



Intro to ACT Aspire

Agenda



- What is the ACT Aspire?
- How can students/parents interpret the ACT Aspire scores?
- How can students work towards improvement and prepare for the grade 11 ACT?

The ACT Suite in High School

- In compliance with 2011 Assembly Bill 40 Act 20 and the 2013-15 biennial state budget, Wisconsin will assess high school students in 9th, 10th and 11th grades beginning in 2014-15
- 9th and 10th graders will take the ACT Aspire Early High school Assessment
- 11th grade students will take the ACT Plus Writing and the ACT WorkKeys Assessment

2014-15 ACT Aspire



- Testing Windows
 - October 6 – 24, 2014 (grade 9 only)
 - April 27 - May 22, 2015 (grades 9 & 10)
- Subject Areas
 - English, Reading, Math, Science, Writing

ACT Aspire

(Test Administration Time)

- English: 40 minutes
- Writing: 30 minutes
- Reading: 60 minutes
- Math: 65 minutes
- Science: 55 minutes

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- Total: 4 hours, 10 minutes



Kenosha Unified
School District
maximizing the brilliance of children

ACT Aspire

(Number and Types of Items)

Content Area	Selected Response	Technology Enhanced	Constructed Response	Total
English	58-62	0-4	0	62
Writing	0	0	1	1
Reading	24-26	1-3	4	31
Math	31-34	5-8	6	45
Science	26-29	4-7	7	40

ACT Aspire Scores

- **Benchmark Scores**
 - ACT Aspire benchmarks are aligned with ACT College Readiness Benchmarks
 - Students that meet benchmark are on target for college readiness in 11th grade
 - English, Reading, Math, Science
 - Varies by grade level and subject area
 - Progressively higher at each grade level 3-10
 - Grade 9 & 10 have different benchmarks
 - Writing
 - Benchmark is 428 for all grade levels

ACT Readiness Levels

		ACT Aspire Scale Score Ranges by Grade Level							
Subject	ACT Readiness Level	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
English	In Need of Support	400-407	400-410	400-411	400-412	400-412	400-414	400-418	400-420
	Close	408-412	411-416	412-418	413-419	413-420	415-421	419-425	421-427
	Ready	413-417	417-422	419-425	420-426	421-428	422-428	426-432	428-434
	Exceeding	418-435	423-438	426-442	427-448	429-450	429-452	433-456	435-456
Reading	In Need of Support	400-410	400-411	400-414	400-415	400-416	400-417	400-418	400-421
	Close	411-414	412-416	415-419	416-420	417-422	418-423	419-424	422-427
	Ready	415-418	417-421	420-424	421-425	423-428	424-429	425-430	428-433
	Exceeding	419-429	422-431	425-434	426-436	429-438	430-440	431-442	434-442
Mathematics	In Need of Support	400-408	400-410	400-411	400-413	400-415	400-418	400-421	400-425
	Close	409-412	411-415	412-417	414-419	416-421	419-424	422-427	426-431
	Ready	413-416	416-420	418-423	420-425	422-427	425-430	428-433	432-437
	Exceeding	417-434	421-440	424-446	426-451	428-453	431-456	434-460	438-460
Science	In Need of Support	400-413	400-414	400-416	400-417	400-419	400-421	400-423	400-425
	Close	414-417	415-419	417-421	418-422	420-424	422-426	424-429	426-431
	Ready	418-421	420-424	422-426	423-427	425-429	427-431	430-435	432-437
	Exceeding	422-433	425-436	427-438	428-440	430-443	432-446	436-449	438-449
Writing	In Need of Support	408-419	408-419	408-419	408-419	408-419	408-419	408-419	408-419
	Close	420-427	420-427	420-427	420-427	420-427	420-427	420-427	420-427
	Ready	428-435	428-435	428-435	428-435	428-435	428-435	428-435	428-435
	Exceeding	436-440	436-440	436-440	436-448	436-448	436-448	436-448	436-448

ACT Readiness Levels

- **In Need of Support**
 - Substantially below the ACT Readiness Benchmark
- **Close**
 - Below but near the ACT Readiness Benchmark
- **Ready**
 - Met the ACT Readiness Benchmark
 - On Target for College Readiness in Grade 11
- **Exceeding**
 - Substantially above the ACT Readiness Benchmark
 - Higher chance to be College and Career Ready

