

## Test Scores

# Local schools perform well on SAT, ACT WorkKeys

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The class of 2016 performed well on the first statewide administration of the ACT WorkKeys this past spring.

All high school juniors in South Carolina took the test, which consists of three sections — applied mathematics, locating information and reading for information. About 88 percent of students earned a National Career Readiness Certificate, an assessment-based credential that certifies essential work skills needed for success.

“I am pleased that nearly 88 percent of our students demonstrated work readiness in our first ever statewide administration of WorkKeys,” State Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman said in a statement. “We have a great foundation to build upon as we prepare our students for success in the workforce.”

Last year, the High School Assessment Program, or HSAP, test was eliminated. This year, South Carolina joined Alabama, Michigan and Wisconsin as states requiring WorkKeys testing of all students in a particular grade. Each test lasts for 45 minutes, with applied mathematics and reading for information testing 33 items and locating information testing 38.

Students passing each of the three tests earn the Career Readiness Certificate, and students performing exceptionally well can earn a bronze-, silver-, gold- or platinum-level certificate as well.

In Cherokee County, 86.2 percent of students earned a certificate. In Union County, 87.8 percent of students earned one.

In Spartanburg School District 1, 89.9 percent of students earned a certificate; in District 2, 90.3 percent of students earned one. In District 3, 86.2 percent of students earned a certificate.

In District 4, 95.7 percent of students earned a Career Readiness Certificate, the highest percentage in the area.

“These kids worked really hard,” said Woodruff High Principal Aaron Fulmer. “I’m pleased with their success, but the true measure of these results will be demonstrated when these students enter the workforce, whether it be after high school or after post-secondary experiences.”

In District 5, 89 percent of students earned a certificate. In District 6, 85.9 percent of students earned one, as did 83.6 percent of students in District 7.

## SAT

A total of 22,986 public school seniors in South Carolina took the SAT in the spring, a 1.9 percent increase from the previous year.

The mean writing score increased by three points, to 462, over the previous year. The mean critical reading score stayed the same, at 483. The mean mathematics score dropped four points to 483.

Spartanburg School District 1 had 95 students take the test, or 28 percent of the senior class. Their mean composite score increased by 42 points, to 1463.

District 2 had 246 students take the test, or 35 percent of the senior class. Their mean composite score dropped by 32 points, from 1479 to 1447.

District 3 had 104 Broome High students take the SAT, representing 46 percent of the senior class. Their mean composite score increased by 54 points, jumping from 1382 to 1436.

District 4 had 93 Woodruff High seniors (59 percent of the senior class) take the test. Their mean composite score dropped by 72 points in 2015, falling from 1427 to 1355.

District 5 had 256 Byrnes High seniors take the test, representing half of the senior class. Their mean composite score dropped by 26 points, to 1408.

District 6 had 356 Dorman seniors take the test, representing half of the school's senior class. Their mean composite score increased by three points, rising from 1417 to 1420.

District 7 had 187 Spartanburg High seniors take the test, or 49 percent of the senior class. Their composite score rose by eight points in 2015, jumping to 1479.

In Cherokee County, 262 students took the SAT in the spring, representing 48 percent of the district's seniors. Their mean composite score rose by 30 points, going from 1318 to 1348. At Union County High School, 130 seniors took the SAT, or 51 percent of the senior class. Their mean composite score dropped by 41 points, falling from 1297 to 1256.

At Spartanburg Day School, seniors' mean composite SAT score was 1815.

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