

Looking At The ISSUES

August 24, 2007

Ohio and the ACT Test: Hoover High School One of Top Performing Schools in Nation

Despite obstacles to preparing high school students for postsecondary education and workforce training programs, there are schools that are succeeding. These schools are currently offering elements of a rigorous core curriculum that are resulting in improved student achievement and improved readiness for college. – ACT, Inc.¹

For Ohio, there's both good news and bad in the most recent ACT test results released on August 15th. One Stark County School, however, ranks among the top in the nation. Earlier this year, ACT identified nearly 400 high schools across the U.S. whose students have shown greater-than-average increases in scores on the ACT Mathematics or Science Test. North Canton's Hoover High School is in that ranking.

The good news for Ohio though is that more graduates are taking the ACT. Last year a record 86,080 took the test, up nearly 5,000 from the year before. Additionally, Ohio students outperform the national average on ACT's college readiness benchmarks. These benchmarks estimate the probability of students earning "B" or higher on college coursework. Ohio's average ACT composite score is now 21.6 compared to 21.2 nationally. The bad news is that only 25% of Ohio students meet all four readiness benchmarks (math, science, reading and English) and the results vary widely by race/ethnicity.

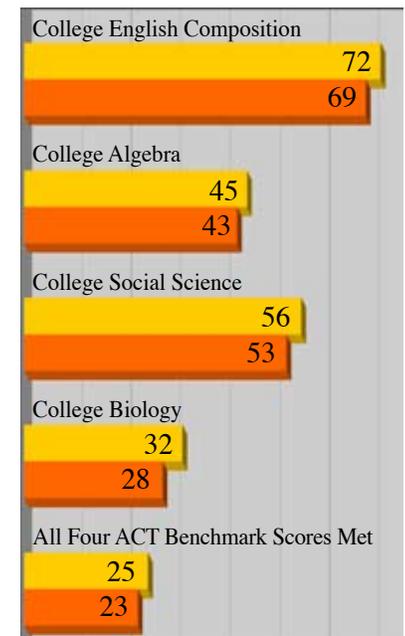
Things are different at Hoover and its peers across the nation. ACT found that it wasn't just the number of courses these schools offered, it was the quality of the courses, how they were taught, and how well they were aligned with what students needed to know to succeed in college: *These high schools are proving every day that core courses can be made rigorous and that rigorous content can be effectively taught to and learned by students.*

Looking At The Week

Congratulations to Malone College for making U.S. News and World Report's listing of top schools in America's Best Colleges 2008 for Universities-Master's (Midwest). Rankings can be viewed at: http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/usnews/edu/college/rankings/rankindex_brief.php

Percentage of Students Meeting College Readiness Benchmarks by Category²

■ Ohio ■ National



A benchmark score is the minimum score needed on an ACT subject-area test to indicate a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher, or about a 75% chance of obtaining a C or higher in the corresponding credit-bearing college course. ACT English benchmark score=18, ACT Math=22, ACT Reading=21, and ACT Science=24.

¹ See: ACT, Inc. (2007). Rigor at Risk: Reaffirming Quality in the High School Core Curriculum at: <http://www.act.org/path/policy/reports/rigor.html>

² From: ACT High School Profile Report: The Graduating Class of 2007 Ohio. Available at: <http://www.act.org/news/data/07/index.html>