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Cobb Students' ACT Scores Rise Again

Composite scores top state & national averages in all subjects

Recently released ACT scores show that for the third consecutive year Cobb County's college-bound seniors have improved the school district's composite score on the college preparation test. In addition, Cobb students have again topped the state and national averages in all four subject areas of the test, as well as in the composite average, just as they did in 2007.

According to the Georgia Department of Education, the composite scores of five Cobb County high schools (Walton, Wheeler, Pope, Lassiter and Kennesaw Mountain) ranked among the 25 highest scores in the state. Walton's composite score of 25.0 was the highest of any high school in Georgia.

ACT scores for the class of 2008 indicate that Cobb graduates are well prepared for success in their first year of college. The 2008 seniors posted an average composite score of 22 (out of a possible 36), slightly higher than last year's score of 21.9. The composite average was 1.4 points higher than the state average, and 0.9 points higher than the national average. Across the subject areas tested, Cobb students topped the national averages in English (+1.1), Math (+1.1), Reading (+0.8), and Science Reasoning (+0.5) (*See Table I*). The ACT assessment measures high school students' overall educational development and their readiness for the challenge of core college classes. Cobb seniors' composite average has topped the state and national average for 12 consecutive years.

Students taking more rigorous classes in science or math tended to have higher ACT scores, promoting the value of enrollment in more 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 nearly five points higher than students with less than three years of math coursework. Similarly, students taking advanced science classes that included Biology, Chemistry and Physics scored more than three points higher than those taking less than three years of science. (*See Table II*).

Results reflect the performance of 2,742 Cobb high school seniors (39 percent of all graduating seniors). Scores are for 2007-2008 seniors who took the ACT voluntarily in either their sophomore, junior or senior year of high school. Scores for individual Cobb high schools can be found in Table III.

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Cobb County School District
Notes on the 2007-2008 ACT Scores

Released Nationally on 8/13/2008

- ▶ ACT scores reflect the thinking skills required of students to be successful during the freshman year of college.
- ▶ 2,742 students took the ACT in the Cobb County School District during 2007-2008. This represents approximately 39% of the District's graduating seniors. Of those taking the ACT, 42.3% reported their gender as male and 55.5% as female. Two percent did not indicate their gender.
- ▶ Scores for Cobb students exceeded the state and national averages in all subject areas, including English, Math, Reading, and Science Reasoning.
- ▶ District wide ACT scores for 2008 reflect an upward trend over the last five years.
- ▶ Cobb County's average composite score of 22 has exceeded the national average for the past twelve years.
- ▶ The national composite score for 2007-2008 was 21.1, and the Georgia composite score was 20.6.

Table I

**Cobb County School District
Five Year Comparison
American College Testing (ACT) Assessment Scores
For College Bound Seniors
2004-2008**

<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>					
2008	21.1	20.6	22.0	Yes	Yes
2007	21.2	20.3	21.9	Yes	Yes
2006	21.1	20.2	21.5	Yes	Yes
2005	20.9	20.0	21.3	Yes	Yes
2004	20.9	20.0	21.3	Yes	Yes
<u>English</u>					
2008	20.6	20.1	21.7	Yes	Yes
2007	20.7	19.9	21.6	Yes	Yes
2006	20.6	19.8	21.2	Yes	Yes
2005	20.4	19.4	20.9	Yes	Yes
2004	20.4	19.5	20.9	Yes	Yes
<u>Math</u>					
2008	21.0	20.6	22.1	Yes	Yes
2007	21.0	20.3	21.9	Yes	Yes
2006	20.8	20.1	21.4	Yes	Yes
2005	20.7	19.8	21.3	Yes	Yes
2004	20.7	19.9	21.3	Yes	Yes
<u>Reading</u>					
2008	21.4	20.9	22.2	Yes	Yes
2007	21.5	20.6	22.2	Yes	Yes
2006	21.4	20.5	21.7	Yes	Yes
2005	21.3	20.3	21.6	Yes	Yes
2004	21.3	20.3	21.5	Yes	Yes
<u>Science</u>					
2008	20.8	20.3	21.3	Yes	Yes
2007	21.0	20.1	21.5	Yes	Yes
2006	20.9	20.0	20.9	Same	Yes
2005	20.9	19.8	20.9	Same	Yes
2004	20.9	19.9	21.1	Yes	Yes

