

**WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW
ABOUT COLLEGE READINESS AND THE ACT[®]**

What Does College Readiness Mean?

- That your high schooler is academically ready to take and succeed in college-level courses and not have to enroll in developmental/remedial coursework in their freshman year in college.
- That your high schooler has met the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks (English 18; Math 22; Reading 21; Science 24). The ACT College Readiness Benchmarks, based on empirical research, are the minimum ACT scores a student would need for a 50% chance of making a "B" or a 75% chance of making a "C" in entry level college courses. The score range is 1 – 36.
- That your high schooler has taken the "core" courses in high school (*at least* four years of English, three years of math – Algebra and above, three years of social sciences, and three years of natural sciences, ones including lab work and physics, if possible).

Why Should My High Schooler Take the ACT?

- ACT scores are accepted by all colleges/universities and nationwide for college admission. In many universities the results are used for course placement, course credit, and student advising. Many colleges offer scholarships based on ACT scores.
- The ACT is a curriculum-based measure of college readiness. The ACT is not an aptitude or an IQ test. Instead, the questions on the ACT are directly related to what students have learned in high school courses in English, math, social studies, and science. Because the ACT tests are based on what is taught in the high school curriculum, students generally are more comfortable with the ACT than with aptitude tests or tests with narrower content.
- The ACT is more than just a test. In addition to the four subject tests, the ACT also provides valuable information for career and educational planning and a student profile section that provides a comprehensive overview of a student's achievements in high school and his/her future plans.
- Acceptable ACT scores vary. Postsecondary institutions typically post on their website the scores students need to earn, usually combined with class rank, to gain acceptance at that institution. A general guideline is:

<u>Admission Standard</u>	<u>Typical Scores</u>
Open	16-21
Traditional	18-24
Selective	21-26
Highly Selective	25-36

When Can My High Schooler Take the ACT?

- The best time for a student to take the ACT is April or June of their junior year in high school. They may re-take the ACT during the fall of their senior year to improve their score if desired.
- The ACT test is offered six times each year on Saturday mornings – September 13, 2008; October 25, 2008; December 13, 2008; February 7, 2009; April 4, 2009; and June 13, 2009.

Registration is easy and can be done on the ACT website at www.actstudent.org.