

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Cobb Graduates Top National Averages In All Subject Areas of 2012 ACT**

Recently released results for the ACT show graduates from Cobb's Class of 2012 are better prepared for the rigor of college studies than their peers across the state or nation. While Cobb's six-year trend of rising composite scores came to an end, last year's seniors still managed to post a composite score of 22.2, 1.5 points higher than their Georgia peers (20.7) and one point higher than the national average (21.1). The results mark the seventh consecutive year in which Cobb graduates have bested national averages in all four subject areas tested: English, Math, Reading and Science (See Table I).

The ACT assessment measures high school students' overall educational development and their preparedness for core college classes. Students taking more rigorous classes in science or math tend to have higher ACT scores, further emphasizing the value of enrollment in advanced coursework. For example, Cobb students who participated in a high school math course sequence that included Algebra I and II, Geometry, Trigonometry, and Calculus posted scores more than five points higher than students with fewer than three years of math. Similarly, students taking advanced science classes scored over two points higher than those taking less than three years of science. (See Table II).

ACT performance data also indicates that specific student groups are making measurable progress in closing the achievement gap. From 2007 to 2011, composite scores for African-American students increased from 18.1 to 18.9 and Asian students' scores grew from 23.1 to 25.2. Multi-ethnic students increased from 22.0 to 22.9 in 2012, and over five years have seen composite scores jump 2.5 points. The average composite score for white students held essentially steady, decreasing one-tenth of a point from 24.2 in 2011 to 24.1 in 2012.

"The performance on the ACT clearly shows our students are well-prepared for college-level work and can compete with students from anywhere in the country," said Superintendent Dr. Michael Hinojosa. "I am also pleased to see the increase in performance of student groups. One of our strategic goals is to narrow the achievement gap among student groups, and the ACT results show four of the six groups with higher composite scores. That's a clear indicator we are making progress."

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Ten of Cobb's 16 high schools posted average composite scores higher than the national average. (See Table III). Results reflect the performance of 3,571 Cobb high school seniors (50 percent of all 2011-2012 graduates) who took the ACT voluntarily in either their sophomore, junior or senior year. Scores for individual Cobb high schools can be found in Table III. ACT scores and data from previous years are available on the District website at [www.cobbk12.org](http://www.cobbk12.org).

Additionally, along with this press release the district is providing a supplementary document provided by the ACT that shows "The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2012". This document provides a wealth of information about this year's ACT results and how different groups of students performed in Georgia. It also provides a breakdown of scores for all 50 states.

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## ***Released Nationally on 8/22/2012***

- ▶ Cobb's scores exceeded those of the state and national in all sections of the ACT, including English, Math, Reading, Science, and the Composite score, for the seventh consecutive year.
  
- ▶ 3,571 Cobb students participated in the ACT during their junior or senior year of high school. Of these students, 75% demonstrated readiness for college level coursework in English Composition, 61% in Reading, and 52% in college Algebra, and 37% in Science. Overall, 31% 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 four or more years of math scored almost 6 points higher on the ACT than students taking less than three years of math.
  
- ▶ Three high schools had composite scores higher than 24.0 points (Walton - 25.6, Lassiter - 24.6, Pope - 24.6).
  
- ▶ Ten high schools had composite scores higher than the national average (Walton, - 25.6, Lassiter - 24.6, Pope - 24.6, Kennesaw Mtn - 23.8, Wheeler - 23.5, Harrison - 23.2, Hillgrove - 22.3, Allatoona - 21.8, Kell - 21.7, and Sprayberry - 21.3).
  
- ▶ On the optional Writing Test, the average combined score for Cobb test takers was 21.4 compared to the State average of 20.3

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	5-Year	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12
All	22.0	21.1	22.2	22.4	22.2	0.2	-0.9	1.1	0.2	-0.2
Black	18.5	18.8	18.3	18.6	18.9	0.4	0.3	-0.5	0.3	0.3
Am Ind	20.3	23.8	20.9	17.4	20.3	0.0	3.5	-2.9	-3.5	2.9
White	23.2	23.4	23.9	24.2	24.1	0.9	0.2	0.5	0.3	-0.1
Hisp	20.4	19.9	20.5	20.9	20.6	0.2	-0.5	0.6	0.4	-0.3
Asian	24.1	24.2	24.6	24.8	25.2	1.1	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.4
Multi	20.4	21.3	20.7	22.0	22.9	2.5	0.9	-0.6	1.3	0.9