ACT College Readiness Benchmarks

- Represents the level of achievement required for students to have a **50% chance of obtaining a B or higher** on first-year college courses
- Represents the level of achievement required for students to have a **75% chance of obtaining a C or higher** on first-year college courses

ACT Subject	ACT Benchmark	College Course
English	18	English Composition
Mathematics	22	College Algebra
Reading	22	Social Sciences
Science	23	Biology

ACT Predicted Scores

Predicted ACT Score Range by Subject

ACT Aspire Score	English	Reading	Mathematics	Science	Composite
400	2–7	7–11	6–8	7–14	3–6
401	3–8	7–11	7–9	7–14	5–8
402	3–8	8–12	7–9	7–15	5–8
403	4–9	8–12	8–11	8–15	6–9
404	4–9	9–13	8–11	8–16	6–9
405	5–10	9–14	9–12	9–16	6–9
406	5–10	10–14	9–12	9–16	7–9

- ACT Aspire provides ACT predicted scores for each subject area and Composite (grades 9 & 10 only)
- Predicted score ranges will be refined each year as more data is collected

Source: <http://act.org/migrate/predictedscores.html>

ACT Aspire Subject Skills

<u>English</u>	<u>Mathematics</u>
Conventions of Standard English	Algebra
Knowledge of Language	Foundation
Production of Writing	Functions
	Geometry
<u>Reading</u>	Grade Level Progress
Craft and Structure	Justification and Explanation
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	Modeling
Key Ideas and Details	Number and Quantity
	Statistics and Probability
<u>Writing</u>	<u>Science</u>
Development and Support	Evaluation of Modes, Inferences and Experimental Results
Ideas and Analysis	Interpretation of Data
Language Use and Conventions	Scientific Investigation
Organization	

Individual Student Reports

Page 1 Header

The screenshot shows the header of an ACT Aspire report. On the left is the ACT Aspire logo and the text 'ACT Aspire Summative Assessed Oct 08, 2014-Oct 09, 2014'. In the center, there is a redacted student name, the school 'BRADFORD HIGH, 2793', and redacted birth date and student ID. On the right, the 'Current Progress' section asks 'How is [redacted] progressing toward unlocking [redacted] potential and preparing for college and a career?'. Further right, a box displays the 'COMPOSITE SCORE 429', 'PREDICTED ACT COMPOSITE SCORE 21-24', and 'Maximum: 36'. The page number 'Page 1 of 4' is in the top right corner.



- Report type (Summative)
- Dates student completed testing



- Student Information
- Includes name, grade, school, district, birthdate, WI state ID



