

Looking At The ISSUES

September 21, 2007

Canton Leads Ohio's Big Eight Urban Districts in ACT Test Participation

There's a new section on state-mandated district and high school report cards this year. Called *Measures of a Rigorous Curriculum* this section looks not only at graduation rates, but also at a whole series of indicators ranging from the number of students who have taken Advanced Placement (AP) or Tech Prep courses to how many students participate in an academic core curriculum.

One indicator, college admissions tests, is gaining in importance as the state moves to meet the goal of increasing the number of Ohioans with a college degree. While both the ACT and SAT tests are listed, the ACT remains the test of choice for most Ohio students.

Often a given in high wealth suburban districts where kids are expected to go on to college, the tests have never been a high expectation, save for a handful of students, in large urban districts.

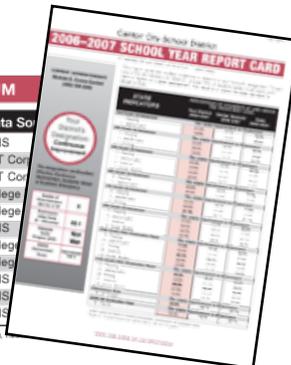
Things are different in Canton. Here, the efforts of teachers and administrators have encouraged more and more students to take the ACT test. Funds from the Stark Education Partnership, Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton, and Dominion have also supported test preparation and fee waivers over the last several years.

The result? Canton City leads Ohio's Big Eight Urban Districts in ACT participation with 53% taking the test. Add to this another 4.3% taking the SAT and nearly six out of ten students are now taking college admissions tests in Canton.

CLASS OF 2006 MEASURES OF A RIGOROUS CURRICULUM

MEASURE	2005-06 Graduates	Data Source
Graduation Rate	73.1%	EMIS
Mean ACT Score	18.3	ACT College
Percent of Graduates participating in ACT	53.0%	ACT College
Mean SAT Score		College Board
Percent of Graduates participating in SAT	4.3%	College Board
Percent of Graduates graduating with Honors Diploma	12.8%	EMIS
Number of Graduates participating in an AP test	165	College Board
Percent of Graduates with a AP score of 3 or above	36.4%	College Board
Number of Graduates taking at least one Tech Prep Course	126	EMIS
Number of Graduates taking at least one PSEO course	47	EMIS
Percent of Graduates participating in an academic core curriculum*	NC%	EMIS

*An academic core curriculum consists of participation in 4 units each, Math and English; 3 units each, Science and Social Studies; 5 units of Electives; 1/2 unit each.



Looking At The Week

OCAN Award Goes to Canton South Counselor

Barbara Tscholl, guidance counselor at Canton South High School, received the Wayne F. White Staff/Volunteer Award at the Ohio College Access Network's annual conference from Chad Wick, President and CEO of KnowledgeWorks Foundation.

\$113,000 Awarded to the Partnership

TG announced it has awarded \$113,000 to the Stark Education Partnership. The grant supports additional graduate courses for high school teachers seeking to become qualified college adjunct faculty in order to teach dual credit courses.

OCAN Presentation

The Partnership's Adele Gelb, along with Will Casterlow (KSU Stark) and Barb Tscholl (Canton Local), presented a session on creating college access partnerships at the annual OCAN conference on Tuesday, September 18th.