

Efforts should be focused on improving readiness levels for students from lower income families.

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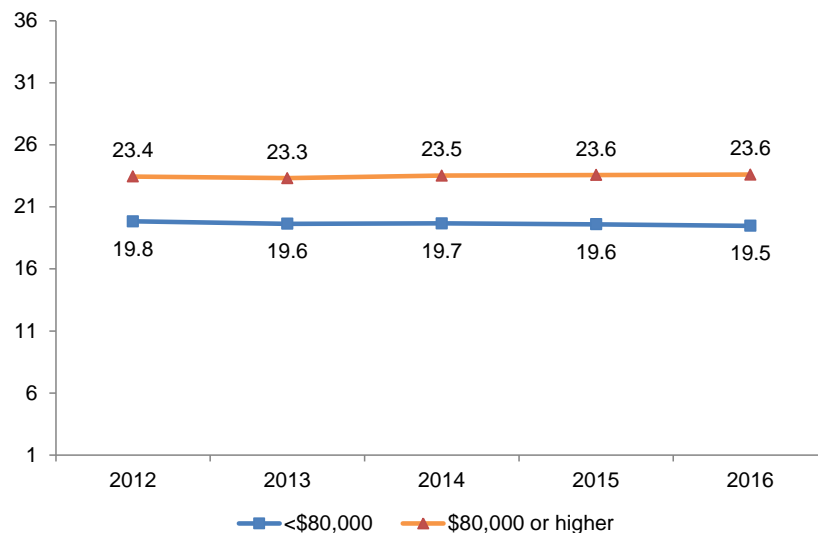
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ACT Composite Score by Family Income

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ACT recently released *The Condition of College and Career Readiness 2016* report. The *Condition* report provides insights into college readiness levels of ACT-tested high school graduates from 2012 through 2016. The following data byte highlights additional information by providing five-year trend data on average ACT Composite score by family income. In 2012, students who reported a family income of \$80,000 or higher had an ACT Composite score of 23.4 as compared to 19.8 for students who reported an income of less than \$80,000. In 2016, the average ACT Composite score was 23.6 for higher income students and 19.5 from lower income students.

Average ACT Composite Score of 2012–2016 ACT-Tested High School Graduates by Family Income



Key Takeaways:

- The achievement gap between higher and lower income students has increased slightly over the last five years.
- Since 2013, average ACT Composite scores for students with a family income of \$80,000 or higher have increased slightly, while average scores for students reporting a family income of less than \$80,000 have decreased slightly. Here, our focus is on trends beginning in 2013 because graduating

classes from 2013 and later differ slightly from those prior due to inclusion of students who took the ACT under extended-time conditions.

- Efforts should be focused on improving readiness levels for students from lower income families.

Note that the ACT-tested population has increased by 25% over the last five years; therefore, the makeup of the graduating class over this time period may differ in meaningful ways that are related to family income. ■