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County SCHOOL DISTRICT

Department of Accountability and Academic Outcomes

ACT Results
2009 Graduating Seniors

Report No. 09-353
August 2009

ACT RESULTS
2009 Graduating Seniors

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ACT Assessment Results for 2009

Executive Summary

A total of 834 seniors (or 32.9% of the 2009 senior class) took the ACT. The ACT assesses critical reasoning and higher-thinking skills in English, mathematics, reading, and science and is used for college admission decisions.

Numbers of students tested within individual high schools ranged from 5 students at Clark Corporate Academy to 273 at Wando High.

The average composite score of 20.6 for the 834 students tested in CCSD high schools is .8 higher than the state composite of 19.8 and lower than the national composite of 21.1. CCSD averages on the four subject area tests range from 20.1 in English to 20.8 in Reading. All subject area scores improved from 2008. The overall composite of 20.6 increased by .4 from 2008 to 2009.

Average ACT scores for students who completed the required core curriculum are higher than students who have taken less than the core curriculum. For example, the composite score for core curriculum completers is 21.2, compared to 17.2 of the non-core curriculum completers.

The 426 Caucasian-American seniors who took the ACT obtained an average composite of 23.6, compared to the 325 African-American students whose average composite was 16.2.

Seniors at three schools (Academic Magnet, Wando, and School of the Arts) had average composites that exceeded the national average.

The relatively small number of students taking the ACT (only 32.9% of the senior class) limits conclusions that can be drawn from the 2009 ACT results.

**ACT Assessment Results for 2009
Summary Report for Charleston County School District**

The ACT Assessment is composed of four achievement tests designed to assess critical reasoning and higher-thinking skills in English, mathematics, reading and science. Results from the ACT are used by postsecondary institutions for admission, academic advising, course placement and scholarship decisions.

Table 1 and Figure 1 show average ACT scores for 769 Charleston County seniors from 1999 to 2009. The ACT composite and subject area scores increased from 2008 to 2009. The number of students taking the ACT increased from 2008 to 2009. With the exception of 2008, there has been a steady increase in the number of students tested over the past 10 years.

Table 1

Average ACT Scores* for Charleston County Students Graduates 1999 to 2009

Year	Number of Students	English	Math	Reading	Science Reasoning	Composite
1999	311	18.1	18.6	19.0	19.1	18.8
2000	321	18.8	18.7	19.2	19.2	19.1
2001	391	19.0	18.8	19.5	19.3	19.3
2002	494	18.6	18.4	18.9	19.1	18.9
2003	579	18.5	18.7	19.4	19.1	19.1
2004	627	17.8	18.2	18.6	18.7	18.4
2005	636	18.3	18.7	19.0	19.2	18.9
2006	707	18.8	19.5	19.6	19.5	19.5
2007	769	18.7	19.5	19.7	19.5	19.5
2008	769	19.7	20.4	20.3	20.0	20.2
2009	834	20.1	20.6	20.8	20.4	20.6

* The ACT uses a 36-point scale.

Table 2 and Figure 2 compare results for Charleston County to results for South Carolina and the nation. When comparing results across groups, it is important to understand that students who take the ACT are self-selected and do not represent the entire student population. Approximately 43% of the 2009 high school seniors in South Carolina took the ACT, compared to 32.9% of Charleston County public school seniors. The percentage of CCSD seniors who took the SAT in 2008 was 32.1%.

Table 2

Average ACT Scores for Charleston County Compared to South Carolina and the Nation (Public School Students Only), 2009

	Number of Students	English	Math	Reading	Science Reasoning	Composite
Charleston	834	20.1	20.6	20.8	20.4	20.6
S.C.	16,170	18.9	19.9	19.7	19.7	19.8
Nation	1,500,000	20.6	21.0	21.4	20.9	21.1

Average ACT scores for 2009 seniors who completed a core curriculum and those who did not are shown in Table 3. Core courses include four or more years of English, three or more years of mathematics, three or more years of social studies, and three or more years of natural science. Students who complete core coursework tend to earn higher average scores than students who do not. This tendency is true for all students as well as for demographic subgroups. Approximately 84% of students taking the ACT completed the core curriculum, which is an increase of 8% over the previous year.

Table 3

Average ACT Scores for Charleston County by Level of High School Course Work, 2009

	English	Math	Reading	Science Reasoning	Composite
Core or More (N=700)	20.9	21.1	21.5	21.0	21.2
Less than Core (N=124)	16.0	17.8	16.9	17.9	17.2

Table 4 and Figure 3 present ACT data for African-American and Caucasian-American students over the past five years. On the ACT composite there is a discrepancy of 7.4 points between the 2009 composite scores for the two groups. This reflects a 1.0% increase in the difference found for 2008. This increase may be due to a higher number of Caucasian American students taking the ACT. The South Carolina 2009 composites for African American students and Caucasian-American students are 16.5 and 21.9, respectively. African-American students in Charleston obtained a lower average score than their peers statewide, while Caucasian-American students in Charleston scored higher by 1.7 points, compared to students statewide.

