

NEWS RELEASE



**ONE TEAM
ONE GOAL**
STUDENT SUCCESS

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Cobb students outperform peers on the ACT for 11 straight years

Ten students achieve perfect scores

For the 11th straight year, Cobb County School District students achieved record-high scores on the ACT college entrance exam. The class of 2016 scored nearly two points higher than students nationally. In addition, 10 students in five Cobb County schools attained perfect scores.

“Cobb students continue to outperform their state and national peers,” said Superintendent Chris Ragsdale. “This success is a direct result of the team of educators working hard each day to provide rigorous learning opportunities in our classrooms.”

The district’s average score of 22.6 is 1.8 points higher than the national average of 20.8 and the state average of 21.1.

The CCSD schools with students who scored a perfect 36 points on the ACT include: Campbell High School (1), Kell High School (1), Kennesaw Mountain School (1), Walton High School (5), and Wheeler High School (2). All of those students graduated last spring.

“Our teachers collaborate consistently to provide relevant and rigorous instruction that prepares our students to achieve at the highest level. This was an outstanding senior class that participated in honors, AP, and IB (International Baccalaureate) curricula,” said Dr. Jeanne Walker, Campbell High School principal.

Ten of the district’s 16 high schools posted average ACT composite scores higher than the state and national average.

Nearly 57% of all 2016 the district’s nearly 4,300 graduating seniors took the ACT in either their sophomore, junior, or senior years.

Walton High School had the highest average score in the district at 26.6 points. At Pope High School, the average score of 25.2 is the second highest in Cobb County schools.

“Walton has a rigorous curriculum in all classes. There are high goals set for each student in each class. We have an excellent faculty that helps students meet those goals, and we always appreciate the parents’ support,” said Walton High School Principal, Judith McNeill.

The ACT college results show that a high percentage of Cobb graduates are prepared for college-level work.

“We’ve seen an increase in our test scores across the board over the past several years, and that is attributed to what our teachers are doing in the classroom. The teachers are doing an amazing job in the classroom every day. We have partnered with some businesses in our community who have provided support and given our students opportunities for standardized test resources,” said Principal Robert Downs of Pope High School.

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The **Cobb County School System** is the second largest school system in Georgia and the 24th largest district in the nation. It serves 112,000 students, 114 schools, including 67 elementary schools, 25 middle schools, 16 high schools, two charter schools, two special education centers, one adult education center and one performing learning center. Our vision is *One Team, One Goal: Student Success*.

Highlights of ACT Scores for the Cobb County School District Released on August 24, 2016

- Cobb's scores exceeded those of the state and nation on all sections of the ACT (English, math, reading, and science) for the eleventh consecutive year.
- 4,265 Cobb students in the Class of 2016 participated in the ACT during their sophomore, junior, or senior year of high school. Of these students, 75% demonstrated readiness for college level coursework in English, 52% in Math, 57% in Social Studies, and 46% in Science. Overall, 36% 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 physics in addition to biology and chemistry scored 2.9 points higher on the ACT Science test than those taking a general science instead of physics.
- Five high schools had composite scores higher than 24.0 points: Walton 26.6, Pope 25.2, Kennesaw Mountain 24.8, Lassiter 24.8, and Wheeler 24.1.
- Ten high schools had composite scores higher than the state average of 21.1 and the national average of 20.8: Walton 26.4, Pope 25.2, Kennesaw Mountain 24.8, Lassiter 24.8, Wheeler 24.1, Harrison 23.4, Hillgrove 22.6, Allatoona 22.2, North Cobb 21.6, and Kell 21.3.

**Table 1. Five-year (2012–2016) Comparison of ACT Scores
for Cobb County School District (Test Scale: 1 – 36)**

A. Composite Scores

Year	National	Georgia	Cobb
2016	20.8	21.1	22.6
2015	21.0	21.0	22.5
2014	21.0	20.8	22.2
2013	20.9	20.7	22.1
2012	21.1	20.7	22.2

B. English Scores

Year	National	Georgia	Cobb
2016	20.1	20.7	22.3
2015	20.4	20.6	22.2
2014	20.3	20.3	21.8
2013	20.2	20.2	21.8
2012	20.5	20.1	21.8

C. Math Scores

Year	National	Georgia	Cobb
2016	20.6	20.6	22.0
2015	20.8	20.5	21.9
2014	20.9	20.5	21.8
2013	20.9	20.3	21.7
2012	21.1	20.6	22.0

D. Reading Scores

Year	National	Georgia	Cobb
2016	21.3	21.8	23.2
2015	21.4	21.6	23.0
2014	21.3	21.4	22.7
2013	21.1	21.2	22.6
2012	21.3	21.0	22.6

E. Science Scores

Year	National	Georgia	Cobb
2016	20.8	21.0	22.4
2015	20.9	20.9	22.2
2014	20.8	20.7	21.9
2013	20.7	20.5	21.8
2012	20.9	20.5	21.9

Table 2. Five-year (2012–2016) Comparison of the Percent of Graduates Taking the ACT in the Cobb County School District

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
National	1,666,017	1,779,243	1,845,787	1,924,436	2,090,342
Georgia	47,169	48,505	50,697	54,653	58,073
Cobb	3,571 (51%)	3,651 (50%)	3,663 (51%)	3,988 (55%)	4,265 (57%)

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

Table 3. Three-year (2014–2016) 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		
	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
National	1,845,787	1,924,436	2,090,342	–	–	–	21.0	21.0	20.8
Georgia	50,697	54,653	58,073	–	–	–	20.8	21.0	21.1
Cobb	3,663	3,988	4,265	50.0%	55.0%	56.7%	22.2	22.5	22.6
Allatoona	188	205	197	52.7%	47.3%	47.2%	21.6	22.3	22.2
Campbell	205	213	247	43.7%	45.1%	47.7%	19.8	19.7	20.7
Harrison	294	272	333	60.2%	60.9%	67.3%	23.3	23.1	23.4
Hillgrove	306	346	345	60.1%	65.5%	66.9%	21.8	22.4	22.6
Kell	207	219	203	63.3%	62.4%	65.1%	21.5	22.1	21.3
Kennesaw Mtn.	223	293	276	49.6%	59.4%	55.1%	23.7	23.9	24.8
Lassiter	298	314	326	62.6%	67.7%	69.1%	24.7	25.1	24.8
McEachern	219	239	272	45.0%	51.6%	53.6%	19.1	19.5	19.6
North Cobb	323	384	389	56.8%	63.2%	63.3%	20.8	21.4	21.6
Osborne	94	97	100	25.5%	27.7%	27.3%	17.0	16.7	17.1
Pebblebrook	181	162	218	46.8%	42.6%	47.4%	18.1	18.7	18.5
Pope	242	285	319	65.2%	69.0%	70.3%	24.8	24.4	25.2
South Cobb	152	172	193	36.5%	41.5%	45.5%	19.2	18.7	18.7
Sprayberry	155	189	174	38.6%	49.3%	42.6%	20.3	20.9	21.0
Walton	417	411	452	62.3%	67.8%	74.3%	25.7	26.4	26.6
Wheeler	159	186	219	36.8%	44.0%	49.1%	24.5	24.3	24.1

*Students attending alternative district schools are included in the district total and district averages, but those schools are not listed in the table to protect individual student’s privacy. As a result, district totals may be higher than total of all schools in the table.

**Percentages based on the number of graduates by June of each year. State and National percentages were not available at the time of this release.