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Utah Tops Among States Testing All Students on ACT
Scores Drop Slightly Both Nationally and in Utah in 2020

SALT LAKE CITY – At 20.2, Utah's average composite score on the ACT college entrance exam was the highest among the 15 states that test all students beating out Wisconsin at 20.1, according to data released today by ACT. Utah also increased the number of students taking the ACT from 43,790 in 2019 to 44,446 in 2020. Nationally the number of test takers fell by 6 percent from 1,782,820 to 1,670,497, ACT noted.

Scores on the 2020 ACT college entrance exam composite scores fell by one-tenth of a point both nationally and in Utah. The average composite score in Utah fell from 20.3 in 2019 to 20.2 in 2020, ACT reported. Nationally scores fell from 20.7 to 20.6, according to data released today by ACT. The data is for the graduating class of 2020, most of whom would have taken the test as juniors in 2019, but also includes any scores from students who may have retaken the test in 2020.

ACT also showed that 23 percent of Utah juniors met all four college readiness benchmarks, English, mathematics, reading, and science. 56 percent of Utah test takers met college readiness benchmarks in English, 34 percent in mathematics, 44 percent in reading, and 34 percent in science.

"I am pleased to see Utah's students come out on top in an apples-to-apples comparison," said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Sydnee Dickson. "It remains concerning that scores are dropping, even if only by a bit, both here and nationally. The Utah State Board of Education will be supporting school and district leaders as they work to improve college-readiness outcomes."

Utah's ACT results compared to national results

	Composite	English	Math	Reading	Science
Utah 2020	20.2	19.3	19.7	21.0	20.3
Nation 2020	20.6	19.9	20.2	21.2	20.6
Utah 2019	20.3	19.5	20.0	20.8	20.3
Nation 2019	20.7	20.1	20.4	21.2	20.6

Percentage of students who met college readiness benchmarks:

	English	Math	Reading	Science	All Four
Utah 2020	56	34	44	34	23
Nation 2020	58	37	45	36	26
Utah 2019	57	37	42	34	24
Nation 2019	59	39	45	36	26

Utah 2020 disaggregated ACT scores compared to 2019 results:

	2020	2019
All Students	20.2	20.3
American Indian	15.8	16.1

	2020	2019
Asian	**21.4**	**21.2**
Black/African American	16.4	16.6
Hispanic/Latino	**17.2**	**17.3**
Pacific Islander	17.0	16.6
White	**21.3**	**21.3**
Two or more races	20.8	20.7

More information about Utah scores is on the ACT site.