

# SHELBY COUNTY SCHOOLS OFFICE OF ACADEMICS



# RULES OF THE GAME

COMING IN FIRST FOR HIGH SCHOOL **ACT**

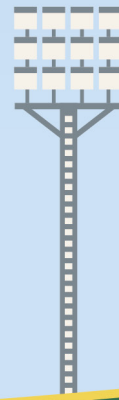
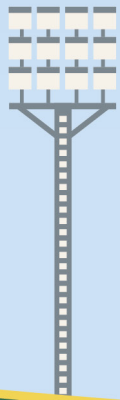
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# ACT: COVER THE BASES

By the year 2025, Shelby County Schools has made a commitment that 80% of seniors will be prepared for postsecondary education or the workforce, 90% of students will earn their high school diploma on time, and 100% of students who are college or career ready will enroll in a post-secondary opportunity. The purpose of this plan is to provide intentional ACT opportunities and ACT exposure to all high school students in Shelby County Schools. The strategies outlined in this document can only be implemented if all stakeholders take ownership in the process.



## ACT

### ASSESSMENT

The supports found in this plan will yield higher ACT scores and more students will be designated as on track (earning a 21 or higher on the ACT).

### FUNDS FOR COLLEGE

The increased academic/benchmark test scores will provide resources, access, and opportunities for students to receive financial funding for college (post-secondary education).

### RIGOROUS COURSEWORK

Through exposure to rigorous coursework and curriculum materials, SCS students will master grade-appropriate standards to ensure college and career readiness.

### SUCCESSFUL CAREER

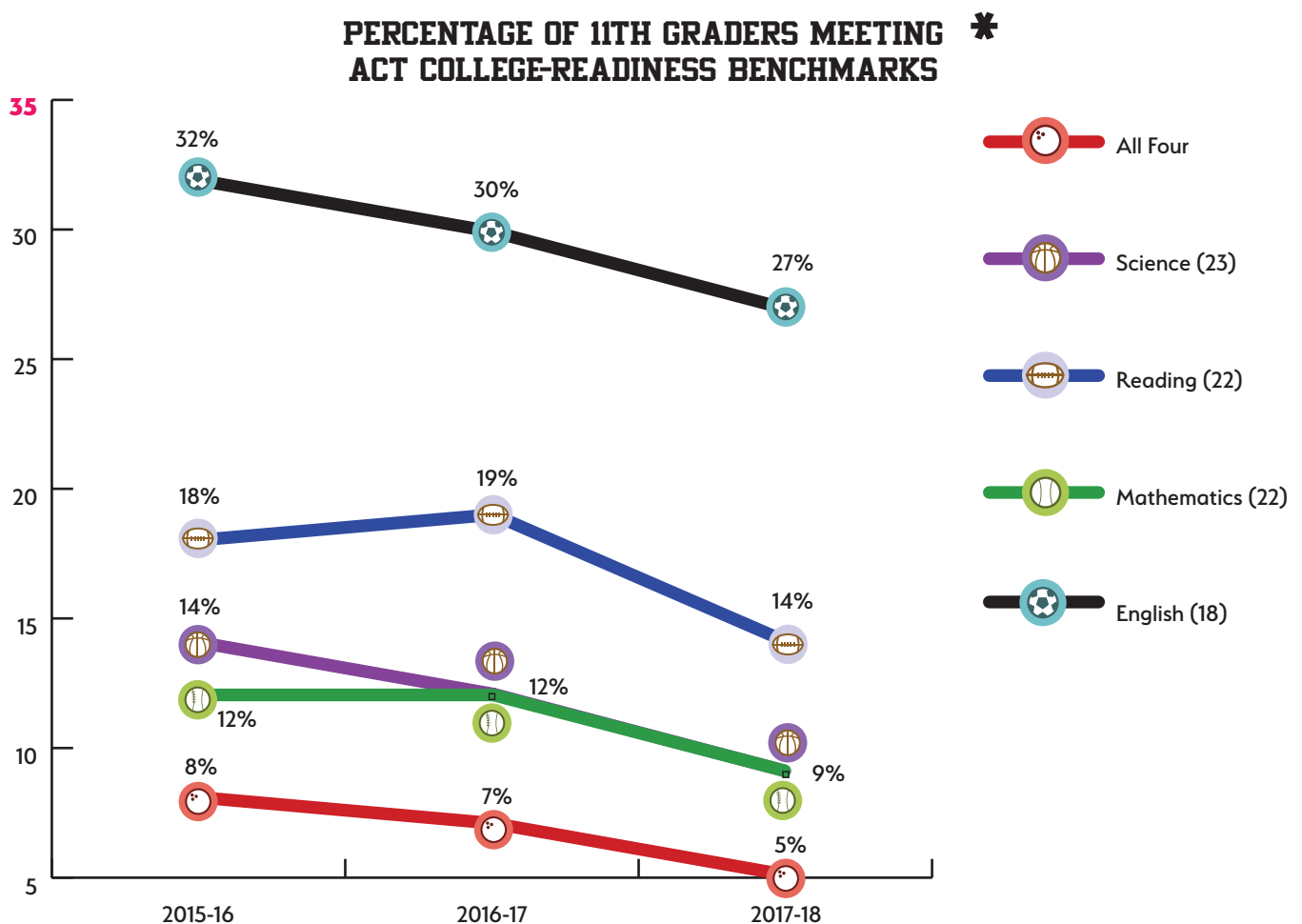
Once students receive a college degree, they are able to use the learned skill-set to earn a living.

