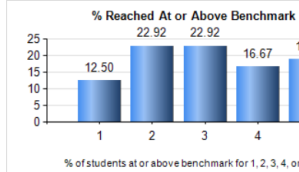
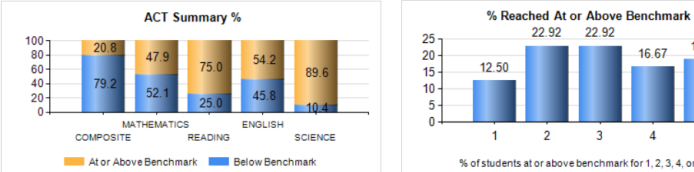


ACT Stoplight Report Data Interpretation Guide (DIG)

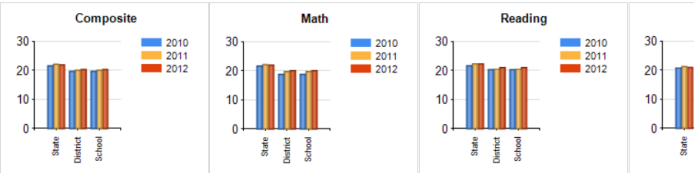
AS.002.01-A - ACT Stoplight

School Year: 2012-2013
District: Sample District
School: Sample School

Benchmarks [Composite: 24] [Math: 20] [Reading: 18] [English: 18] [Science: 18]



Year Over Year Averages



NOTE: Averages based on students enrollment at district/school at the time of the test administration date.

Quick Reference

This document provides a quick reference for the **ACT Stoplight Report (AS.002.01)**. The purpose of this report is to provide district users, including teachers, information on students who took the ACT. The report provides aggregate levels as well as a student list.

The report is found under **ASSESSMENT REPORTS** in the **REPORTS** tab within SD-STARS.

Questions Report will Help Answer

- What percent of the students met ACT benchmarks?
- How does my school compare with the district? The state?
- What are the composite and subject scores for students currently enrolled in the school/district?

Intended Audience

Teachers; Principals; Administrative Staff (school and district); Superintendents

Data Details

SDDOE receives ACT data twice a year and are updated in March and September. The report lists each student and each administration of the test. The first page of the report shows aggregate ACT data in bar charts. The subsequent pages show ACT results by students.

Common Misunderstandings

The ACT data are NOT pulled in from Student Information System (ex: Infinite Campus). Instead, data come from files SDDOE receives directly from ACT.

This report may not contain data for all students who took the ACT. This is because ACT only shares data with SDDOE if the test taker 1) indicated that he/she has or will graduate from a South Dakota district and 2) gives permission to release his/her information to SDDOE.

This report uses a different cohort of students than many of the official SDDOE numbers or ACT reports. Therefore, averages and other aggregate levels will differ.

WARNING

ACT Stoplight Report Data Interpretation Guide (DIG)

Instructions

Generating Report

AS.002.01-A - ACT Stoplight

School Year District

School

VIEW REPORT

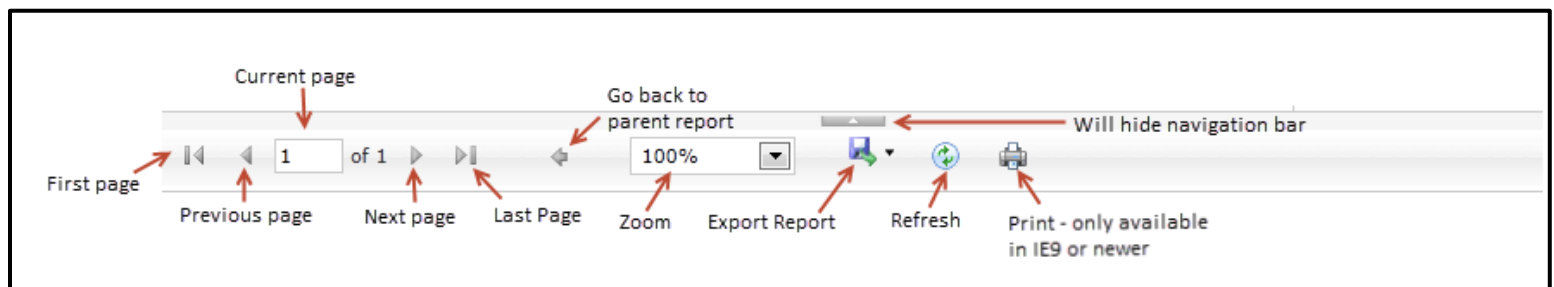
- **School Year:** This is the year in which the student took the test.
- **District:** Select district name. What districts display in the drop down depends on your permissions. Most district and school users will only see one district in the drop down.
- **School:** Once you select the district name, select the school name. If you want to see results for schools, select the "All Schools" option. What schools display in the drop down depends on your permissions. Most school users will only see one school in the drop down.
- **View Report:** Select to generate a report.



IMPORTANT: SDDOE receives two files per year from ACT. The file that is received in February contains students who took the ACT between August and January. The file that is received in August contains students who took the ACT between February and July. Because of the 6 month lag, the files received in February and August are included in the school year that started the fall before. For example, February 2013 and August 2013 files are the data used for the 2012-13 school year. Therefore, you may need to select 2012-13 to see the latest results for your students even if the current school year is 2013-14.

Reading Report

Use the **navigation bar** to navigate the report.