Table 4

Average ACT Scores for Charleston County by Ethnicity, 2009

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
African-American	16.2	16.5	16.2	16.4	16.2
N	322	323	331	303	325
Caucasian-American	22.1	22.3	22.3	22.8	23.6
N	248	286	325	366	426

The table below contains the number seniors who took the ACT from individual high schools along with their average composite score.

Table 5

Average ACT Scores for Charleston County Schools, 2009

High School	Number Tested	English	Math	Reading	Science	Composite
Academic Magnet	79	28.2	26.7	28.1	25.8	27.3
Burke	35	14.7	16.4	15.1	16.3	15.7
Clark Corporate	5	13.6	14.8	13.6	15.2	14.4
James Island Charter	92	20.6	20.3	21.2	20.4	20.8
West Ashley	75	17.9	19.0	18.6	19.0	18.7
Garrett Academy	56	15.1	16.7	16.1	17.4	16.4
R. B. Stall	19	14.5	16.9	16.2	17.1	16.3
Military Magnet Academy	29	13.1	15.8	14.0	16.8	15.0
Saint Johns	22	14.7	18.1	17.0	18.0	17.2
Lincoln	--	--	--	--	--	--
Wando	273	22.6	22.8	23.4	22.4	22.9
School of the Arts	64	24.4	22.5	23.9	22.6	23.5
North Charleston	26	13.8	16.0	16.0	15.9	15.6
Charlestowne Academy	10	14.3	16.1	13.5	17.5	15.5
Baptist Hill	47	12.7	15.6	13.7	15.1	14.4

Table 6 presents the composite scores for individual high schools from 2007 to 2009.

Table 6

Average ACT Scores for Charleston County Schools, 2007 through 2009

High School	2007		2008		2009	
	Number Tested	Composite	Number Tested	Composite	Number Tested	Composite
Academic Magnet	46	26.4	74	26.6	79	27.3
Burke	47	14.7	37	15.6	35	15.7
Clark Corporate	1	I/S	5	12.4	5	14.4
James Island Charter	125	19.7	88	19.9	92	20.8
West Ashley	82	19.1	80	19.4	75	18.7
Garrett Academy	32	16.4	47	15.7	56	16.4
R. B. Stall	25	15.7	23	16.2	19	16.3
Military Magnet Acad	21	15.1	24	14.8	29	15.0
St. Johns	18	16.7	22	17.1	22	17.2
Lincoln	17	16.2	3	N/A	--	--
Wando	210	21.7	253	22.4	273	22.9
School of the Arts	49	23.4	47	23.3	64	23.5
North Charleston	53	15.1	28	15.1	26	15.6
Charlestowne Academy	5	18.6	3	N/A	10	15.5
Baptist Hill	38	16.6	35	14.8	47	14.4