# AN ACT PLAN: THE NEED

ACT, Inc. conducts research examining the relationship between high-school students' performance on the ACT subject tests and their subsequent performance in various college courses.

Using this information, ACT, Inc. formulates college-readiness benchmarks for each ACT subject-area test. Every year, SCS administers the ACT to all 11th-graders; the figure below shows their performance on each subject-area test for the last three years. (Note that each subject's college-readiness threshold is indicated in parentheses.)

As the figure shows, the percentage of 11th graders meeting ACT college-readiness benchmarks has declined over the past three years, with three to five net percentage-point losses in every area.





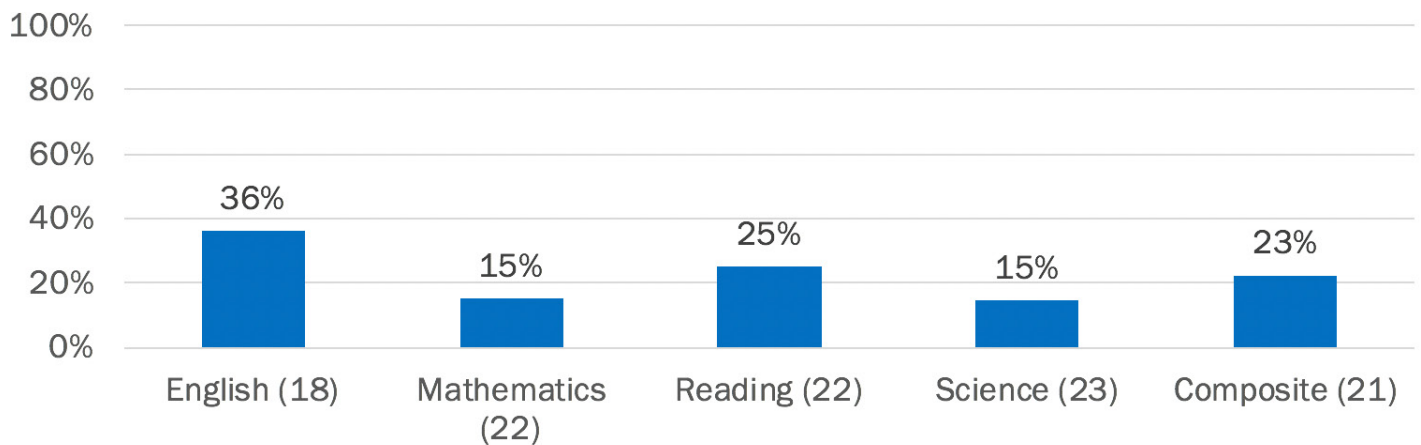
The Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) has recently begun calculating and tracking the ACT performance of on-time graduates for accountability purposes.

The bar graph below presents the ACT performance of the on-time graduates in the class of 2018. (Again, each subject's college-readiness threshold is indicated in parentheses.)

The highest rate was in English, then reading, followed by very low readiness levels in science and math. (These rates are each within a percentage point of the rates for the class of 2017.)

TDOE designates students who score an ACT composite of 21 or higher as on track. By this definition, 23% of the class of 2018 were on track. (This represents no change from the class of 2017.)

