

# Information Briefing

## IOWA SCHOOL BOARDS FOUNDATION

September 2010

Vol. 4 • No.3

### ACT Scores for the Iowa Class of 2010

The ACT is made up of four multiple choice tests of academic achievement in English, math, reading, and science. The tests are based on ACT's college readiness standards and require students to understand and apply basic concepts and skills commonly needed to succeed in entry level college courses. ACT has set college readiness benchmark scores in each of the four areas tested. The benchmark score is the minimum score needed to give a student a 50% chance of obtaining a grade of B or better in the entry level class: English Composition, Algebra, Social Science, or Biology. The benchmark scores are 18, 22, 21, and 24, respectively. Figure 1 shows the percentage of high school graduates tested in Iowa and nationally who met the benchmark score in 2010.

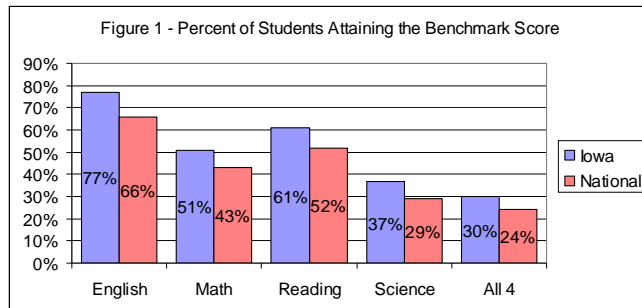


Figure 2 shows that the ACT score averages have changed very little over the past five years, both in Iowa and nationally.

Figure 2 – ACT Score Averages, 5-Year History

Year	English		Mathematics		Reading		Science	
	IA	Nat'l	IA	Nat'l	IA	Nat'l	IA	Nat'l
2006	21.6	20.6	21.8	20.8	22.5	21.4	22.1	20.9
2007	21.6	20.7	21.9	21.0	22.6	21.5	22.3	21.0
2008	21.9	20.6	22.0	21.0	22.9	21.4	22.3	20.8
2009	21.9	20.6	21.9	21.0	22.9	21.4	22.4	20.9
2010	21.8	20.5	21.8	21.0	22.6	21.3	22.3	20.9

The average Composite ACT score in Iowa ranks sixteenth among the fifty states. That ranking is skewed by the fact that a smaller or larger percentage of the students take the ACT in other states. In Iowa sixty percent of the 2010 graduates took the test. In states that do not require the ACT for all students, the range was from twenty-one to ninety-eight percent of the students tested. Six states now require all students to be tested. Among the ten states shown in Figure 3 where a comparable fifty to seventy percent of students were tested, Iowa ranked second to Minnesota.

Figure 3 – Scores of Comparable States

State	% Tested	Composite Ave.
<a href="#">Minnesota</a>	70	22.9
<a href="#">Iowa</a>	60	22.2
<a href="#">Wisconsin</a>	69	22.1
<a href="#">Montana</a>	58	22.0
<a href="#">Ohio</a>	66	21.8
<a href="#">Idaho</a>	60	21.8
<a href="#">Missouri</a>	69	21.6
<a href="#">West Virginia</a>	64	20.7
<a href="#">New Mexico</a>	66	20.1
<a href="#">South Carolina</a>	52	20.0

For more information visit [www.act.org](http://www.act.org).