



Wyoming Department of Education

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Jerry Zellars
edu.wyoming.gov

(307) 777-6386

ACT 2011 High School Graduation Report

ACT released the 2011 High School Graduation Report this week. A total of 5,533 students are included in the 2011 graduating class report. The percent of the average combined score increased to 20.3% from 20.0% in 2010. When reviewing this report, please keep in mind that these results are not a reflection of the junior's assessed in the spring of 2011. Those students will be seniors in school year 2011-12. The ACT Graduating Class 2011 Report provides information on the performance of graduating seniors who took the ACT as sophomores, juniors, or seniors. The students self reported that they were scheduled to graduate in school year 2010-2011.

Subject-area scores focus on college English composition (English), college social science (reading), college biology (science), and college algebra (math). The combined score is an average of all four subject-areas test scores. Wyoming students moved up from 17% to 18% in meeting all four areas from 2010 to 2011.

Wyoming reading scores showed the most gain jumping from 45% in 2010 to 49% in 2011. National reading scores remained at 52% from 2010 to 2011. English scores grew 3% increasing to 61% in 2011. The national average in English remained at 66% for 2011. In math, Wyoming students made a 2% gain to 36% in 2011. Math scores across the nation increased 2% and leveled off at 45% in 2011. Science is an area where both Wyoming and the nation need to improve significantly. Wyoming did rise from 23% in 2010 to 24% in 2011. Subsequently, the nation rose from 29% 2010 to 30% in 2011. However, these scores are low across the board.

It is important to note that Wyoming tested 100% of graduating students. To compare Wyoming students against the national score could be misleading. The nation as a whole tested 49% of students with an average combined score of 21.1%. In order to make a like comparison, the Wyoming Department of Education suggests that stakeholders look at other states that tested 100% of their students. Comparison states include Colorado (20.7%), Illinois (20.9%), Kentucky (19.6%), Louisiana (20.2%), Michigan (20.0%), Mississippi (18.7%), and Tennessee (19.5%). For a direct link to comparison data, please reference page 13 at this link.

<http://www.act.org/news/data/11/states/pdf/Wyoming.pdf>

Cindy Hill

State Superintendent of Public Instruction
(307) 777-7673 (307) 777-6234 FAX



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For a direct link referencing state reports please access the following link:

<http://www.act.org/news/data/11/readinessreports.html>

There is still a lot of work to do but the overall gain of graduates meeting benchmarks by subject area is a positive step in the right direction. This is a testament to teachers, the Hathaway Success Curriculum, and most important... hard working Wyoming students.

For more information about the ACT test results or the ACT state testing program, please contact Sean Moore at the Wyoming Department of Education. Contact information: 307-777-8595 sean.moore@wyo.gov

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Cindy Hill

State Superintendent of Public Instruction
(307) 777-7673 (307) 777-6234 FAX