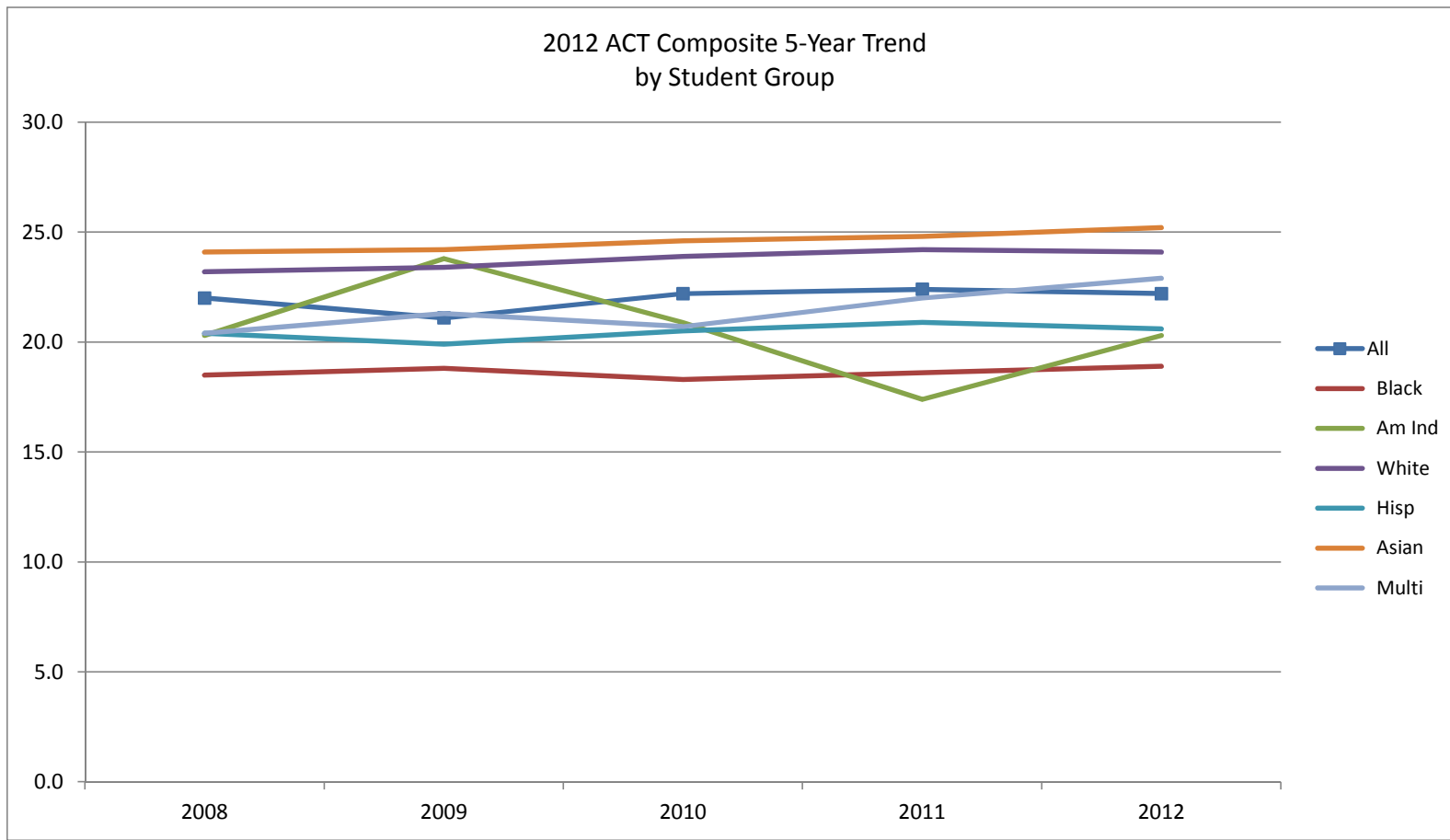


Table I

**Cobb County School District  
Five Year Comparison  
American College Testing (ACT) Assessment Scores  
For College Bound Seniors  
2008-2012**