Figure 1

**Charleston County School District
Average ACT Composite Scores**

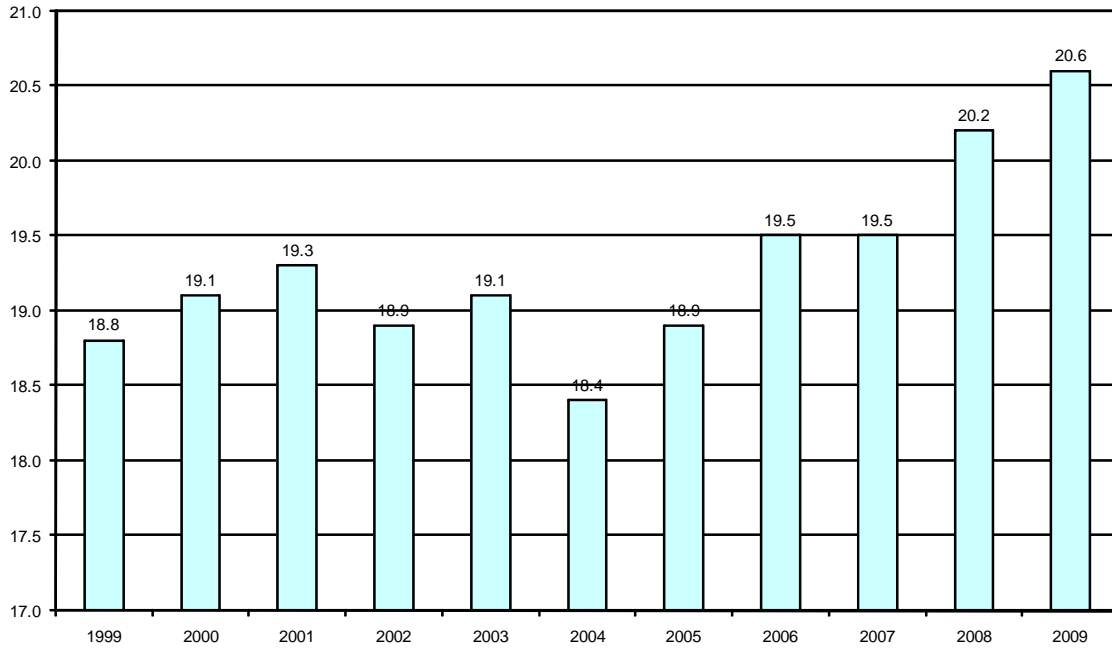


Figure 2

Average 2009 ACT Scores

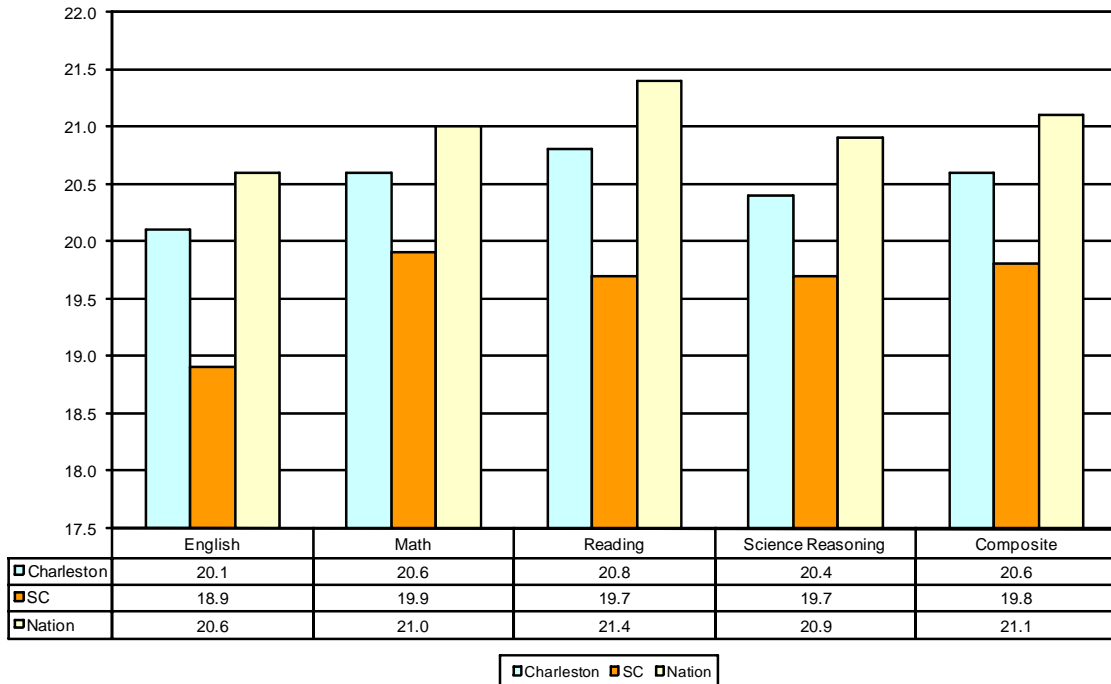
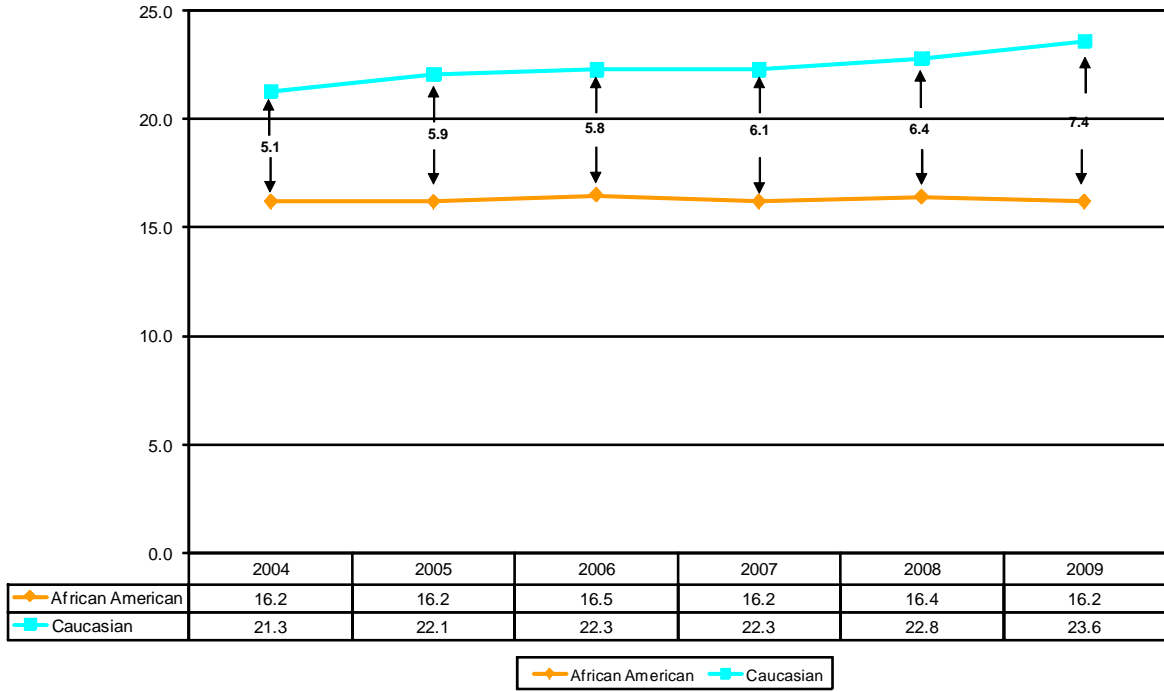