- Report Title
- Current Progress Pages 1-3



- ACT Aspire Composite Score
- Predicted ACT Composite Score Range

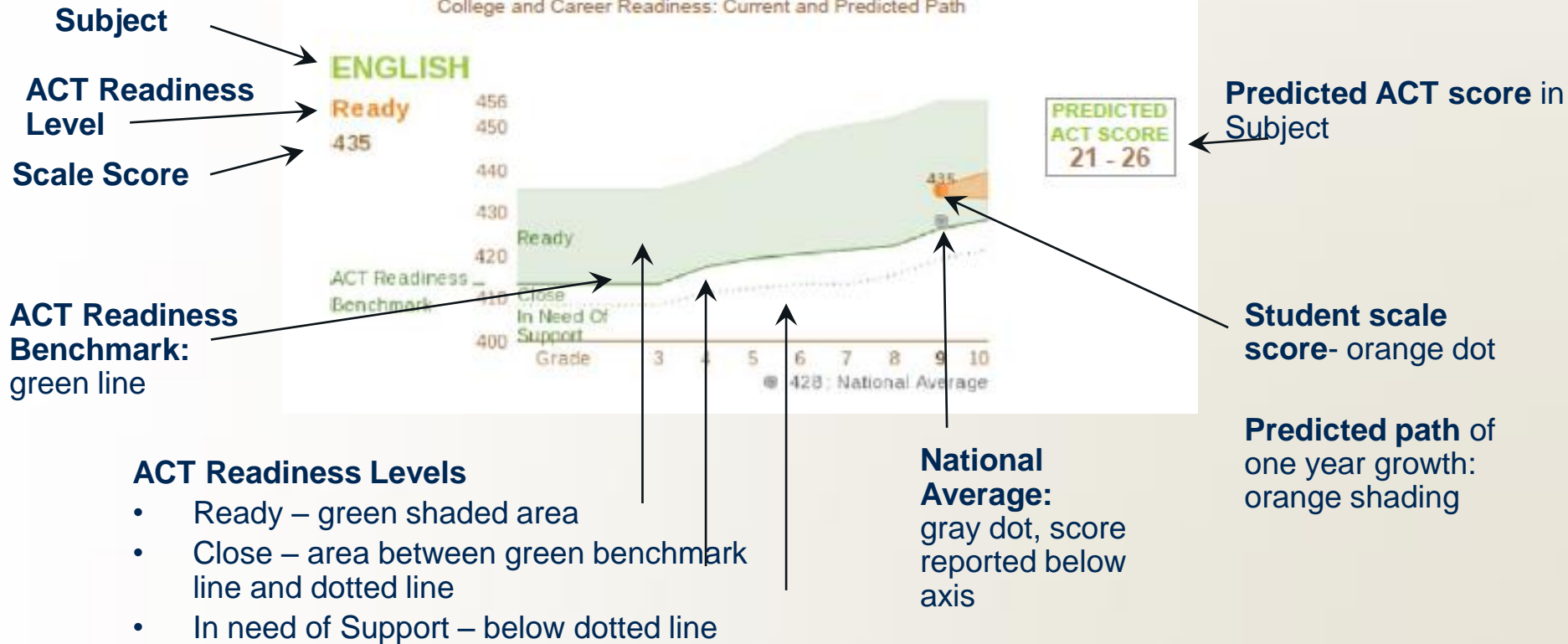
ACT Aspire Current Progress Report



- Pages 1-3 provide results by five content areas
 - English, Reading, Math, Science, Writing
- Subjects are reported out by scale score
- Highest subject scale score is reported first on page 1
- Lowest subject scale score is reported last on page 3

- A copy of each student report was provided to each building for instructional distribution.

College and Career Readiness: Current and Predicted Path (English Example)



Percentage of Points Achievement in Subject Skills English Example

Subject skills are sorted from highest to lowest scores

Percentage of points received in subject skill

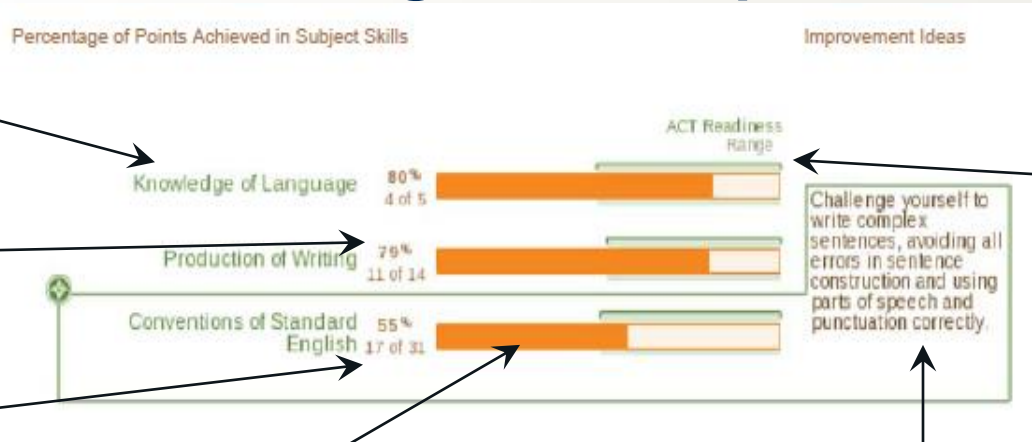
Number of points received out of total points

Skills Performance:

(orange bar)

Dark orange – within ACT Readiness Range

Light orange – below ACT Readiness Range



ACT Readiness Range where student who has met the ACT Readiness Benchmark would fall (green bar)

Improvement Idea – provided for the skill with the lowest score.

- If student scored within the Act Readiness Range, an **enrichment idea** is given.
- If the student scored below the ACT Readiness Range, an **improvement idea** is given.

Supplemental Scores Report



Supplemental Scores

Page 4 of 4

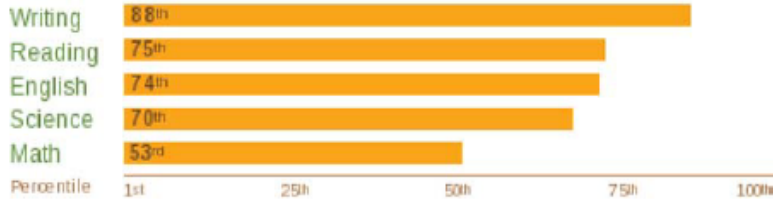
How can additional performance measures inform decisions?

