

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Cobb Graduates Improve Performance On ACT For Sixth Consecutive Year**

The Cobb County School District's recently-graduated Class of 2011 has posted the system's sixth consecutive increase on ACT composite scores. Cobb students scored an average of 22.4 (out of a possible 36), improving over the 2010 composite score of 22.2 and again outperforming the national average of 21.1 and the state average of 20.6. The steady improvement in ACT performance has continued even as overall test participation has increased significantly, from 30 percent of 2005 seniors to 41 percent of 2011 seniors. In 2005, just 1,823 seniors took the ACT, compared to 3,249 in 2011.

The ACT assessment measures high school students' overall educational development and their readiness for the challenge of core college classes. Cobb graduates continued to best national averages in all four subject areas tested: English, Math, Reading and Science Reasoning (See Table I). District-wide, the scores for Reading (22.6) and Math (22.5) were strongest, followed by English (22.1) and Science Reasoning (21.9). Ten of Cobb's 16 high schools posted average composite scores higher than the national average. (See Table III).

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 18.6 and Asian students' scores grew from 23.1 to 24.8. Multi-ethnic students gained 1.3 points, from 20.7 in 2010 to 22.0 in 2011. The District's fastest growing student population, Hispanic students, also showed a gain in average composite score, increasing from 20.5 in 2010 to 20.9 in 2011. White students' average composite score also increased three tenths of a point, from 23.9 in 2010 to 24.2 in 2011.

"The continued increase in scores is great news," said Superintendent Dr. Michael Hinojosa. "Six consecutive years of improvement is a remarkable achievement, especially when the participation rate has also grown significantly as the ACT becomes a more popular test for college-bound students. I am also pleased to see the higher rate of growth among some ethnic groups. Closing the achievement gap is a high priority in our district."

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

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participated in a high school math course sequence that included Algebra I and II, Geometry, Trigonometry, and Calculus, had scores more than eight 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 almost four points higher than those taking less than three years of science. (See Table II).

Results reflect the performance of 3,249 Cobb high school seniors (41 percent of all 2010-2011 graduating seniors) 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 Cobb County School District Website at [www.cobbk12.org](http://www.cobbk12.org).

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Cobb County School District  
Notes on the 2010-2011 ACT Scores

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- ▶ 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 fifth consecutive year.
  
- ▶ 3,249 Cobb students participated in the ACT during their junior or senior year of high school. Of these students, 76% demonstrated readiness for college level coursework in English Composition, 61% in Social Science, and 56% 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 8 points higher on the ACT than students taking less than three years of math.
  
- ▶ The composite ACT scores for All Students has steadily risen each year over the past five years, from 21.9 in 2007, to 22.4 in 2011 or one half point overall. Among student groups, Composite scores for African American students has followed the increase by one half point from 18.1 in 2007, to 18.6 in 2011. During that same period, scores for test takers identifying themselves as Asian grew 1.7 points, from 23.1 to 24.8. Multi-ethnic students make great strides in closing the gap this year as their Composite score gained 1.3 points, from 20.7 in 2010, to 22.0 in 2011. Hispanic students also showed a significant gain in Composite scores, growing four tenths of a point in the last year from 20.5 to 20.9. By comparison, white students increased three tenths of a point, from 23.9 to 24.2.
  
- ▶ Four high schools had composite scores higher than 24.0 points (Walton - 25.5, Pope - 25.1, Wheeler - 24.8 and Lassiter - 24.1).
  
- ▶ Ten high schools had composite scores higher than the national average (Walton, - 25.5, Pope - 25.1, Wheeler - 24.8, Lassiter - 24.1, Harrison - 23.4, Kell - 22.9, Kennesaw Mtn - 22.8, Allatoona - 21.8, Hillgrove - 21.3 and Sprayberry - 21.2).
  
- ▶ The percentage of Cobb County seniors taking the ACT has grown in the last five years, from 2,310 (31% of graduating seniors) test takers in 2007, to 3,249 in 2011 (41% of graduating seniors).