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NATIONAL</u>	<u>GEORGIA</u>	<u>COBB</u>	<u>Exceeded NAT Avg</u>	<u>Exceeded GA Avg</u>
<b><u>Composite</u></b>					
2012	21.1	20.7	22.2	Yes	Yes
2011	21.1	20.6	22.4	Yes	Yes
2010	21.0	20.7	22.2	Yes	Yes
2009	21.1	20.6	22.1	Yes	Yes
2008	21.1	20.6	22.0	Yes	Yes
<b><u>English</u></b>					
2012	20.5	20.1	21.8	Yes	Yes
2011	20.6	20.1	22.1	Yes	Yes
2010	20.5	20.1	21.8	Yes	Yes
2009	20.6	20.1	21.8	Yes	Yes
2008	20.6	20.1	21.7	Yes	Yes
<b><u>Math</u></b>					
2012	21.1	20.6	22.0	Yes	Yes
2011	21.1	20.7	22.5	Yes	Yes
2010	21.0	20.7	22.3	Yes	Yes
2009	21.0	20.6	22.2	Yes	Yes
2008	21.0	20.6	22.1	Yes	Yes
<b><u>Reading</u></b>					
2012	21.3	21.0	22.6	Yes	Yes
2011	21.3	20.8	22.6	Yes	Yes
2010	21.3	20.9	22.4	Yes	Yes
2009	21.4	20.9	22.5	Yes	Yes
2008	21.4	20.9	22.2	Yes	Yes
<b><u>Science</u></b>					
2012	20.9	20.5	21.9	Yes	Yes
2011	20.9	20.3	21.9	Yes	Yes
2010	20.9	20.5	21.8	Yes	Yes
2009	20.9	20.3	21.5	Yes	Yes
2008	20.8	20.3	21.3	Yes	Yes

**Note: Scale 1 - 36**

**Students Taking the ACT:**

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
National	1,421,941 (42%)	1,480,469 (45%)	1,568,835 (46%)	1,623,112 (47%)	1,666,017 (*)
Georgia	33,238 (30%)	36,165 (32%)	39,436 (35%)	42,929 (38%)	47,169 (*)
Cobb County	2,742 (34%)	2,748 (35%)	2,929 (37%)	3,249 (41%)	3,571 (50%)

\* Percentages not available at the time of this release

**Cobb County School District  
2012 ACT Average Composite Scores  
By Common Course Sequences**

<b><u>Course Sequence</u></b>	<b><u>Cobb ACT Composite</u></b>	<b><u>State ACT Composite</u></b>
<b><u>English</u></b>		
Eng 9, Eng 10, Eng 11, Eng 12, Other English	21.9	20.4
Eng 9, Eng 10, Eng 11, Eng 12 (Min. Core)	21.7	20.1
Less than 4 years of English	21.3	18.0
<b><u>Mathematics</u></b>		
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Trig, Calc	23.3	21.9
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Trig, Other Adv Math	21.2	20.1
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Trig	20.0	18.9
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Other Adv Math	19.1	18.7
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom (Min. Core)	18.3	17.2
Other combinations of 3 or more years Math	19.5	20.1
Less than 3 years of Math	18.0	17.8
<b><u>Social Science</u></b>		
US Hist, World Hist, Am Govt, Other Hist	20.3	22.3
US Hist, World Hist, Am Govt (Min. Core)	21.5	20.1
Other combinations of 3 or more yrs Soc Sci	21.6	20.4
Less than 3 years of Soc Sci	21.7	20.5
<b><u>Natural Science</u></b>		
Gen Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics	21.9	21.0
Biology, Chemistry, Physics	23.0	23.4
Gen Science, Biology, Chemistry (Min. Core)	20.9	19.1
Other combinations of 3 or more yrs Nat Sci	17.8	17.7
Less than 3 years of Nat Sci	19.7	17.5