- Located on page 4 with green header
- Includes the following reports
 - National Percentile Rank
 - English Language Arts
 - Progress with Text Complexity
 - STEM
 - Progress towards Career Readiness

Supplemental Scores Report

National Percentile Rank

NATIONAL PERCENTILE RANK

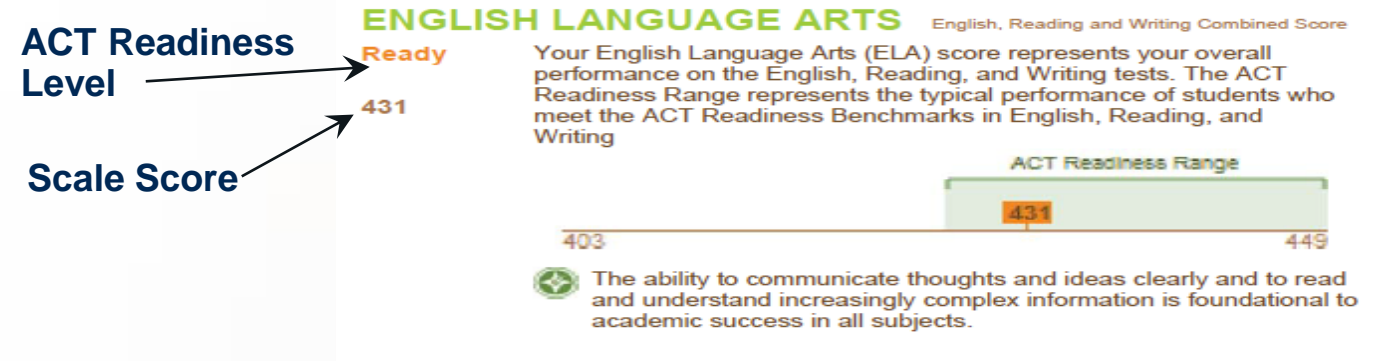


Your ranks show the percentage of other grade 9 students in the nation who received a score that is the same as or lower than yours. For example, a rank of 88 for your Writing score means 88% of students earned that score or below.

- Subjects are scored by highest to lowest National Percentile Rank
- Rank is based on students tested in grade 9 (bell-shaped curve)
- If student did not test in a subject, it will read “Not Tested”

Supplemental Scores Report

English Language Arts



- Average of English, Reading and Writing Scale Score
- ACT Readiness Range (green bar) represents typical performance of students who meet the ACT Readiness Benchmarks in English, Reading and Writing
- 431 falls within ACT Readiness Range (dark orange)
- ELA ACT Readiness Range: Below Range=403 to 425

Range (Ready)=426 to 449

Within

Supplemental Scores Report

Progress with Text Complexity

PROGRESS WITH TEXT COMPLEXITY

Students must read and understand increasingly complex texts to prepare for the reading demands of college and career. Examples of factors that contribute to text complexity are vocabulary level and sentence structure. The reading test measures progress with text complexity by checking for understanding of texts from a range of complexity levels.

Sufficient Progress



Yes No



Continue to build reading experiences with increasingly complex texts about a variety of subjects. Reading routines should include some careful reading of challenging texts with a focus on unfamiliar language and ideas that are central to the meaning. The books listed below demonstrate text complexity that represents sufficient progress toward college and career readiness for grade 9:

- *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe
- *Life by the Numbers* by Keith Devlin

PROGRESS WITH TEXT COMPLEXITY

Students must read and understand increasingly complex texts to prepare for the reading demands of college and career. Examples of factors that contribute to text complexity are vocabulary level and sentence structure. The reading test measures progress with text complexity by checking for understanding of texts from a range of complexity levels.

