

SHS ACT SCORES

Grad Year	Test Takers	Comp	Math	Reading	Science	English
2009	86	21.3	20.5	22.3	20.5	21.5

News Release

Griffin-Spalding County School System

Anna Burns

770-229-3700

anna.burns@gscs.org

August 24, 2009 - For immediate release

Local students maintain ACT test scores

GRIFFIN, Ga. – Seniors from the Griffin-Spalding County School System who took the American College Test (ACT) achieved their highest average reading comprehension scores in six years, and more students from the district (152) than in any year in the same period took the test.

The ACT is America's most widely accepted college entrance exam. It assesses high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. The multiple-choice tests cover four skill areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science. The Writing Test, which is optional, measures skill in planning and writing a short essay.

Overall, Spalding County students generally maintained the scores of the system's previous five classes, but still fell below state and national averages in every category. The GSCS average scores consistently fell in the middle of the eight-county Griffin RESA district.

"Our composite score was higher, but I'd like to see it in the 20s," said Assistant Superintendent Denise Burrell, "and I think we'll get there."

Griffin-Spalding's average composite score of 19.7 marked the fifth straight year the local district averaged 19.6 or better, which is noteworthy because since 2003, the number of ACT test-takers from Spalding County schools has more than tripled. The statewide average composite was 20.6, and the national average was 21.1.

"Sometimes when participation increases, test scores will go down," Burrell said. "We had some slight drops in two of the subtest areas, but our composite score went up 0.1 with greater numbers of students taking the test. The ACT actually assesses what you learn in high school, so it's a good predictor of students' knowledge."

Of the local students taking the test, 56 percent scored at least 18 (the college-ready standard) in English composition, compared with 65 percent statewide. In other subject areas:

- 28 percent of Griffin-Spalding students scored 22 or better in Algebra (state, 38 percent)

- 43 percent of Griffin-Spalding students scored 21 or better in reading comprehension (state, 48 percent)
- 15 percent of Griffin-Spalding students scored 24 or better in biology (state, 19 percent)
- 13 percent of Griffin-Spalding students made college-level scores in all four areas (state, 19 percent)

Comparison of composite scores of Griffin-Spalding to RESA area school systems, state, nation

Griffin-Spalding	State	Nation	Fayette	Pike	Henry	Newton	Upson	Butts	Lamar
19.7	20.6	21.1	22.5	20.8	20.0	19.2	18.3	18.2	18.5

Griffin RESA average subject scores by school system

	Griffin-Spalding	Fayette	Pike	Henry	Newton	Upson	Butts	Lamar
Reading	20.4	22.6	21.4	20.5	19.5	18.6	18.6	18.5
Math	19.2	22.7	20.4	19.6	19	17.9	18	19
Science	19.3	22	20.8	19.6	19.3	18.7	18.2	18.9
English	19.4	22.3	19.9	19.5	18.4	17.7	17.5	17.4

For more information about ACT scores, please visit the school system website at www.spalding.k12.ga.us or the DOE website at <http://public.doe.k12.ga.us/press/2009/press08192009.html>.

#####