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**Contact: John Stafford  
Cobb County School District  
john.stafford@cobbk12.org  
678-594-8120**

## **Cobb ACT Scores Continue Upward Trend**

*District Seniors Outperform State and Nation for 12<sup>th</sup> Consecutive Year*

**Marietta, GA:** Cobb's class of 2017 achieved record-high scores on the ACT on both the composite score and scores for each of the four subject-area sections. The district composite score average of 22.9 is nearly two full points higher than the national average and 1.5 points higher than the state average. The test, used for college admissions and merit-based scholarships, is scored on a scale of 1 to 36.

Superintendent Chris Ragsdale praised the efforts behind the results: "Once again, Cobb graduates exceeded their peers across the state and the nation while also surpassing Cobb scores from the previous year. These scores are just one indication of the quality of public education in the Cobb County School District and underscore our mission of One Team, One Goal: Student Success. The credit for the results goes to our hard-working students and dedicated teachers and administrators."

Over 54% of the district's more than 7,800 graduating seniors took the ACT during their high school years. Across the district, a perfect composite score was earned by 10 students. Those students were from Campbell (2), Kennesaw Mountain (1), Lassiter (1), Walton (5) and Wheeler (1).

Walton High School had the highest average composite score at 27.0, a full six points higher than the nation and more than five points higher than the state. Walton principal Judith McNeill is “excited that our students did so well” and attributes that success to “the community’s support” and that the “students want to exceed and push themselves.” She also credited “a fantastic faculty that works to support the students” noting “it all comes together to help make students successful on the ACT.”

Wheeler High School saw the largest gain over the previous year with an composite score average of 25.1, a full point higher than in 2016. Wheeler’s principal, Peter Giles, believes two initiatives the school has undertaken led to the improved results. The school began administering the pre-ACT to all freshman a few years ago. “This gives students exposure to the format of the ACT,” Giles notes, “while showing students that they are not limited to the SAT.” He further explains that, “parents are excited that students are given an opportunity to see if it is best for them to focus on the ACT or the SAT.” He too praised teachers who incorporate test prep into daily lessons and are, “committed to adding rigor to the curriculum to urge students to push beyond level one questions or just grasping the concepts presented.”

[Data tables are attached]

**About the Cobb County School District:** The Cobb County School District is located Northwest of Atlanta, Georgia. With over 112,000 students, it is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest school district in Georgia and the 23<sup>rd</sup> largest district in the United States. The District is the largest employer in

the county with over 15,000 employees. Information about the District is available at  
[www.cobbk12.org](http://www.cobbk12.org)

**About the ACT:** The ACT is administered by ACT, Inc. and information about the organization,  
its testing program and other services is available at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

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**Table 1. Five-year (2013–2017) Comparison of ACT Scores for Cobb County School District (Test Scale: 1 – 36)**

**A. Composite Scores**

Year	National	Georgia	Cobb
2013	20.9	20.7	22.1
2014	21.0	20.8	22.2
2015	21.0	21.0	22.5
2016	20.8	21.1	22.6
2017	21.0	21.4	22.9

**B. English Scores**

Year	National	Georgia	Cobb
2013	20.2	20.2	21.8
2014	20.3	20.3	21.8
2015	20.4	20.6	22.2
2016	20.1	20.7	22.3
2017	20.3	21.0	22.7

**C. Math Scores**

Year	National	Georgia	Cobb
2013	20.9	20.3	21.7
2014	20.9	20.5	21.8
2015	20.8	20.5	21.9
2016	20.6	20.6	22.0
2017	20.7	20.9	22.2

**D. Reading Scores**

Year	National	Georgia	Cobb
2013	21.1	21.2	22.6
2014	21.3	21.4	22.7
2015	21.4	21.6	23.0
2016	21.3	21.8	23.2
2017	21.4	22.0	23.4

**E. Science Scores**

Year	National	Georgia	Cobb
2013	20.7	20.5	21.8
2014	20.8	20.7	21.9
2015	20.9	20.9	22.2
2016	20.8	21.0	22.4
2017	21.0	21.3	22.6

**Table 2. Five-year (2013–2017) Comparison of the Percent of Graduates Taking the ACT in the Cobb County School District**

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>National</b>	1,779,243	1,845,787	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038
<b>Georgia</b>	48,505	50,697	54,653	58,073	57,073
<b>Cobb</b>	3,651 (50%)	3,663 (51%)	3,988 (55%)	4,265 (57%)	4,228 (54%)

Note: District percentages are based on the number of graduates by June of each year.

**Table 3. Three-year (2015–2017) Comparison of the Number of Students Taking the ACT and the Composite ACT Scores at Each High School in the Cobb County School District (Test Scale: 1–36)**

Area/School	Number of Students Tested			Percentage Tested			Composite Score		
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
<b>National</b>	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	–	–	–	21.0	20.8	21.0
<b>Georgia</b>	54,653	58,073	57,431	–	–	–	21.0	21.1	21.4
<b>Cobb</b>	3,988	4,265	4,228	55.0%	56.7%	54.1%	22.5	22.6	22.9
Allatoona	205	197	184	47.3%	47.2%	42.5%	22.3	22.2	22.5
Campbell	213	247	258	45.1%	47.7%	46.7%	19.7	20.7	21.3
Harrison	272	333	305	60.9%	67.3%	63.9%	23.1	23.4	23.7
Hillgrove	346	345	337	65.5%	66.9%	62.2%	22.4	22.6	22.4
Kell	219	203	214	62.4%	65.1%	62.6%	22.1	21.3	21.6
Kennesaw Mtn.	293	276	255	59.4%	55.1%	55.2%	23.9	24.8	24.0
Lassiter	314	326	363	67.7%	69.1%	72.2%	25.1	24.8	25.0
McEachern	239	272	246	51.6%	53.6%	50.1%	19.5	19.6	18.9
North Cobb	384	389	401	63.2%	63.3%	56.7%	21.4	21.6	21.7
Osborne	97	100	120	27.7%	27.3%	27.3%	16.7	17.1	17.3
Pebblebrook	162	218	167	42.6%	47.4%	36.5%	18.7	18.5	18.5
Pope	285	319	334	69.0%	70.3%	69.6%	24.4	25.2	25.6
South Cobb	172	193	176	41.5%	45.5%	42.1%	18.7	18.7	19.0
Sprayberry	189	174	164	49.3%	42.6%	40.3%	20.9	21.0	21.0
Walton	411	452	483	67.8%	74.3%	74.9%	26.4	26.6	27.0
Wheeler	186	219	221	44.0%	49.1%	48.6%	24.3	24.1	25.1