

2026 ACT-TESTED GRADUATING CLASS RELEASE

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS OUTCOMES FROM THE 2026 GRADUATING CLASS, ACCORDING TO NATIONWIDE ACT® TEST RESULTS



1.5

million seniors
took the ACT.



19.2

average ACT Composite
score for the 2026
graduating class.



38%

of the graduating class
took the ACT.



31%

took the ACT more
than once. Most students
increased their ACT
Superscore by two or
more points.

INCREASING ACCESS TO POSTSECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES

Fee Waivers

\$19
million

in fee waivers distributed
to students during the
2025-26 school year.

over
1 in 5

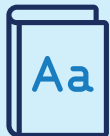
registrations for the national
ACT test (taken by students
on a Saturday or Sunday) are
completed using a fee waiver.



ACT's fee waiver program is
a key part of ACT's mission to
help everyone find success in
education and the workforce.

THE STATE OF STUDENT READINESS

Percent of 2026 ACT-Tested High School Graduates by
ACT College Readiness Benchmark Attainment and Subject



49%
STUDENTS MEETING
English Benchmark



30%
STUDENTS MEETING
Math Benchmark



39%
STUDENTS MEETING
Reading Benchmark



23%
STUDENTS MEETING
all 3 English, Math, and
Reading Benchmarks

Note: The ACT College Readiness Benchmarks are the minimum ACT scores required for students to have a high probability of success in credit-bearing first-year college courses. Students who meet a benchmark on the ACT have approximately a 50% chance of earning a B or better and approximately a 75% chance of earning a C or better in the corresponding college course or courses.

PREDICTED ACT® WORKKEYS® NATIONAL CAREER READINESS CERTIFICATE™ SCORE

67%

Students Predicted To Earn
An NCRC Of Silver Or Higher

of 2026 ACT-tested graduates are predicted to earn at least a Silver-level ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate (a nationally-recognized workforce credential). Individuals who possess a Silver NCRC have the essential foundational skills needed for the majority of jobs in the U.S.