



Wyoming Department of Education **PRESS RELEASE**

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Department of Education releases ACT 2012 Report

CHEYENNE - The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) announces the release of the 2012 ACT (*The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2012*) test results. The purpose of this release is to provide Wyoming-specific information to parents, students, educators and communities.

ACT released the 2012 report this week, which provides information on the performance of graduating seniors who took the ACT as sophomores, juniors, or seniors. A total of 5,527 Wyoming students are included in this report.

Wyoming is among eight other states that test all of their junior students. The results from other states mostly represent those select students who opt to take the ACT because they intend to go to college. The national average ACT results are largely composed of scores from seniors who elect to take the ACT for the purpose of pursuing postsecondary education.

The results in the report for all states are the students' most recent—not highest—ACT scores. In other words, colleges will take a student's highest score while ACT only reports the student's most recent score.

Wyoming scores (as well as the other eight states that test 100 percent of their students) include: all juniors who took the ACT in 2011, and the most recent scores of those students who retook ACT later.

Cindy Hill

State Superintendent of Public Instruction

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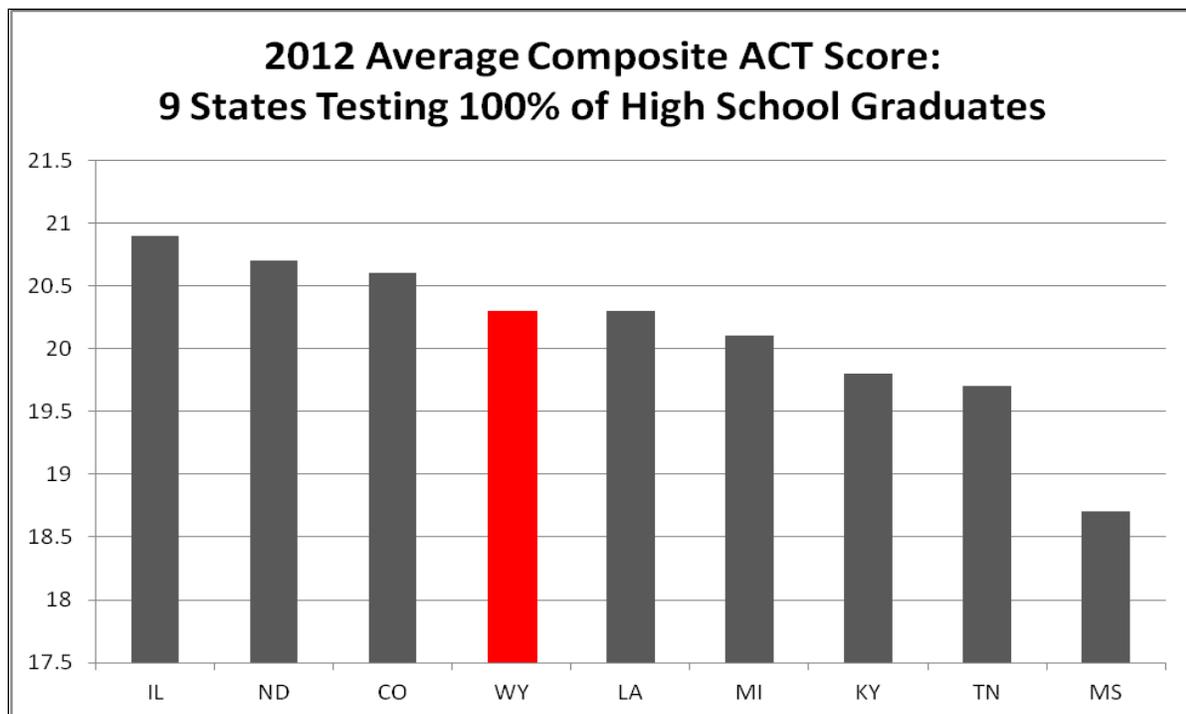
ACT reports *composite* scores. The composite score is an average of four college readiness subject areas. These areas are English, mathematics, reading and science.

ACT also reports *benchmark* scores. A benchmark score is the minimum score needed on an ACT subject area test. This minimum score indicates that a student has a 50 percent chance of a B or higher in that college freshman course, or about a 75 percent chance of earning a C or higher. The table below presents Wyoming's 2012 and 2011 composite scores and related benchmarks.

Wyoming's 2012 and 2011 ACT Composite and Benchmark Scores

Wyoming Graduating Class	Average Composite Score	% of Wyoming Graduates Meeting ACT's Benchmarks:			
		English (composition)	Reading (social science)	Math (algebra)	Science (biology)
2012	20.3	60	46	38	28
2011	20.3	61	49	36	24

Because not all states test 100 percent of their juniors, to compare Wyoming students against the national score could be misleading. The nation as a whole tested 52 percent of students with an average composite score of 21.1. Wyoming, on the other hand, tested 100 percent of its juniors. The following chart depicts the results of all nine states conducting 100 percent ACT testing.



The report from the top five states includes from 9-27 percent of their students. These students are primarily seniors who elect to take the ACT for college admission. The Wyoming report includes results of 100 percent of its juniors—whether these students are college-bound or not.

When asked about her thoughts concerning the results of this year’s ACT report, Superintendent Hill said. “Although reading and English dropped a bit, the composite scores stayed the same. This is because math and science improved. As educators, we have more work to do-working together for the good of kids is worth it.”

Superintendent Hill went on to say, “Beginning this school year, 2012-2013, all Wyoming ninth through twelfth grade students will take one of the ACT’s college readiness, college entrance, or college placement assessments.” This is a result of the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act defined in 2012 legislation ([Enrolled Act No. 65](#)). See the table below for additional information about the ACT assessments all school districts will administer under this new legislation.

Assessment	Grade	Content	Administration Date
EXPLORE College Readiness	9	English, reading, math, science	Spring 2013
PLAN College Readiness	10	English, reading, math, science	Spring 2013
ACT Plus Writing College Entrance	11	English, reading, writing, math, science	April 23, 2013
COMPASS College Placement	12	reading, math, writing skills, writing essay	Spring 2013

For more information about the ACT test results or the testing program, please contact Julie Magee at the Wyoming Department of Education at 307-777-8740 or julie.magee@wyo.gov.

References

2012 ACT Reports	http://www.act.org/newsroom/data/2012/index.html
2012 ACT WY Report	http://www.act.org/newsroom/data/2012/pdf/profile/Wyoming.pdf
2011 ACT Report	http://www.act.org/research/policymakers/cccr11/
2011 ACT WY Report	http://www.act.org/newsroom/data/2011/pdf/profile/Wyoming.pdf