

## ACT Composite Scores for 2017 Cohort Announced by DOE

The Louisiana Department of Education released 2017 ACT Composite scores showing Beauregard Parish maintaining a high standing among school districts statewide, according to Superintendent Timothy Cooley.

Beauregard students scored a 19.5 composite, the fifteenth highest composite score among the 64 parish school districts. This score is a one-tenth drop from the previous year's composite for the district. Beauregard had a decrease in the number of students scoring 18 or above but made a slight increase in the number of students scoring a 21 composite or above, indicating readiness of post-secondary learning.

The ACT consists of tests in English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning designed to measure the skills needed for success in the first year of college. The accountability results are based on the scores of the graduating class of 2017 and use a student's highest earned ACT composite on record to the extent practicable.

"The ACT test is an important component of a high school student's academic success" Cooley explained. "The overall composite constitutes 25 percent of a high school's total School Performance Score, and it is an important factor individually in college entrance, TOPS awards, and scholarship considerations."

The Department of Education has made a concerted effort of the past five years to raise the ACT average across the state and has made gains the past four years. The overall state composite was a 19.6, and the state showed an increase in the number of students scoring an 18 composite or better on the test.

"We are currently assessing the data from the 2017 ACT results and are making plans to help our schools and students increase ACT test scores in the future," said Cooley. "Every cohort is different, but our focus remains to provide our students with every opportunity for success."

For the 2017 cohort, students were able to take the ACT WorkKeys test and earn credit towards accountability measures and diploma endorsements by scoring Silver or above. Students must take the ACT one time for their WorkKeys test scores to count.

"The number of students taking the ACT multiple times may be lower than in the past because of the opportunity for Jump Start students to utilize the WorkKeys test for post-secondary requirements," explained Cooley. "Although the WorkKeys test is administered by ACT, the scores are assessed separately from the ACT scores."

Beauregard schools provide a variety of opportunities for students to prepare for the ACT. High school students can take a ½ credit course focused on ACT preparation. Schools also provide concentrated pull-out times during the week where ACT preparation is scheduled. *Edmentum*, *Study Island*, and *ACT Mastery* are programs used to help students prepare for the test, and individual classroom teachers incorporate ACT preparation as part of classroom lessons.

"We are proud of our students for maintaining high ACT achievement scores," concluded Cooley. "We are dedicated to providing our high school students proven programs and practice to help them succeed on this important assessment."

