



DURANT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Duane Merideth, Superintendent
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November 29th, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Current students in 4th-9th grades and grade 11 will be receiving state test results on Friday, December 1st. Due to state assessment changes, these test results may be drastically different from what you have seen in the past. As a district, we wanted to share what changes at the state level resulted in these differences.

- **New Standards**-Last year, Oklahoma implemented new English/Language Arts standards and math standards. The new Oklahoma Academic Standards promote student internalization and comprehension of content, rather than just memorization of information.
- **New Assessments**-The change in standards resulted in a change to more rigorous assessments. The new assessments are designed to more accurately reflect a student's academic progress and college/career readiness.
- **New Performance Level Alignment**-With the assessment change, Oklahoma test scores have been aligned with national benchmarks like the ACT, SAT, and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Basically, this means our state is setting new, higher performance levels for all tested grades and subjects. Performance levels, commonly called "cut scores", have been redefined as state expectations have increased.

As a result of these changes, Oklahoma has seen a significant drop in the number of students reported as achieving grade level target scores of 'Advanced' or 'Proficient'. This does not mean your student suddenly became less skilled or that our teachers and schools are less effective. It simply means Oklahoma's scores have been recalibrated to align with the knowledge and skills students need in order to be prepared for college or career after high school graduation.

Last year's assessments represent a new beginning for Oklahoma schools, teachers, and students. They will be used as a baseline to measure growth in the coming years. These test scores represent a total reset regarding assessments, and **NO COMPARISON** can be made between student and school performance from previous years.

As you receive these assessment scores, we urge you to keep in mind one test does not tell us everything that needs to be known about how a student is performing. We rely on multiple measures throughout the academic year to truly measure student performance. Our commitment to your student will remain high as we work toward the increased rigor of the state's new expectations of academic achievement.

Sincerely,

Duane Merideth, Superintendent



**OKLAHOMA
EDGE**

Giving Oklahoma Students a Competitive Edge

Oklahoma educators and leaders have strengthened academic standards so students can be prepared for college and career immediately after high school. Meeting these goals will enable students to:

- 1. Enter college without needing to pay for remedial courses that don't earn credit. Currently, Oklahoma families pay \$22 million a year out of pocket for remedial coursework after high school graduation.**
- 2. Be well-prepared for high-skill jobs and innovative careers of the future.**
- 3. Become great problem-solvers, strategic thinkers and innovators of tomorrow.**

WHAT FAMILIES NEED TO KNOW

- 1** In 2016, Oklahoma began teaching more comprehensive academic standards, which required new, more complex Oklahoma School Testing Program (OSTP) assessments to measure them. The new assessments were given to students in spring 2017, and test results will be released in late fall 2017.
- 2** Oklahoma assessment scores now track for **college and career readiness** and are aligned with national tests like the SAT, ACT and the National Assessment of Educational Progress.
- 3** New assessments require new performance levels for English language arts and math in grades 3-8 and 10 and for science in grades 5, 8 and 10. Performance levels, or “cut scores,” are presented in categories: *Advanced*, *Proficient*, **Limited Knowledge* and ***Unsatisfactory*.
- 4** In year 1 – **this year** – we will see a significant drop in the number of students reported as Proficient or Advanced. That decrease does **not** mean students are less skilled than last year or that a school is less effective. It means Oklahoma’s scores have been recalibrated to align with the knowledge and skills students need to be ready for college and career.
- 5** This school year represents a new beginning and **A TOTAL RESET**; no comparison is possible with student or school performance in past years. It will become the baseline for student and school performance as we continue efforts to position **every** Oklahoma student on the leading edge for success.

*Basic
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September 07, 2017
Code: 377100

SUPERINTENDENT
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DURANT, OK 74701



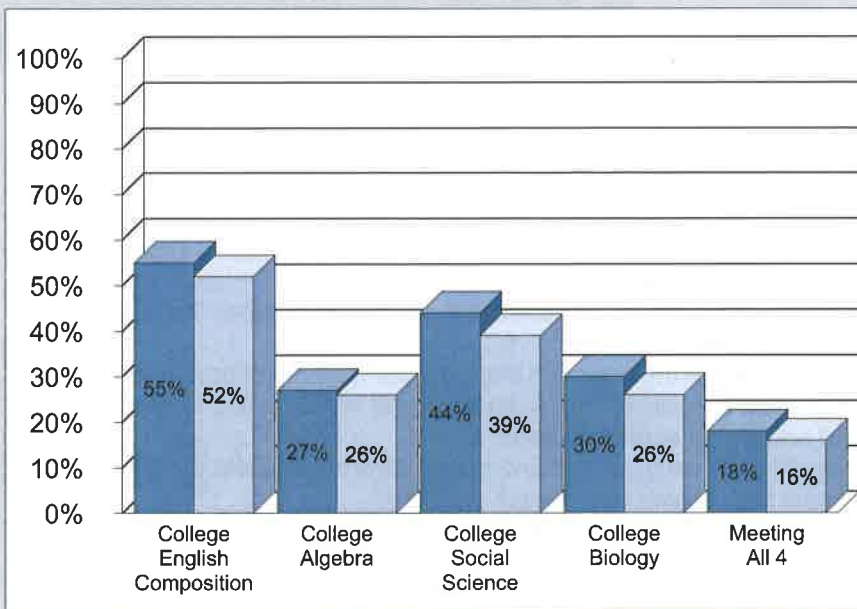
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This report reflects the achievement of your graduates on the ACT over time and an indication of the extent to which they are prepared for college-level work. The ACT consists of curriculum-based tests of educational development in English, mathematics, reading, and science designed to measure the skills needed for success in first-year college coursework. Table 1 shows the five-year trend of your ACT-tested graduates. Beginning with the 2013 Graduating Class, all students whose scores are college reportable, both standard and extended time tests, are included in this report.

Table 1: Five Year Trends - Average ACT Scores

Grad Year	Total Tested		English		Mathematics		Reading		Science		Composite	
	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State
2013	115	28,988	21.4	20.4	20.6	20.1	22.0	21.4	21.1	20.8	21.4	20.8
2014	98	28,682	20.4	20.3	19.6	19.9	21.5	21.5	20.7	20.8	20.6	20.7
2015	141	30,844	20.3	20.1	20.3	19.8	22.0	21.5	20.9	20.7	21.0	20.7
2016	122	32,854	22.3	19.8	20.9	19.5	23.0	21.3	21.8	20.5	22.1	20.4
2017	194	42,405	19.2	18.5	19.1	18.8	20.8	20.1	20.3	19.6	20.0	19.4

Figure 1. Percent of ACT-Tested Students Ready for College-Level Coursework



Are Your Students Ready for College?

Through collaborative research with postsecondary institutions nationwide, ACT has established the following as college readiness benchmark scores for designated college courses.

A benchmark score is the minimum score needed on an ACT subject-area test to indicate a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75% chance of obtaining a C or higher in the corresponding credit-bearing college courses.

- * English Composition: 18 on ACT English Test
- * College Algebra: 22 on ACT Mathematics Test
- * Social Science: 22 on ACT Reading Test
- * Biology: 23 on ACT Science Test

■ Your District
■ State

A High School College Readiness Letter has been sent to the Principal of each high school with at least one ACT-tested graduate.

For more information about the changes in state testing, please visit the following:

www.durantisd.org/stateassessment

Other state information can be found at:

www.ok.gov/sde