THE CONDITION OF COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

2017

COLLEGE READINESS BY THE NUMBERS

OVER 2 MILLION ACT TEST TAKERS
More than any other college entrance exam

82% of 2017 ACT-tested graduates aspire to postsecondary education

WHAT IS READINESS?
ACT defines it as the acquisition of the knowledge and skills a student needs to enroll and succeed in credit-bearing first-year courses at a postsecondary institution (such as a 2- or 4-year college, trade school, or technical school) without the need for remediation.

BUT HOW DOES ACT MEASURE COLLEGE READINESS?
By measuring the empirical minimum scores needed on the ACT subject area tests to indicate:

- 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher
- 75% chance of obtaining an A or higher

ACT research shows most students aspire to a post-high school credential, which can be facilitated through educational planning, monitoring, and interventions. These efforts must begin early, be aligned to their aspirations, and continue throughout their educational careers.

There is good news in that 82% of 2017 ACT-tested graduates aspired to postsecondary education. Interestingly enough, 84% of the national 2016 ACT-tested graduating class aspired to enroll in postsecondary education, compared to 64% who actually did enroll. If we fully closed the aspirational gap, an additional 411,178 of the nation’s 2016 ACT-tested graduates would have enrolled in postsecondary education.

ALIGNING STUDENTS
BEHAVIORS, PLANNING & ASPIRATIONS

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