

After Record-High Year, ACT Scores Dip Slightly

Change comes as ACT participation increases to 5-year high

New Berlin, Wis. – After a record-high ACT composite score in 2014, the School District of New Berlin’s ACT score dipped in 2015 as more students took the college-entrance exam.

Following two strong years – including a matching record-high district composite score of 24.5 in 2014, the district’s composite score for the graduating class of 2015 was 24.1.

Overall scores, however, remain strong, with SDNB schools ranked #6 and #16 among southeastern Wisconsin high schools.

The number of students taking the ACT was the highest in at least five years. A combined 85.3% of students in the graduating class of 2015 at New Berlin Eisenhower and New Berlin West took the ACT exam. That translated to 90.1% of all Eisenhower seniors and 80.1% of all West seniors.

In 2014 School District of New Berlin seniors scored the highest in five years in all ACT subjects: English, mathematics, reading and science. This year, math and science scores declined at both high schools.

Superintendent Joe Garza said the district continually strives for excellence and will develop improvement plans to address gaps identified in the ACT data.

“Coming off a record high year, we were not surprised to see a decrease, but we are not satisfied with these results and will redouble our efforts to address areas for improvement,” Garza said.

Additional college-level coursework was developed for 2015-16, as well as an increased emphasis on science and engineering, such as Project Lead the Way.

The ACT consists of tests in English, math, reading and science and assesses how ready students are for college coursework in those areas. Schools use ACT data, among other assessments and data points, to focus continuous improvement efforts for the district, schools, in classrooms and with each individual student.

The School District of New Berlin consistently ranks high in national surveys on college and career readiness, most recently on the *U.S. News & World Report’s* 2015 Best High Schools and the *Washington*

High Schools	ACT Composite
Whitefish Bay	25.8
Brookfield East	25.7
Brookfield Central	25.3
Arrowhead	25.1
Shorewood	24.9
NB Eisenhower	24.7
Pewaukee	24.5
Hamilton	24.5
Greendale	24.5
Wauwatosa East	24.1
Nicolet	24
Kettle Moraine	23.8
Franklin	23.6
Menomonee Falls	23.5
Mukwonago	23.4
NB West	23.3
Wauwatosa West	23.3
Muskego	23.2
Waukesha West	23.2
Oconomowoc	23
Waukesha North	22.5
Waukesha South	22.3
Whitnall	22.2
South Milwaukee	21.9
Greenfield	21.9
Oak Creek	21.7
Nathan Hale	21.4
Cudahy	20.6
Brown Deer	20.1
Saint Francis	20

Post's "America's Most Challenging High Schools" lists.
U.S. News ranked Eisenhower #2 and West #6 in Wisconsin in college readiness.

Here is the breakdown of SDNB's 2015 ACT data by subject. For more information about the ACT, including a news release about statewide ACT results, please see <http://dpi.wi.gov/news/releases/2015/wisconsin-act-results-hold-steady>.

Class of 2015	Number, % of Students Tested	English ACT Score	Math ACT Score	Reading ACT Score	Science ACT Score	Composite ACT Score
Eisenhower	192 (90.1%)	24.7	24.9	24.1	24.6	24.7
West	161 (80.1%)	22.4	23.3	23.3	23.7	23.3
SDNB Composite	353 (85.3%)	23.6	24.2	23.7	24.2	24.1
State	41,530 (63.4%)	21.4	21.9	22.4	22.2	22.1

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