	20.3	21.9	Yes	Yes
2010	20.9	20.5	21.8	Yes	Yes

Note: Scale 1 - 36

Estimated Number of Students Taking the ACT:

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
National	1,568,835	1,623,112	1,666,017	1,799,243	1,845,787
Georgia	39,436 (35%)	42,929 (38%)	47,169 (54%)	48,505 (55%)	50,697 (57%)
Cobb County	2,929 (38%)	3,249 (41%)	3,571 (50.6%)	3,651 (49.9%)	3,663 (50%)

Note: District percentages based on the number of students enrolled in Grade 12

* Data not available

**Cobb County School District
2014 ACT Average Composite Scores
By Common Course Sequences**

<u>Course Sequence</u>	<u>Cobb ACT Composite</u>	<u>State ACT Composite</u>
<u>English</u>		
Eng 9, Eng 10, Eng 11, Eng 12, Other English	22.0	20.6
Eng 9, Eng 10, Eng 11, Eng 12 (Min. Core)	21.8	20.3
Less than 4 years of English	19.3	18.8
<u>Mathematics</u>		
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Trig, Calc	23.5	21.9
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Trig, Other Adv Math	21.3	19.9
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Trig	20.2	18.6
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Other Adv Math	18.8	18.6
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom (Min. Core)	18.1	17.3
Other combinations of 3 or more years Math	19.6	20.2
Less than 3 years of Math	18.2	17.6
<u>Social Science</u>		
US Hist, World Hist, Am Govt, Other Hist	23.9	23.1
US Hist, World Hist, Am Govt (Min. Core)	22.2	20.7
Other combinations of 3 or more yrs Soc Sci	21.5	20.7
Less than 3 years of Soc Sci	19.7	20.6
<u>Natural Science</u>		
Gen Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics	22.1	21.2
Biology, Chemistry, Physics	23.4	23.3
Gen Science, Biology, Chemistry (Min. Core)	20.2	19.3
Other combinations of 3 or more yrs Nat Sci	17.4	17.8
Less than 3 years of Nat Sci	18.6	17.4

TABLE II

**Cobb County School District
2014 ACT Average Composite Scores
By School**

Area/School	Percentage Tested*			Number of Students Tested			English			Mathematics			Reading			Science			Composite		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
National	--	--	--	1,666,017	1,799,243	1,845,787	20.5	20.2	20.3	21.1	20.9	20.9	21.3	21.1	21.3	20.9	20.7	20.8	21.1	20.9	21.0
Georgia	(54%)	(55%)	(57%)	47,169	48,505	50,697	20.1	20.2	20.3	20.6	20.3	20.5	21.0	21.2	21.4	20.5	20.5	20.7	20.7	20.7	20.8
Cobb County	(50.6%)	(49.9%)	(50%)	3,571	3,651	3,663	21.8	21.8	21.8	22.0	21.7	21.8	22.6	22.6	22.7	21.9	21.8	21.9	22.2	22.1	22.2
Allatoona	46.0%	43.8%	49.1%	195	191	188	21.2	21.8	20.7	21.4	21.1	21.3	22.6	23.1	22.5	21.8	21.9	21.6	21.8	22.1	21.6
Campbell	45.6%	40.7%	39.9%	223	200	205	20.1	18.8	19.1	20.7	19.6	19.5	20.8	20.0	20.6	20.2	19.7	19.6	20.6	19.6	19.8
Harrison	56.6%	56.8%	60.5%	302	276	294	23.0	23.3	23.2	23.0	22.7	22.6	23.5	23.4	23.8	22.9	22.8	23.2	23.2	23.1	23.3
Hillgrove	57.3%	58.3%	58.2%	248	297	306	22.0	21.1	21.4	21.9	20.9	21.3	23.1	22.0	22.5	21.8	21.1	21.7	22.3	21.4	21.8
Kell	50.4%	48.8%	57.0%	200	188	207	21.0	21.6	20.8	21.4	21.9	21.4	22.1	22.0	22.1	21.6	21.8	21.3	21.7	22.0	21.5
Kennesaw Mtn.	52.5%	49.2%	46.8%	235	245	223	23.3	23.0	23.3	23.4	22.7	23.1	24.1	23.3	24.4	23.7	23.0	23.4	23.8	23.1	23.7
Lassiter	60.1%	66.0%	61.6%	286	311	298	24.3	24.1	24.5	24.8	24.0	24.7	25.0	24.6	24.9	23.9	23.9	24.1	24.6	24.3	24.7
McEachern	42.1%	43.4%	41.3%	204	216	219	17.8	18.5	18.3	17.7	17.8	18.5	18.7	19.3	19.9	18.9	18.4	19.2	18.5	18.6	19.1
North Cobb	50.1%	48.1%	52.6%	307	289	323	19.9	20.7	20.3	19.8	19.9	19.7	21.2	21.3	21.7	20.7	20.6	20.9	20.5	20.7	20.8
Osborne	27.0%	23.0%	23.4%	93	90	94	15.5	16.1	15.7	16.9	17.3	16.9	16.8	17.7	17.9	17.0	17.5	17.1	16.7	17.3	17.0
Pebblebrook	42.9%	46.0%	43.2%	147	194	181	17.9	17.7	17.6	18.1	17.6	17.4	18.9	19.1	18.8	18.6	18.2	18.2	18.5	18.2	18.1
Pope	56.5%	61.2%	63.4%	245	268	242	24.5	25.4	25.0	24.6	24.7	24.6	25.0	25.5	24.9	23.8	24.6	24.1	24.6	25.2	24.8
South Cobb	37.5%	37.6%	33.7%	162	172	152	18.2	17.9	18.8	18.5	18.2	18.6	19.2	19.5	19.8	18.5	18.3	19.1	18.7	18.6	19.2
Sprayberry	40.7%	37.1%	36.6%	150	167	155	20.7	19.7	19.7	20.9	20.5	20.0	21.9	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7	20.3	21.3	20.6	20.3
Walton	63.1%	63.9%	63.8%	395	384	417	25.6	25.9	25.8	26.0	25.9	25.7	25.7	26.3	25.8	24.6	24.8	25.1	25.6	25.8	25.7
Wheeler	38.3%	35.9%	33.6%	178	159	159	22.9	24.4	24.0	23.6	24.4	24.5	24.0	25.0	24.6	23.2	24.1	24.4	23.5	24.6	24.5

Note: Scores are based on a scale of 1 - 36

* Based on the number of students enrolled in Grade 12 at each school.

-- Percentages not available at the time of this release