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Cobb ACT Scores Climb For 6th Straight Year Graduates top state & national averages in all subjects

Cobb County high school students posted their sixth consecutive composite-score increase on the ACT, recently released scores show. On the 2010 ACT, Cobb students also outperformed their peers at the state and national level in every section of the college preparation test. By topping state and national averages in all four subject areas, Cobb graduates indicated they are well prepared for college or career choices.

The 2010 seniors posted an average composite score of 22.2 (out of a possible 36), slightly higher than last year's score of 22.1. The composite average was 1.5 points higher than the state average (20.7), and 1.2 points higher than the national average (21.0). Cobb students also broadened their lead over the national average, which dropped a tenth of a point. Across the subject areas tested, Cobb students topped the national averages in English (+1.3), Math (+1.3), Reading (+1.1), and Science Reasoning (+0.9) (*See Table I*). The ACT assessment measures high school students' overall educational development and their readiness for the challenge of core college classes.

"These scores continue to show the high level of college preparation students receive in Cobb County schools," said Superintendent Fred Sanderson. "I am excited that more than half of our high schools had composite scores higher than the national average. Cobb students are leaving our campuses well prepared for the next phase of their lives."

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 more than seven points higher than students with less than three years of math coursework. Similarly, students taking advanced science classes that included General Science, Biology, Chemistry and Physics scored four points higher than those taking less than three years of science. (*See Table II*).

Average composite scores for nine of Cobb County's 17 high schools were higher than the national average. (See Table III). District-wide, the scores for Reading (22.4) and Math (22.3) were strongest.

Results reflect the performance of 2,929 Cobb high school seniors (37 percent of all graduating seniors). Scores are for 2009-2010 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 2009-2010 ACT Scores

Released Nationally on 8/18/2010

- ▶ 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.

- ▶ 2,929 Cobb students participated in the ACT during their junior or senior year of high school. Of these students, 74% demonstrated readiness for college level coursework in English Composition, 60% in Social Science, and 53% in college Algebra.

- ▶ Students taking a more rigorous course of study in high school had significantly higher scores than those taking a minimum curricular sequence. Students taking Algebra I and II, Geometry, Trigonometry and Calculus scored 7 points higher on the ACT than students taking less than three years of math.

- ▶ The composite ACT scores of African American students has steadily increased over a five year period from 18.2 to 18.8

- ▶ Four high schools had composite scores higher than 24.0 points (Walton - 25.1, Pope - 24.4, Lassiter and Wheeler - 24.3).

- ▶ Nine high schools had composite scores higher than the national average (Walton, - 25.1, Pope - 24.4, Lassiter and Wheeler - 24.3, Kennesaw Mtn - 23.5, Harrison - 23.1, Hillgrove - 21.4, Kell - 21.2, Allatoona - 21.1.

- ▶ The percentage of Cobb County seniors taking the ACT has grown by 10% over the last five years.

Table I

**Cobb County School District
Five Year Comparison
American College Testing (ACT) Assessment Scores
For College Bound Seniors
2006-2010**

<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>					
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
2007	21.2	20.3	21.9	Yes	Yes
2006	21.1	20.2	21.5	Yes	Yes
<u>English</u>					
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
2007	20.7	19.9	21.6	Yes	Yes
2006	20.6	19.8	21.2	Yes	Yes
<u>Math</u>					
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
2007	21.0	20.3	21.9	Yes	Yes
2006	20.8	20.1	21.4	Yes	Yes
<u>Reading</u>					
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
2007	21.5	20.6	22.2	Yes	Yes
2006	21.4	20.5	21.7	Yes	Yes
<u>Science</u>					
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
2007	21.0	20.1	21.5	Same	Yes
2006	20.9	20.0	20.9	Same	Yes

Note: Scale 1 - 36

Students Taking the ACT:

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
National	1,206,455 (40%)	1,300,599 (41%)	1,421,941 (42%)	1,480,469 (44%)	1,568,835 (*)
Georgia	25,064 (24%)	29,465 (28%)	33,238 (30%)	36,165 (32%)	39,436 (35%)
Cobb County	2,022 (27%)	2,310 (31%)	2,742 (34%)	2,748 (35%)	2,929 (37%)

* Percentages not available at the time of this release

TABLE II

**Cobb County School District
2010 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	22.4	21.0
Eng 9, Eng 10, Eng 11, Eng 12 (Min. Core)	21.7	20.0
Less than 4 years of English	20.3	18.4
<u>Mathematics</u>		
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Trig, Calc	24.6	23.4
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Trig, Other Adv Math	21.9	20.6
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Trig	20.2	18.9
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Other Adv Math	19.2	18.6
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom (Min. Core)	17.5	16.9
Other combinations of 3 or more years Math	19.2	20.6
Less than 3 years of Math	17.0	16.0
<u>Social Science</u>		
US Hist, World Hist, Am Govt, Other Hist	21.3	22.0
US Hist, World Hist, Am Govt (Min. Core)	20.5	19.9
Other combinations of 3 or more yrs Soc Sci	22.3	20.2
Less than 3 years of Soc Sci	19.3	20.2
<u>Natural Science</u>		
Gen Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics	22.5	21.4
Biology, Chemistry, Physics	22.2	22.8
Gen Science, Biology, Chemistry (Min. Core)	20.7	19.5
Other combinations of 3 or more yrs Nat Sci	18.0	17.6
Less than 3 years of Nat Sci	18.5	17.4

TABLE III

**Cobb County School District
2010 ACT Average Composite Scores
By School**

Area/School	Percentage Tested	Number of Students Tested	English	Mathematics	Reading	Science Reasoning	Composite
National	**	1,568,835	20.5	21.0	21.3	20.9	21.0
Georgia	(35%)	39,436	20.1	20.7	20.9	20.5	20.7
Cobb County	(37%)	2,929	21.8	22.3	22.4	21.8	22.2
Allatoona	34.7%	51	20.0	20.7	21.5	21.4	21.1
Campbell	35.6%	170	20.0	20.1	20.9	19.6	20.3
Harrison	47.9%	276	23.1	23.1	23.4	22.4	23.1
Hillgrove	39.7%	205	21.1	21.0	21.9	21.1	21.4
Kell	37.4%	173	20.7	21.4	21.2	21.0	21.2
Kennesaw Mtn.	42.8%	287	23.4	23.5	23.8	22.9	23.5
Lassiter	54.0%	232	23.9	24.5	24.7	23.6	24.3
McEachern	26.6%	137	17.7	18.6	18.5	18.6	18.5
North Cobb	36.4%	244	20.2	20.5	21.5	20.8	20.9
Osborne	17.0%	59	15.4	17.1	16.7	17.1	16.7
Pebblebrook	24.7%	95	16.8	17.9	18.0	17.8	17.7
Pope	47.7%	210	24.3	24.8	24.2	23.6	24.4
South Cobb	27.0%	130	17.6	18.7	18.2	18.7	18.4
Sprayberry	29.9%	127	19.1	19.9	20.0	19.6	19.8
Walton	63.1%	386	25.3	26.1	25.3	24.6	25.4
Wheeler	31.6%	143	23.9	24.5	24.3	24.2	24.3

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