



NEWS RELEASE

Utah State Board of Education

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Utah Public School ACT Composite Scores Rise Slightly in 2018

College Readiness in English, Math Rises; Utah Ranks Second Among States Testing All Students

SALT LAKE CITY – In 2018, 42,167 Utah public school students took the ACT college entrance exam and posted an average score of 20.3, one-tenth of a point higher than in 2017, according to data released today by ACT. [Nationally](#), public school composite scores fell from 21.0 in 2017 to 20.8 in 2018.

ACT also noted that 58 percent of Utah test takers met college readiness benchmarks in English and 36 percent in mathematics, which is up 1 percent and 2 percent respectively from 2017. The percentage of Utah students meeting college readiness benchmarks in reading held steady at 42 percent and in science at 34 percent. The percentage of students who met all four readiness benchmarks increased from 23 to 24 percent. Based upon average composite scores among the 17 states who test all high school juniors, Utah ranked second behind only Wisconsin, ACT noted.

“The Utah State Board of Education celebrates improvement in the metric of college and career readiness for all students,” said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Sydnee Dickson. “We need to continue to focus on closing achievement gaps and ensuring each student is academically prepared to succeed after post high-school”.

Utah's public school ACT results compared to national public school results

	Composite	English	Math	Reading	Science
Utah 2018	20.3	19.7	19.8	20.8	20.5
Nation 2018	20.8	20.2	20.5	20.8	20.5
Utah 2017	20.2	19.4	19.8	20.7	20.5
Nation 2017	21.0	20.3	20.7	21.4	21.0

Percentage of public school students who met college readiness benchmarks:

	English	Math	Reading	Science	All Four
Utah 2018	58	36	42	34	24
Nation 2018	60	40	46	36	27
Utah 2017	57	34	42	34	23
Nation 2017	61	41	47	37	27

Utah public school 2018 disaggregated ACT scores compared to 2017 results:

	2018	2017
All Students	20.3	20.2
American Indian	16.2	16.4
Asian	21.4	20.7
Black/African American	16.2	16.4
Hispanic/Latino	17.4	17.3
Pacific Islander	16.8	16.8
White	21.4	21.3
Two or more races	20.7	20.8

More information about Utah scores is on the [ACT site](#).