



2008 ACT High School Profile Report: Quick Facts

Accountability, Assessment, Research and Evaluation (AARE)

Richland One Students Increase Mean Math Score

ACT scores are reported on a scale of 1 to 36. Any gain larger than 0.05 was considered significant because a one-tenth-point increase on ACT equates to a four-point increase on SAT. The mean composite score for 2008 Richland One students was 17.5, which is a 0.2 decline from 2007. For the 2008 school year, the mean composite score for all South Carolina students was 19.9 as compared with the mean composite score for the nation of 21.1. There were gains of 0.2 points in the district mean score in Math, while a drop in mean score was seen in English (-0.6), Reading (-0.2) and Science (-0.2). Overall, Richland One declined 0.2 in mean composite score, while South Carolina increased 0.3 and the nation dropped 0.1 points.

Table 1: 2007-2008 Mean ACT Scores for Richland One, the State and the Nation

Subject Area	Year	District	State	Nation
English	2007	17	19	20.7
	2008	16.4	19.2	20.6
	Change	-0.6	0.2	-0.1
Math	2007	18	19.8	21
	2008	18.2	20.1	21
	Change	0.2	0.3	0
Reading	2007	17.7	19.8	21.5
	2008	17.5	20	21.4
	Change	-0.2	0.2	-0.1
Science	2007	17.6	19.5	21
	2008	17.4	19.7	20.8
	Change	-0.2	0.2	-0.2
Composite	2007	17.7	19.6	21.2
	2008	17.5	19.9	21.1
	Change	-0.2	0.3	-0.1

2008 ACT Composite Scores by Ethnicity

Richland One African American (AA) students surpassed their South Carolina (SC) peers in ACT performance from 2003 to 2005; they were outperformed by their SC peers by one-tenth of a point in both 2006 and 2007 and by five-tenths of a point in 2008. Richland One white students have surpassed their SC counterparts from 2004 to 2007; they were outperformed by their SC peers by two-tenths of a point in 2008. The one-year comparisons between 2007 and 2008 showed decreased performance for both AA and white students of 0.3 and 0.2 points, respectively. The five-year comparisons between 2003 and 2008 showed a decrease of 0.7 points for AA students while white students increased 0.6 points. The five-year comparisons showed that Richland One widened the achievement gap between both groups (+1.3) compared to an increase of 0.6 in South Carolina. Nationally, the achievement gap between the two groups increased by 0.3 points over the same five year period.

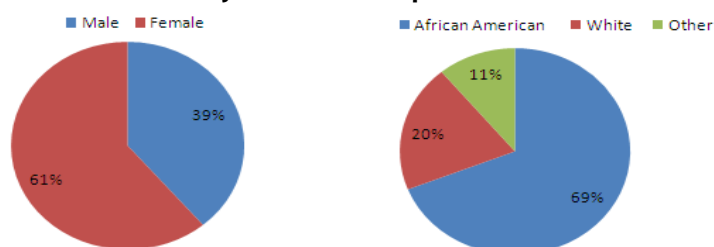
Table 2: 2003-2008 ACT Composite Scores by Ethnicity

Ethnic Group	Level	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	1 Yr. Diff	5 Yr. Diff
African American	District	16.6	16.8	17	16.3	16.2	15.9	-0.3	-0.7
	State (SC)	16.3	16.5	16.5	16.4	16.3	16.4	0.1	0.1
	National	16.9	17.1	17	17.1	17	16.9	-0.1	0
White	District	20.9	21.6	21.7	21.8	21.7	21.5	-0.2	0.6
	State (SC)	21	21.1	21.3	21.4	21.5	21.7	0.2	0.7
	National	21.7	21.8	21.9	22	22.1	22.1	0	0.4
Gap Between Groups	District	4.3	4.8	4.7	5.5	5.5	5.6	0.1	1.3
	State (SC)	4.7	4.6	4.8	5	5.2	5.3	0.1	0.6
	National	4.8	4.7	4.9	4.9	5.1	5.1	0	0.3

Richland One ACT Participation Rises Three Percent

Of the 2008 Richland One seniors who finished high school last spring, 457 took the ACT testing program - a participation rate of 36%, up from 33% in 2007 (not shown). Chart 1 presents 2008 demographic characteristics of ACT participants.