Note: Scale 1 - 36

Students Taking the ACT:

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
National	1,171,460 (40%)	1,186,251 (39%)	1,206,455 (40%)	1,300,599 (41%)	1,421,941 (*)
Georgia	20,510 (24%)	23,324 (29%)	25,064 (30%)	29,465 (34%)	33,238 (36%)
Cobb County	1,658 (30%)	1,823 (30%)	2,022 (27%)	2,310 (37%)	2,742 (39%)

* Percentages not available at the time of this release

TABLE II

**Cobb County School District
2008 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	22.2	20.9
Eng 9, Eng 10, Eng 11, Eng 12 (Min. Core)	21.4	20.0
Less than 4 years of English	22.1	20.8
<u>Mathematics</u>		
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Trig, Calc	25.4	23.7
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Trig, Other Adv Math	21.8	21.0
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Trig	20.6	19.3
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Other Adv Math	19.6	18.8
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom (Min. Core)	18.2	17.3
Other combinations of 3 or more years Math	21.9	21.2
Less than 3 years of Math	19.6	17.6
<u>Social Science</u>		
US Hist, World Hist, Am Govt, Other Hist	22.8	23.0
US Hist, World Hist, Am Govt (Min. Core)	20.5	20.1
Other combinations of 3 or more yrs Soc Sci	21.8	20.3
Less than 3 years of Soc Sci	23.0	21.1
<u>Natural Science</u>		
Gen Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics	22.3	21.3
Biology, Chemistry, Physics	22.5	22.5
Gen Science, Biology, Chemistry (Min. Core)	20.4	19.2
Other combinations of 3 or more yrs Nat Sci	18.3	18.3
Less than 3 years of Nat Sci	19.1	18.1

**Cobb County School District
2008 Mean ACT Scores by School**

Table III

Area/School	Percentage Tested	Number of Students Tested	English	Mathematics	Reading	Science Reasoning	Composite
National	**	1,421,941	20.6	21.0	21.4	20.8	21.1
Georgia	(36%)	33,238	20.1	20.6	20.9	20.3	20.6
Cobb County	(39%)	2,742	21.7	22.1	22.2	21.3	22.0
Campbell	41.1%	165	19.4	19.4	20.2	19.4	19.7
Harrison	46.0%	290	22.1	22.5	22.9	21.7	22.4
Hillgrove	27.3%	69	20.7	20.9	21.5	21.0	21.2
Kell	38.0%	175	21.8	22.4	22.4	21.7	22.2
Kennesaw	41.3%	286	22.6	22.8	23.4	22.4	22.9
Lassiter	49.2%	217	22.7	24.0	23.5	22.5	23.3
McEachern	31.3%	176	19.7	19.9	20.1	19.6	19.9
North Cobb	36.2%	191	19.8	19.5	20.6	20.1	20.1
Osborne	24.8%	75	17.0	17.5	16.5	17.0	17.1
Pebblebrook	27.3%	94	17.3	17.5	17.9	18.1	17.9
Pope	54.0%	269	23.4	24.0	23.8	22.4	23.5
South Cobb	29.8%	120	18.2	19.1	18.5	18.6	18.7
Sprayberry	31.5%	125	20.4	20.5	21.0	20.4	20.7
Walton	55.1%	353	25.1	25.7	24.9	23.7	25.0
Wheeler	34.9%	130	23.1	24.3	23.8	22.9	23.7

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

** Percentages not available at the time of this release

ACT High School Profile Report not available for schools with less than 25 participants