



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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Alabama Sees Record Participation in 2024 ACT Testing: Number of Test Takers Surges 15%

Montgomery, AL — Alabama students are demonstrating their commitment to college and career readiness, with the number of students taking the ACT seeing a significant rise for the third consecutive year. In 2024, more than 12,000 Alabama students participated in the ACT, up from 10,400 in 2023. This represents a 15% increase in participation over the past year, reflecting the state's ongoing efforts to support its students' future success.

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) acknowledges that an estimated 100% of Alabama graduates took the ACT, with 94% participating at least once as part of school-day testing. In their continued efforts to further support students, the Alabama State Board of Education made it possible to offer waivers that allow students to take the ACT for free, as well as provide transportation assistance to testing sites on weekends in many instances. These initiatives have contributed to an additional 44% of students taking advantage of weekend testing opportunities in 2024.

Dr. Eric Mackey, Alabama State Superintendent of Education, emphasized the importance of reducing barriers to access when it comes to students preparing for life after high school by taking the ACT.

“Since 2014, Alabama has ensured that every student has the opportunity to take the ACT. We celebrate the strides we've made in reducing barriers to testing, which has helped open doors for countless students to either pursue postsecondary education or enter the workforce — whatever path they feel is right for them,” Mackey said. “Although we’ve made progress, we’re committed to addressing the remaining challenges and ensuring every student has the opportunity to get a holistic view of their college and career readiness.”

The benefits of taking the ACT go beyond simply receiving a score; it provides students with vital feedback on their readiness for college-level coursework. Students who take the test more than once see a notable improvement in their scores, with Alabama students averaging a composite score of 21.0 on subsequent tests, compared to the statewide average of 18.0.

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Alabama Sees Record Participation in 2024 ACT Testing

Despite the increase in the number of students taking the test since the COVID-19 pandemic, Alabama has maintained its steady average ACT score. This consistency is particularly remarkable, as more students taking the test typically leads to a drop in average scores. However, Alabama students have proven resilient, maintaining high performance while broadening access.

With an ACT score in hand, students unlock a world of opportunities, from college admissions to scholarships and career certifications. Alabama's commitment to providing free access to the ACT and supporting students with the resources they need to succeed is paying off, with the number of test-takers increasing every year since the pandemic.

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