College Readiness and Retention

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The Basics

Understanding the data you receive:

*The ACT is a curriculum-based assessment*
- Tests students in core subject areas of English, mathematics, reading and science
- Assesses student proficiencies in these subject areas
- Informs and affects more than recruitment strategies
- More than just a score!!
  - ACT College Readiness Standards
  - ACT National Curriculum Survey
At the Core of the Matter

• ACT’s Core Courses
  – 4 years of English
  – At least 3 years of math
    • Alg I, Alg II, Geometry
  – At least 3 years of social sciences
  – At least 3 years of natural sciences
    • Gen. Science, Biology, Chemistry (Physics recommended)
Average scores of your 2009 ACT-tested graduates who took a core curriculum and those who did not.
Setting the Foundation

• College Readiness Standards
  • Empirically derived
  • Narrative of student proficiencies: English, math, reading science
  • Skills vs. Scores
  • http://www.act.org/standard/

• College Readiness Benchmarks
  • Empirically derived
  • Benchmarks for each of the subject tests
  • Meeting/Exceeding benchmarks represents a 75% chance that a student will attain a ‘C’ or better, or a 50% chance of attaining a ‘B’ or higher
## Setting the Foundation

- **College Readiness Benchmarks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subj. Test</th>
<th>PS Courses</th>
<th>Benchmark Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>English Comp</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Algebra</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
College Ready?

Percentage of 2009 ACT-tested graduates meeting College Readiness Benchmarks

- **All four Benchmarks**: 25 (Missouri) - 23 (Nation)
- **College English Composition**: 73 (Missouri) - 67 (Nation)
- **College Algebra**: 42 (Missouri) - 42 (Nation)
- **College Social Sciences**: 57 (Missouri) - 53 (Nation)
- **College Biology**: 32 (Missouri) - 28 (Nation)
### College Ready?

Percentage of your 2009 ACT-tested graduates meeting College Readiness Benchmarks

#### ... College English Composition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African American/Black</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaska Native</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian American/White</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian American/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other/No response</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All students</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
College Ready?

... College Algebra

- African American/Black: 11
- American Indian/Alaska Native: 26
- Caucasian American/White: 47
- Hispanic: 33
- Asian American/Pacific Islander: 63
- Other/No response: 34
- All students: 42
Percentage of your 2009 ACT-tested graduates meeting or exceeding College Readiness Benchmarks in Mathematics

- Less than core: Missouri 9, Nation 7
- Core: Missouri 13, Nation 12
- More than core: Missouri 55, Nation 55
College Ready?

... College Social Sciences

- African American/Black: 22%
- American Indian/Alaska Native: 52%
- Caucasian American/White: 64%
- Hispanic: 48%
- Asian American/Pacific Islander: 63%
- Other/No response: 47%
- All students: 57%
College Ready?

... College Biology

- African American/ Black: 7
- American Indian/ Alaska Native: 23
- Caucasian American/ White: 36
- Hispanic: 22
- Asian American/ Pacific Islander: 46
- Other/ No response: 26
- All students: 32
Percentage of your 2009 ACT-tested graduates meeting or exceeding College Readiness Benchmarks in Science

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Missouri</th>
<th>Nation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than core</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core</td>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than core</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Admissions Only?

- ACT data and research reaches further than Admissions decisions
  - Research-based College Readiness Standards and Benchmarks help inform:
    - Advising/Placement
    - Retention Strategies
    - Student Support Services
Admissions Only?

• About 350 points of data on each official score report
  – Major/degree interests
  – School interest and Choice
  – Extra-curricular interests/needs (HS and College)
  – Academic and non-academic needs
  – Institutional type
QUESTIONS