**ACT PERFORMANCE OF ON-TIME GRADUATES IN THE CLASS OF 2018**



**\* TAKEN FROM THE JANUARY 2019 SHELBY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MONTHLY KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS REPORT**

# ANNUAL DISTRICT GOALS

## COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS BENCHMARK $\geq 21$



BY JUNE 2020, INCREASE DISTRICT ACT COMPOSITE SCORE TO 18.0 OR GREATER



BY JUNE 2021, INCREASE DISTRICT ACT COMPOSITE SCORE TO 18.5 OR GREATER



BY JUNE 2022, INCREASE DISTRICT ACT COMPOSITE SCORE TO 19.0 OR GREATER



BY JUNE 2023, INCREASE DISTRICT ACT COMPOSITE SCORE TO 19.5 OR GREATER



BY JUNE 2024, INCREASE DISTRICT ACT COMPOSITE SCORE TO 20 OR GREATER



BY JUNE 2025, INCREASE DISTRICT ACT COMPOSITE SCORE TO 21 OR GREATER

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## COHORT 1 – 9TH AND 10TH GRADE STUDENTS

BASELINE DATA – PSAT EXAM

### GOALS

- 1) By the end of SY 2019-20, all 9th grade students will participate in the PSAT Exam
- 2) By the end of SY 2019-20, all 9th and 10th grade students will participate in two ACT Workshops



### SUCCESS MEASURES

- 1) 100% of 9th grade students will participate in the PSAT Exam
- 2) 100% of 9th and 10th grade students will participate in two ACT Workshops

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## COHORT 2 – 11TH GRADE STUDENTS (ACT COMPOSITE SCORE = 15 – 17)

BASELINE DATA – ACT COMPOSITE

### GOAL

By the end of SY 2019-20, 30% of this cohort will receive an ACT composite score of 18 or above  
(2018-19 Cohort = 241 students)



### SUCCESS MEASURE

By the end of SY 2019-20, # of students in cohort that achieve +1 growth points on 2 or more subtests (Math, English, Reading or Science)

# ANNUAL DISTRICT GOALS

## COHORT 3 – 11TH GRADE STUDENTS (ACT COMPOSITE SCORE = 18 – 20)

BASELINE DATA - ACT COMPOSITE

### GOAL

By the end of SY 2019-20, 30% of this cohort will receive an ACT composite score of 21 or above  
(2018-19 Cohort = 194 students)

### SUCCESS MEASURE

By the end of SY 2019-20, # of students in cohort that achieve  $\geq 21$  ACT composite score on 2 or more subtests

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## COHORT 4 – 12TH GRADE STUDENTS (ACT COMPOSITE SCORE = 15 – 17)

BASELINE DATA - ACT COMPOSITE

### GOAL

By the end of SY 2019-20, 25% of this cohort will receive an ACT composite score of 18 or above  
(2018-19 Cohort = 1,912 students)

### SUCCESS MEASURE

By the end of SY 2019-20, # of students in cohort that achieve +1 growth points on 2 or more subtests

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## COHORT 5 – 12TH GRADE STUDENTS (ACT COMPOSITE SCORE = 18 – 20)

BASELINE DATA - ACT COMPOSITE

### GOAL

By the end of SY 2019-20, 25% of this cohort will receive an ACT composite score of 21 or above  
(2018-19 Cohort = 1,109 students)

### SUCCESS MEASURE

By the end of SY 2019-20, # of students in cohort that achieve  $\geq 21$  ACT composite score on 2 or more subtests



# STRATEGY #1 SCHOOL INITIATIVES



TACTIC	AUDIENCE	OFFICE OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY	FREQUENCY	TIMELINE
Administer PSAT Exam	8th/9th grade students	School Administrators (e.g. Principal, Asst. Principal) School Counselors	Once Each Year	<b>Test Dates:</b> 8th 2/25/20 9th 10/1/19  <b>Makeup Dates:</b> 8th 2/27/20 9th 10/29/20 and 10/30/20
Khan Academy	9th grade students	School Counselors Classroom Teachers	Ongoing  Students will have online access during and after school	August – May
ACT Practice Test (mock tests)	10th grade students	School Administrators	Once per year	March – April
ACT Preparation Courses	11th and 12th grade students (ACT composite score = 15 – 17)	Classroom Teachers School Administrators	Minimum Two (Math and English) Courses Offered Per Semester at Each School  Schools may choose to offer Science and Reading prep courses as well.	August – May
ACT Preparation Courses	11th and 12th grade students (ACT composite score = 18 – 20)	Classroom Teachers School Administrators	Minimum Two (Math and English) Courses Offered Per Semester at Each School  Schools may choose to offer Science and Reading prep courses as well.	August – May
Saturday Tutoring	11th and 12th grade students (ACT composite score = 15 – 17)	Classroom Teachers School Staff School Administrators	Twice per month for two hours	August – May





