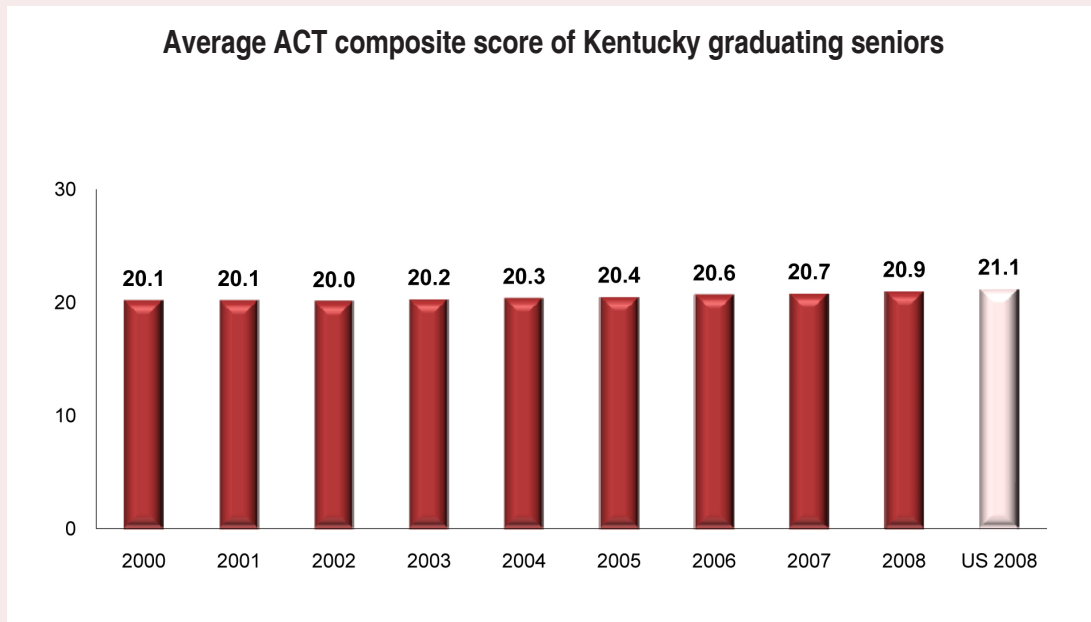




Average ACT score

Status: Making progress



Source: American College Testing, Inc.

Highlights

- Kentucky's average composite score in 2008 was slightly higher than the previous year, up from 20.7 to 20.9, while the U.S. average fell from 21.2 to 21.1.
- In 2008, 31,728 high school students took the ACT in Kentucky, 799 more than in 2007.
- While 65% of Kentucky examinees report taking the ACT core curriculum recommended for college readiness, only 19% met all four ACT college readiness benchmark scores, compared to 22% nationally.
- There is a large disparity in ACT scores by race. The average composite score for white students was 21.2, compared to 17.3 for African American students and 19.9 for Hispanic students.
- In Kentucky, 84% of examinees were white, 8% were African American, 1% were Hispanic, 1% were Asian/Pacific Islander, and 6% gave no response.

About this measure

The ACT is a standardized exam that predicts a student's readiness for college-level work in four subjects—English, math, reading, and science. ACT scores are used to determine eligibility for college admission and academic scholarships and can determine placement in developmental education. This key indicator is updated annually by ACT, Inc., and represents the average composite score of high school seniors (public, private, and home-schooled) who took the test their sophomore, junior, or senior year. The highest score possible is 36.

In 2008, all juniors in Kentucky took the ACT as directed by Senate Bill 130, which requires public high schools to administer ACT's Explore test in the 8th grade, Plan test in the 10th grade, and the ACT in the 11th grade. The average composite score of the nearly 43,000 junior examinees was 18.3. Only a small percentage of juniors met ACT's college readiness benchmarks: 46% scored 18 or higher in English, 20% scored 22 or higher in math, 33% scored 21 or higher in reading, and 15% scored 24 or higher in science. The results suggest a more rigorous curriculum is needed, especially in math and science.