Chart 1: Gender and Ethnicity of ACT Participants



Keeping in the Know... College Readiness Benchmark Scores

ACT reports College Readiness Benchmark Scores for each area. A benchmark score is the minimum score needed for a high school student to have a 50% chance of obtaining a “B” or higher or about a 75% chance of obtaining a “C” or higher in the corresponding credit-bearing college courses. The College Readiness Benchmark Scores are:

College Course:	ACT Test:	Benchmark Score:
English Composition	→ English	→ 18
Algebra	→ Mathematics	→ 22
Social Sciences	→ Reading	→ 21
Biology	→ Science	→ 24

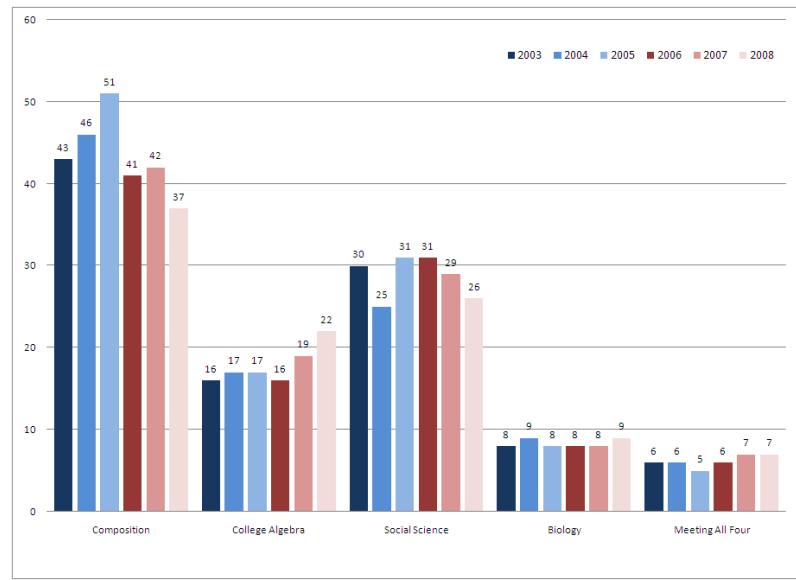
Higher ACT Scores: The Advantage when Completing College Preparatory Core Courses

Richland One 2008 students who reported having completed the recommended college preparatory core courses scored an average composite ACT score of 17.5, compared to an average of 16.9 scored by students completing less than the core courses. The mean composite scores for these two groups of district ACT participants in 2007 were 17.6 and 17.2, respectively. In 2008, approximately three-fourths (74%) of Richland One’s ACT participants reported completing the recommended college preparatory core courses.

Thirty-Seven Percent of Richland One Students are Ready for College English Composition

Based on the ACT performance, applying the College Readiness Benchmark Scores, of these 2008 Richland One seniors, 37% were ready for College English Composition, 22% for College Algebra, 26% for College Social Science and 9% for College Biology. Only 7% of 2008 graduates who took ACT met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmark Scores, compared with 16% of their South Carolina counterparts and 22% of the nation’s high school graduates.

Chart 2: Percent of ACT-Tested Students Ready for College-Level Coursework (2003-2008)



Flora High Ranks #1 in Mean ACT Scores in All Subject Areas

In terms of individual school performance for 2008, Flora High has the highest ACT mean scores in all subject areas. Additionally, Dreher High made gains in each area and the composite. Eau Claire High, Johnson High and Keenan High made improvements in three of the four subject areas and the composite. Chart 2 (right) presents the 2007-2008 Mean ACT scores by school.

Chart 3: 2007-2008 Mean ACT Scores by School