# STRATEGY #2 ZONE/DISTRICT INITIATIVES

TACTIC	AUDIENCE	OFFICE OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY	FREQUENCY	TIMELINE
ACT Task Force	Representatives needed to enact and support the ACT initiative	Counseling Department Curriculum and Instruction Virtual Schools Advanced Academics	Ongoing	March Onward
ACT Summer Boot Camps	11th & 12th grade students  (Cohort Students Only)	District Vendors	Two sessions available per cohort – 8 sessions	June
ACT Workshops	9th and 10th grade students	District Personnel (Office of Academics)	Students will attend two sessions each year with sessions available in each zone	Saturday Sessions (September, November, February and April)
ACT Prep University	11th and 12th grade students who have not earned a 21 composite on ACT	District Vendor	Four times per year  (Six sessions per round)	September, November, January, March
ACT Prep Class added to every school's master schedule	11th and 12th grade students	School Administrators Student Information Management	Each semester	August– May
Virtual School Module – (Grade Results Platform)	9th and 10th grade students	Virtual Schools Instructional Technology Curriculum and Instruction	Ongoing	August – May
Curricular Enhancements – Alignment between curriculum map, EOC standards, and ACT College and Career Readiness Standards; incorporate ACT type questions and problems into daily lessons, bell work and assessments	All SCS students in core content classes – ELA, Math and Science	Curriculum and Instruction	Beginning during the 2019-20 School Year	August – May



# STRATEGY #3 ACT INCENTIVES

RECOGNITION/ AWARD	LEVEL	OFFICE OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY	CRITERIA	FREQUENCY	TIMELINE
School swag (t-shirts, hats, pins, etc.)	School	School Administrators	Students who attend the recommended 2 ACT Workshop Sessions	Each quarter (Four time per School Year)	September, November, February, April
Raffle for game tickets: (i.e., U of M basketball, U of M football, Redbirds, Grizzlies tickets, etc.)	School	Family and Community Engagement School Seed	Students who earn +2 growth points from previous ACT test on any subtest	Depends on frequency student retakes ACT test	Ongoing
"Presidential" Club – Incentive & recognition banquet	District	Office of Academics Counseling Department	Any student who earns a 30-36 ACT composite score	Once per year	April/May
"Gold" Club – Incentive & recognition banquet	District	Office of Academics Counseling Department	Any student who earns a 25-29 ACT composite score	Once per year	April/May
"Silver Club" – Incentive & recognition banquet	District	Office of Academics Counseling Department	Any student who earns a 21-24 ACT composite score	Once per year	April/May
"Merit Club" – Incentive & Certificate	District	Office of Academics Counseling Department	Any student who earns +2 growth points on ACT composite score  OR  Any student who meets two or more college readiness benchmarks  (This is only for students who have not met 21 ACT threshold)	Once per year	April/May



# STRATEGY #4 AWARENESS INITIATIVES

TACTIC	AUDIENCE	OFFICE OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY	FREQUENCY	TIMELINE
Focus Groups	School Admin Teachers Students Parents	Office of Academics Research and Performance Management	Twice per each stakeholder group	April – June
ACT web page on Academic Website (contains free ACT resources, pertinent ACT dates and events)	Schools Parents Students	Communications Department	Ongoing	Go live date – August
Cohort Letters	Parents Students	School Administrators	Ongoing	September
ACT Awareness Meetings	Parents Students	School Administrators School Counselors	Twice per semester	August/September and January/February
Leader Board/Teacher Weekly	Schools	Communications Department	Ongoing	Communications beginning in September
Informational Meetings	School Counselors ACT Liaisons	Student Support Counseling Department School Administrators Office of Academics	Ongoing	Beginning August

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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