



NEWS RELEASE

Utah State Board of Education

250 EAST 500 SOUTH P.O. BOX 411200 SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84114-4200
www.schools.utah.gov

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Contact: Mark Peterson, public relations director
801-538-7635 · mark.peterson@schools.utah.gov

Utah ACT Composite Scores Hold Steady in 2016 Amid National Decline; English Scores Up One-tenth, Math Scores Down One-tenth

SALT LAKE CITY – In 2016 39,824 Utah students – which includes all public school students – took the ACT college entrance exam and posted an average score of 20.2, the same average score as was posted in 2015, according to data released today by ACT. Nationally, composite scores dropped from 21.0 in 2015 to 20.8 in 2016.

In individual test components, Utah students improved from an average score of 19.3 in English to 19.4. Math scores went from 19.7 in 2015 to 19.6 this year. Reading and science scores remained unchanged at 20.8 and 20.3 respectively. Nationally, component scores dropped by less than a half point in all four subject areas.

“Utah students and teachers are to be congratulated on keeping their ACT scores up in a year in which scores nationally went down,” said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Sydnee Dickson. “Nationally, only about 64 percent of students take the ACT and all of them have college aspirations. Utah and 17 other states offer the ACT to all students. Among that group of 18 states, Utah ranks eighth. However, this still leaves Utah with much room for improvement in getting all students prepared for their futures.”

Utah's ACT results compared to national results:

	Composite	English	Math	Reading	Science
Utah 2016	20.2	19.4	19.6	20.8	20.3
Nation 2016	20.8	20.1	20.6	21.3	20.8
Utah 2015	20.2	19.3	19.7	20.8	20.3
Nation 2015	21.0	20.4	20.8	21.4	20.9

Utah 2016 disaggregated ACT scores compared to 2015 results:

	2015	2016
All Students	20.2	20.2
American Indian	15.8	15.8
Asian	20.5	20.6
Black/African American	16.3	16.5
Hispanic/Latino	17.2	17.3
Pacific Islander	17.0	17.2
White	21.1	21.2
Two or more races	20.7	20.8
No response	18.4	18.3

More information about Utah scores can be found at the ACT site,

<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/research/condition-of-college-and-career-readiness-2016.html>.

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