TABLE III

**Cobb County School District  
2012 ACT Average Composite Scores  
By School**

Area/School	Percentage Tested			Number of Students Tested			English			Mathematics			Reading			Science			Composite		
	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012
<b>National</b>	--	--	--	1,568,835	1,623,112	1,666,017	20.5	20.6	20.5	21.0	21.1	21.1	21.3	21.3	21.3	20.9	20.9	20.9	21.0	21.1	21.1
<b>Georgia</b>	0.35	38%	38%	39,436	42,929	47,169	20.1	20.1	20.1	20.7	20.6	20.6	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.5	20.3	20.5	20.7	20.6	20.7
<b>Cobb County</b>	37%	41%	50%	2,929	3,249	3,571	21.8	22.1	21.8	22.3	22.0	22.0	22.4	22.6	22.6	21.8	21.9	21.9	22.2	22.4	22.2
Allatoona	34.7%	40.8%	46.8%	51	106	195	20.0	21.4	21.2	20.7	21.4	21.4	22	22.2	22.6	21	21.6	21.8	21	21.8	21.8
Campbell	35.6%	44.5%	50.9%	170	210	223	20.0	20.1	20.1	20.1	20.6	20.7	20.9	20.8	20.8	19.6	19.9	20.2	20.3	20.5	20.6
Harrison	47.9%	54.8%	56.1%	276	279	302	23.1	23.1	23.0	23.1	23.8	23.0	23.4	23.3	23.5	22.4	22.7	22.9	23.1	23.4	23.2
Hillgrove	39.7%	44.4%	58.4%	205	223	248	21.1	21.0	22.0	21.0	21.1	21.9	21.9	21.6	23.1	21.1	21.0	21.8	21.4	21.3	22.3
Kell	37.4%	43.6%	54.3%	173	180	200	20.7	22.3	21.0	21.4	22.8	21.4	21.2	23.6	22.1	21.0	22.2	21.6	21.2	22.9	21.7
Kennesaw Mtn.	42.8%	54.6%	53.4%	287	281	235	23.4	22.2	23.3	23.5	22.9	23.4	23.8	23.0	24.1	22.9	22.5	23.7	23.5	22.8	23.8
Lassiter	54.0%	65.1%	61.0%	232	293	286	23.9	23.9	24.3	24.5	24.7	24.8	24.7	24.2	25.0	23.6	23.4	23.9	24.3	24.1	24.6
McEachern	26.6%	34.6%	43.8%	137	162	204	17.7	19.6	17.8	18.6	19.7	17.7	18.5	20.2	18.7	18.6	19.9	18.9	18.5	20.0	18.5
North Cobb	36.4%	44.4%	52.5%	244	237	307	20.2	20.7	19.9	20.5	20.3	19.8	21.5	21.6	21.2	20.8	20.7	20.7	20.9	21.0	20.5
Osborne	17.0%	18.3%	27.5%	59	59	93	15.4	16.2	15.5	17.1	17.7	16.9	16.7	16.3	16.8	17.1	17.5	17.0	16.7	17.0	16.7
Pebblebrook	24.7%	43.3%	46.2%	95	170	147	16.8	17.7	17.9	17.9	18.5	18.1	18.0	18.5	18.9	17.8	18.2	18.6	17.7	18.4	18.5
Pope	47.7%	54.0%	57.4%	210	247	245	24.3	25.2	24.5	24.8	25.7	24.6	24.2	25.0	25.0	23.6	24.1	23.8	24.4	25.1	24.6
South Cobb	27.0%	36.0%	42.1%	130	150	162	17.6	18.6	18.2	18.7	18.8	18.5	18.2	18.7	19.2	18.7	18.3	18.5	18.4	18.7	18.7
Sprayberry	29.9%	30.6%	42.6%	127	121	150	19.1	20.4	20.7	19.9	21.2	20.9	20.0	21.8	21.9	19.6	21.0	21.0	19.8	21.2	21.3
Walton	63.1%	58.3%	62.9%	386	374	395	25.3	25.6	25.6	26.1	25.7	26.0	25.3	25.6	25.7	24.6	24.5	24.6	25.4	25.5	25.6
Wheeler	31.6%	36.6%	41.1%	143	155	178	23.9	24.4	22.9	24.5	24.9	23.6	24.3	25.0	24.0	24.2	24.2	23.2	24.3	24.8	23.5

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