



For Immediate Release:
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Virginia Students Outperform National Peers on ACT *Number Taking College-Admissions Test Continues to Grow*

Virginia public high school graduates outperformed their peers nationwide by a significant margin on the ACT this year, and the number of public school seniors in the commonwealth taking the college-admissions examination continued to grow.

The state’s public school students achieved a composite score of 22.2, compared with 21.1 for public school graduates nationwide.

Participation in ACT testing among Virginia public school graduates increased by 8 percent; during 2011, 17,351 of Virginia’s graduating public school seniors took the ACT, compared with 16,118 in 2010.

Year	English		Mathematics		Reading		Science		Composite	
	VA	US	VA	US	VA	US	VA	US	VA	US
2007	20.7	20.7	21.1	21.0	21.5	21.5	21.0	21.0	21.2	21.2
2008	21.3	20.6	21.7	21.0	22.0	21.4	21.3	20.8	21.7	21.1
2009	21.4	20.6	21.7	21.0	22.1	21.4	21.4	20.9	21.8	21.1
2010	21.7	20.5	22.0	21.0	22.3	21.3	21.9	20.9	22.1	21.0
2011	21.8	20.6	22.1	21.1	22.5	21.3	21.8	20.9	22.2	21.1

“Virginia students continue to make progress towards meeting ACT’s college readiness benchmarks even though the testing sample is increasingly less exclusive,” Superintendent of Public Instruction Patricia I. Wright said.

The percentage of Virginia public school students meeting ACT college-readiness benchmarks was six or more points higher than the percentage nationwide. The benchmarks identify students who are prepared for success in first-year college English composition, reading, algebra and biology.

Year	English		Mathematics		Reading		Science		Meeting all 4	
	VA	US	VA	US	VA	US	VA	US	VA	US
2007	70	69	44	43	53	53	29	28	23	23
2008	73	68	49	43	57	53	32	28	26	22
2009	73	67	48	42	58	53	33	28	27	23
2010	74	66	52	43	59	52	37	29	31	24
2011	74	66	54	45	60	52	36	30	31	25

“I expect additional progress toward college readiness as schools implement new and more rigorous Standards of Learning in mathematics, English and science,” Wright said.

(more)

ACT results are reported on a scale of 1 to 36, with 36 being the highest possible score. Three of the four Virginia graduates who achieved perfect scores on the ACT were public school students.

The overall composite score for Virginia high school graduates — public, private and homeschooled — was 22.3, compared with 21.1 for graduates nationwide. Twenty-four percent of all 2011 Virginia graduates took the ACT, up from 22 percent the year before.

Virginia All Students School Average ACT Scores										
Year	English		Mathematics		Reading		Science		Composite	
	VA	US	VA	US	VA	US	VA	US	VA	US
2007	21.0	20.7	21.2	21.0	21.7	21.5	21.1	21.0	21.4	21.2
2008	21.5	20.6	21.8	21.0	22.2	21.4	21.3	20.8	21.8	21.1
2009	21.7	20.6	21.8	21.0	22.3	21.4	21.4	20.9	21.9	21.1
2010	22.0	20.5	22.1	21.0	22.5	21.3	21.9	20.9	22.3	21.0
2011	22.1	20.6	22.2	21.1	22.7	21.3	21.8	20.9	22.3	21.1

Percentage of All Virginia Students Meeting ACT College-Readiness Benchmarks										
Year	English		Mathematics		Reading		Science		Meeting all 4	
	VA	US	VA	US	VA	US	VA	US	VA	US
2007	72	69	45	43	54	53	29	28	23	23
2008	74	68	50	43	58	53	32	28	26	22
2009	74	67	49	42	59	53	33	28	27	23
2010	76	66	53	43	61	52	37	29	31	24
2011	76	66	55	45	61	52	36	30	32	25

While the number of Virginia students taking the ACT continues to grow, the SAT remains the dominant college-admissions test in the commonwealth. SAT results for 2011 high school graduates will be released by the College Board and the Virginia Department of Education in September.

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