**Cobb County School District  
Five Year Comparison  
American College Testing (ACT) Assessment Scores  
For College Bound Seniors  
2007-2011**

<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>					
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
2007	21.2	20.3	21.9	Yes	Yes
<b><u>English</u></b>					
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
2007	20.7	19.9	21.6	Yes	Yes
<b><u>Math</u></b>					
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
2007	21.0	20.3	21.9	Yes	Yes
<b><u>Reading</u></b>					
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
2007	21.5	20.6	22.2	Yes	Yes
<b><u>Science</u></b>					
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
2007	21.0	20.1	21.5	Yes	Yes

**Note: Scale 1 - 36**

**Students Taking the ACT:**

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
National	1,300,599 (39%)	1,421,941 (42%)	1,480,469 (45%)	1,568,835 (46%)	1,623,112 ( * )
Georgia	29,465 (28%)	33,238 (30%)	36,165 (32%)	39,436 (35%)	42,929 (38%)
Cobb County	2,310 (31%)	2,742 (34%)	2,748 (35%)	2,929 (37%)	3,249 (41%)

\* Percentages not available at the time of this release

**Cobb County School District  
2011 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	22.7	20.6
Eng 9, Eng 10, Eng 11, Eng 12 (Min. Core)	22.0	20.1
Less than 4 years of English	19.1	17.8
<b><u>Mathematics</u></b>		
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Trig, Calc	25.2	23.3
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Trig, Other Adv Math	21.9	20.6
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Trig	20.6	18.9
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Other Adv Math	19.3	18.5
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom (Min. Core)	17.5	16.7
Other combinations of 3 or more years Math	19.3	20.6
Less than 3 years of Math	17.3	16.0
<b><u>Social Science</u></b>		
US Hist, World Hist, Am Govt, Other Hist	20.5	21.6
US Hist, World Hist, Am Govt (Min. Core)	19.9	19.6
Other combinations of 3 or more yrs Soc Sci	21.7	20.1
Less than 3 years of Soc Sci	19.0	19.4
<b><u>Natural Science</u></b>		
Gen Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics	22.4	21.2
Biology, Chemistry, Physics	22.3	22.7
Gen Science, Biology, Chemistry (Min. Core)	20.7	19.3
Other combinations of 3 or more yrs Nat Sci	18.1	17.5
Less than 3 years of Nat Sci	18.7	17.4

TABLE III

**Cobb County School District  
2011 ACT Average Composite Scores  
By School**

Area/School	Percentage Tested	Number of Students Tested	English	Mathematics	Reading	Science Reasoning	Composite
<b>National</b>	**	1,623,112	20.6	21.1	21.3	20.9	21.1
<b>Georgia</b>	(38%)	42,929	20.1	20.7	20.8	20.3	20.6
<b>Cobb County</b>	(41%)	3,249	22.1	22.5	22.6	21.9	22.4
Allatoona	40.8%	106	21.4	21.4	22.2	21.6	21.8
Campbell	44.5%	210	20.1	20.6	20.8	19.9	20.5
Harrison	54.8%	279	23.1	23.8	23.3	22.7	23.4
Hillgrove	44.4%	223	21.0	21.1	21.6	21.0	21.3
Kell	43.6%	180	22.3	22.8	23.6	22.2	22.9
Kennesaw Mtn.	54.6%	281	22.2	22.9	23.0	22.5	22.8
Lassiter	65.1%	293	23.9	24.7	24.2	23.4	24.1
McEachern	34.6%	162	19.6	19.7	20.2	19.9	20.0
North Cobb	44.4%	237	20.7	20.3	21.6	20.7	21.0
Osborne	18.3%	59	16.2	17.7	16.3	17.5	17.0
Pebblebrook	43.3%	170	17.7	18.5	18.5	18.2	18.4
Pope	54.0%	247	25.2	25.7	25.0	24.1	25.1
South Cobb	36.0%	150	18.6	18.8	18.7	18.3	18.7
Sprayberry	30.6%	121	20.4	21.2	21.8	21.0	21.2
Walton	58.3%	374	25.6	25.7	25.6	24.5	25.5
Wheeler	36.6%	155	24.4	24.9	25.0	24.2	24.8

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