

COLLEGE READINESS Academic Achievement Test (ACT)

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NOTABLE FACTS:

The ACT is a test of academic achievement in English, social science, algebra, and biology. These are the first credit-bearing courses most commonly taken by first-year college students. Unlike the SAT-I which is a test of aptitude, the ACT measures the attainment of academic skills and concepts required for success in college. The ACT recently established benchmark scores for each subject tested. Students achieving the benchmark scores have approximately a 50% chance of earning a "B" and 75% chance of earning a "C" or better in the corresponding college course. Each test has 36 questions.

ACT Mean Scores 2002-2005

Course/Area	Test Name	Benchmark Score	PUSD Mean Score			
			2002	2003	2004	2005
English Composition	English	18	23.2	23.4	23.7	24.0
Social Science	Reading	21	24.3	24.5	24.6	24.9
Algebra	Mathematics	22	25.0	25.1	25.2	25.4
Biology	Science	24	22.6	23.0	23.5	23.6
Complete Score	All Combined	-	23.9	24.1	24.4	24.6
Number Tested			484	517	507	571

ACT Comparisons 2005 Average Number Correct

	English	Mathematics	Reading	Science	Composite
Poway Unified	24.0	25.4	24.9	23.6	24.6
California	21.1	22.1	21.8	20.9	21.6
Nation	20.4	20.7	21.3	20.9	20.9

WHAT THE RESULTS SHOW:

Student performance on this measure of student achievement has improved steadily. 2005 scores were the highest on record. Compared to California and the nation, Poway Unified students scored significantly higher than both. Only in the area of biology/science did Poway Unified students not achieve the benchmark score.

NEXT STEPS:

Continue to focus on California Standards. Examine the ACT Biology Test for alignment to California curriculum standards and determine hypotheses for root causes of the discrepancy.