Figure 3

Charleston County School District
Average ACT Scores



APPENDIX

**Number of Student Test Takers and Average ACT Scores
by South Carolina Public High School District for 2009 Graduates**

Rank	School District	Number	Composite
1	Pickens	245	22.6
2	York 4/Fort Mill	201	22.3
3	Lexington 1	528	21.9
4	Anderson 1	176	21.8
5	Dorchester 2	337	21.8
6	Lexington/Richland 5	602	21.8
7	York 2/Clover	85	21.6
8	Greenville	1449	21.4
9	Barnwell 29/Williston	13	21.3
10	Oconee	238	21.3
11	Spartanburg 5	160	21.3
12	Spartanburg 6	221	21.2
13	Aiken	425	21.0
14	Anderson 3	46	20.9
15	Anderson 5	303	20.7
16	Charleston	834	20.6
17	Spartanburg 2	285	20.6
18	Spartanburg 7	143	20.5
19	Richland 2	829	20.4
20	Florence 2	24	20.3
21	Beaufort County	306	20.2
22	Anderson 4	94	20.1
23	Horry	763	20.1
24	Spartanburg 1	157	20.1
25	Anderson 2	69	19.9
26	Spartanburg 4	63	19.7
27	Spartanburg 3	63	19.6
28	Florence 5	44	19.5
29	Laurens 56	57	19.5
30	York 3/Rock Hill	323	19.5
31	Greenwood 52	48	19.3
32	Kershaw County	254	19.3
33	Edgefield	134	19.2
34	Greenwood 50	173	19.2
35	Berkeley	615	19.1

Rank	School District	Number	Composite
36	Lexington 3	65	19.1
37	York 1	106	19.1
38	Cherokee	158	19.0
39	Barnwell 45	77	18.9
40	Sumter 17	286	18.8
41	Florence 1	318	18.7
42	Lexington 4	64	18.7
43	Abbeville	57	18.6
44	Chesterfield County	147	18.6
45	Georgetown	317	18.6
46	Clarendon 3	25	18.5
47	Dillon 3/Latta	26	18.5
48	Lexington 2	192	18.4
49	Newberry	149	18.3
50	Richland 1	527	18.2
51	Union	81	18.2
52	Chester	204	18.1
53	Marion 1	67	18.0
54	Lancaster County	264	17.9
55	Laurens 55	90	17.9
56	Saluda	51	17.9
57	Darlington	316	17.8
58	Clarendon 2	111	17.7
59	Greenwood 51	31	17.5
60	Colleton	61	17.1
61	Marion Two	51	17.0
62	Marlboro	101	17.0
63	Orangeburg 4	96	17.0
64	Bamberg 1	53	16.8
65	SC Charter School	16	16.8
66	Sumter 2	240	16.7
67	Calhoun	58	16.6
68	Dillon 1/Lake View	17	16.6
69	Dillon 2	70	16.6
70	Hampton 1	93	16.6
71	Barnwell 19	30	16.5
72	Orangeburg 3	103	16.5
73	Orangeburg 5	234	16.4
74	Clarendon 1	49	16.3

Rank	School District	Number	Composite
75	McCormick	29	16.2
76	Dorchester 4	78	15.8
77	Williamsburg	150	15.8
78	Marion 7	34	15.6
79	Bamberg 2	46	15.5
80	Fairfield	89	15.5
81	Florence 3	84	15.5
82	Hampton 2	30	15.5
83	Allendale	67	15.3
84	Jasper	45	15.2
85	Lee	51	14.5
86	Florence 4	19	13.7