

School Talk:

Columbus School District ACT Test Scores Tops in the Area

Dr. Bryan Davis, Superintendent

September 3, 2011

Higher Scores + More Participation = Student Success

In our current environment of heightened educational accountability, standardized testing continues to be one of the measures used to monitor student success. In the world of standardized testing, the ACT exam is the most important exam for students pursuing two-year or four-year colleges. The ACT test is focused on measuring Math, Reading, Science and English skills that are aligned with success in college and workplace readiness. Scores from the ACT are used as part of the admittance process to college. Without an adequate ACT score, students' college opportunities are very limited.

Fortunately for students in the Columbus School District, ACT scores are the highest in the area. WBEV reported on August 25, 2011 "Only 30-percent of local school districts saw increased scores in their students ACT college entrance exams this spring. In a survey of 10 local districts the average composite score was 21.7, down from 22.2 during the 2009-2010 school year. Columbus High School had the highest composite score, coming in with a 23.4." The composite score is an average of the scores accumulated on the Math, Reading, Science and English tests. The 23.4 composite score for Columbus is also better than the 22.2 composite score for the state. Columbus scores in Math, Reading, Science and English were the highest they have been in the last five years.

Another highlight of our 2011 ACT results is the increase in student participation. We had approximately 70% of our 2011 graduates take the ACT test compared to around 60% of our students participating from 2007-2010. This means that more Columbus students will have opportunities to attend the 2-year or 4-year college of their choice than ever before.

Although I am excited about our unprecedented levels of success in the ACT, I also realize we have room for improvement. I will be working with our staff to continue to increase our student participation and student performances into the future. Our district continues to improve our curriculum and instruction which will pay dividends for our students in the future.

The Columbus School District has a lot to offer students and families. As our 2011 ACT results prove, our students are getting a skill and knowledge base that exceeds any other districts in our area. Our future is very bright! GO CARDS!