



# NEWS RELEASE

## Utah State Board of Education

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### Utah, National ACT Composite Scores Dip Slightly in 2019 *Utah, Wisconsin Tied at Top Among States Testing All Students*

SALT LAKE CITY – In 2019, 43,790 [Utah students](#) took the ACT college entrance exam and posted an average score of 20.3, one-tenth of a point lower than in 2018, according to data released today by ACT. Nationally, [composite scores](#) fell from 20.8 in 2018 to 20.7 this year.

ACT also showed that 24 percent of Utah juniors met all four college readiness benchmarks, English, mathematics, reading, and science. 57 percent of Utah test takers met college readiness benchmarks in English, 37 percent in mathematics, 42 percent in reading, and 34 percent in science. Among the 15 states that test 100 percent of high school juniors, Utah and Wisconsin posted the highest average ACT score at 20.3, ACT noted.

“We’re seeing a correlation between declining scores and a declining number of students who are taking more rigorous coursework in high school with four or more years of English and three or more years each of math, social studies and science,” said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Sydnee Dickson. “In 2015, 56 percent of our students were taking a full slate of rigorous coursework. That number declined to 48 percent last year. There’s a significant gap in the ACT performance of students

who take challenging courses and those who don't. We will be working with educators, parents, and students to reverse our current trend."

Utah's ACT results compared to national results

	<b>Composite</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Math</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Science</b>
<b>Utah 2019</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>20.3</b>
<b>Nation 2019</b>	20.7	20.1	20.4	21.2	20.6
<b>Utah 2018</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>20.5</b>
<b>Nation 2018</b>	20.8	20.2	20.5	21.3	20.7

Percentage of students who met college readiness benchmarks:

	<b>English</b>	<b>Math</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Science</b>	<b>All Four</b>
<b>Utah 2019</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Nation 2019</b>	59	39	45	36	26
<b>Utah 2018</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Nation 2018</b>	60	40	46	36	27

Utah 2019 disaggregated ACT scores compared to 2018 results:

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>All Students</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>20.4</b>
<b>American Indian</b>	16.1	15.8
<b>Asian</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>21.5</b>
<b>Black/African American</b>	16.6	16.3
<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>17.4</b>

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	16.6	16.8
<b>White</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>21.4</b>
<b>Two or more races</b>	20.7	20.8

More information about Utah scores is on the [ACT site](#).