Sufficient Progress



Yes No



Build reading experiences with texts about a variety of subjects. Make sure to check your understanding as you read, and practice using reading strategies to make sense of challenging texts. The books listed below demonstrate text complexity that represents sufficient progress toward college and career readiness for grade 9:

- *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe
- *Life by the Numbers* by Keith Devlin

- Based on Reading Test (no score provided)
- Indication of how well student is able to demonstrate understanding of the net meaning and purposes of increasingly complex texts
- Ratings: Sufficient Progress or Insufficient Progress
- Message is slightly different depending on rating
- Recommended books are provided

Supplemental Scores Report: STEM

ACT Readiness Level

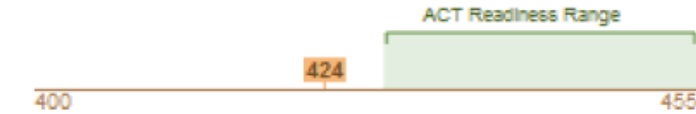
Scale Score

STEM

Below Readiness
424

Science and Mathematics Combined Score

Your STEM score represents your overall performance on the Science and Math tests. The ACT Readiness Range represents the typical performance of students who meet the ACT Readiness Benchmarks in Science and Math.



Developing strong Science and Math skills opens the door for you to take interesting courses and pursue engaging college majors that may lead to rewarding STEM careers in the future. Taking challenging high school or vocational courses in Science and Math can improve your opportunities to find STEM careers in a wide variety of industries, such as Health Care, Engineering, Education, and Technology.

- Average of Math and Science Scale Score
- ACT Readiness Range (green bar) represents typical performance of students who meet the ACT Benchmarks in Science and Math
- 424 falls below ACT Readiness Range (light orange)
- STEM ACT Readiness Range: Below Range=400 to 428
Within Range (Ready)=429 to 455
- Includes message to take advanced coursework in Science and Math to prepare for STEM career opportunities

Supplemental Scores Report

Progress Toward Career Readiness

PROGRESS TOWARDS CAREER READINESS

428
Composite
Score

You are
making
progress
toward a
GOLD level
on the ACT
NCRC.

Progress Toward Career Readiness is an early indicator of your future level of achievement on the ACT National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC). The ACT NCRC is an assessment-based credential that documents foundational work skills important for job success across industries and occupations.



Learn how NCRC performance relates to job skill requirements:
<http://www.act.org/workkeys/briefs/files/NCRCRequirements.pdf>.
This information is not to be considered a substitute for actual performance on the ACT NCRC.

ACT Aspire
composite score

Predicted
NCRC Level

- Reported for students who receive scores on English, Reading, Math and Science Tests
- Provides predicted performance on National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC)
- Ratings (Grade 9):

Insufficient progress	=400 to 411
Progress toward Bronze	=412 to 415
Progress toward Silver	=416 to 423
Progress toward Gold	=424 to 452

ACT National Career Readiness Certificate

An industry-recognized, portable, research-based credential that certifies essential skills needed for workplace success.

Relates to problem solving, critical thinking, analyzing, and applying information.



Bronze - scores at least a level 3 in each of the three core areas and has the necessary foundational skills for 16 percent of the jobs in the WorkKeys database



Silver - scores at least a level 4 in each of the three core areas and has the necessary foundational skills for 67 percent of the jobs in the WorkKeys database



Gold - scores at least a level 5 in each of the three core areas and has the necessary foundational skills for 93 percent of the jobs in the WorkKeys database



Platinum - scores at least a level 6 in each of the three core areas and has the necessary foundational skills for 99 percent of the jobs in the WorkKeys database

High Schools

- High Schools use ACT Aspire/ACT results in...
 - Academic advising and counseling
 - Evaluating the effectiveness of instruction
 - Identifying students who need assistance with certain subject areas or academic skills
 - Planning changes and improvements in the curriculum

Colleges/Universities

- Colleges/Universities use ACT results in...
 - Admissions
 - Course Placement
 - Academic Advising
 - Scholarships and Loans

Things to Know About College Admission Tests

- **Most four-year colleges and universities use test scores in their admission decisions**
- **Test scores are not the most important factor**
- **Colleges may use scores to award scholarships**
- **Some two-year colleges only recommend scores**

How to Improve ACT Scores



Before the Test

- Reading and Writing are Key
- Build vocabulary, refresh grammar
- Study guides
- Focus in improving weakest areas
- Take practice tests
- Plenty of sleep/good breakfast

Things to do During the ACT



- Underline and summarize
- Memorize formulas
- Don't be careless/focus on content
- Don't be clueless/practice and drill
- Don't crunch/pace the time and questions

Other ACT Resources



Online Practice Tests

Free

- <https://www.number2.com>

Paid Service

- <http://www.actstudent.org/onlineprep/>
- <https://grockit.com/act/info>
- <http://www.eprep.com/>

Test-optional schools

- FairTest: The National Center for Fair and Open Testing
 - <http://fairtest.org/university/optional>

KENOSHA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