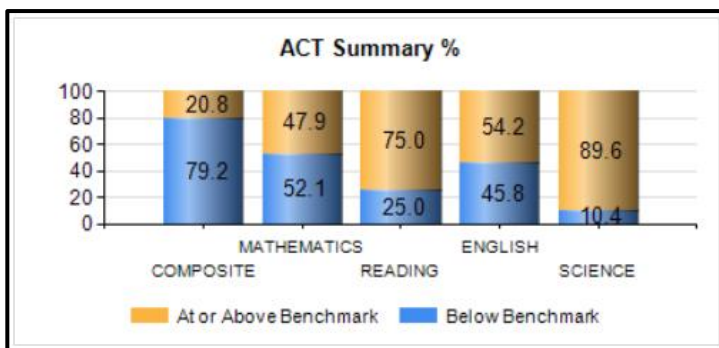
ACT Stoplight Report

Data Interpretation Guide (DIG)

At the top of the first page of the report are **benchmarks**. These are cut points that help analyze ACT results. It is the goal for students to score at or above these benchmarks.

Subject	Benchmark ACT Score	Reason
Composite	24 or above	Score needed to qualify for Opportunity Scholarship
Math	20 or above	Score needed to avoid remediation at Board of Regents institutions
Reading	18 or above	Set by SDDOE
English	18 or above	Score needed to avoid remediation at Board of Regents institutions
Science	18 or above	Set by SDDOE

The first page contains a series of bar charts. Let's break it down and look at each chart separately.



ACT Summary %

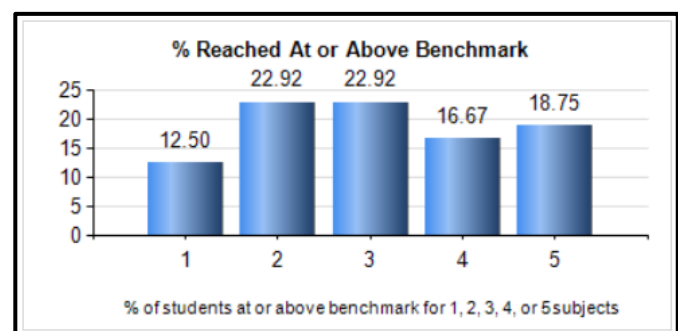
This stacked column chart shows the percent of students who met the **benchmark** by subject. Using the **legend**, percent of students who scored at or above the benchmark are indicated in the gold parts of the columns. Percent of students who scored below benchmark are indicated in the blue parts of the columns. The **labels** provide the actual percentage for each benchmark category by subject.

Mousing over the columns causes a **hover over** to appear. This hover over will indicate the number of students that fall into the benchmark categories by subject.

If the students had multiple test administrations during the year, the chart will use only the highest score for the subject. For administrators, this chart will reflect results for students in the school or district. For teachers, this chart will reflect results for students enrolled in their courses.

% Reached At or Above Benchmark

This column chart shows the percent of students who met the **benchmark** by 1, 2, 3, 4, or all 5 subjects. The **labels** provide the actual percentage of students who met that number of benchmarks. If a number is skipped (ex: 1, 2, 4, 5), then no students met that number of benchmarks.



Mousing over the columns causes a **hover over** to appear. This hover over will indicate the number of students who met the benchmark for that number of subjects.

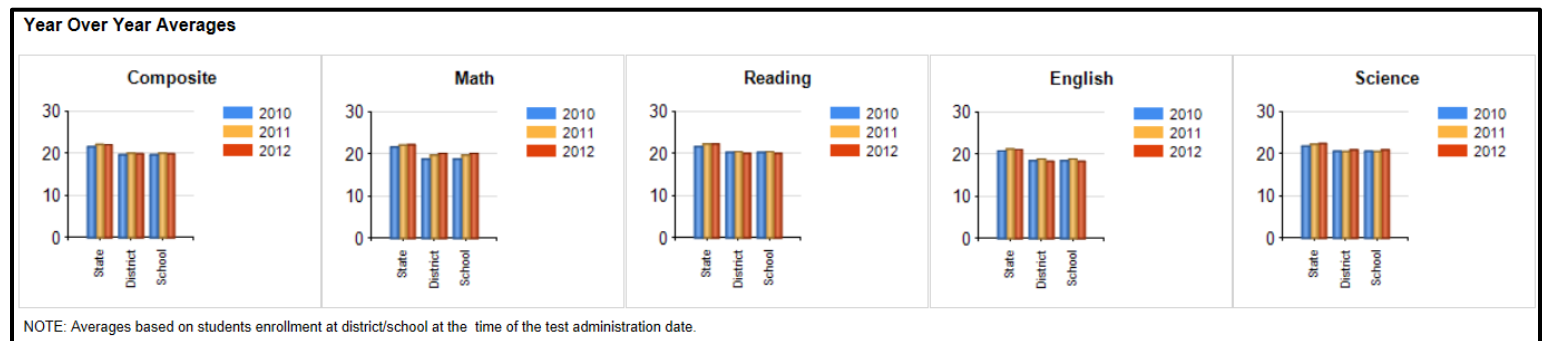
ACT Stoplight Report Data Interpretation Guide (DIG)

Subject	JAMES	JORDAN	SAMMY	MARY
Composite	17	18	17	18
Math	19	15	15	20
Reading	14	16	19	13
English	17	17	19	12
Science	17	19	16	19

Let's take a look at the example students on the left to understand more about this chart. James would not be included in this chart as he did not meet any benchmark. Jordan would be included in the 1 bar, while Sammy and Mary would be included in the 2 bar.

If the students had multiple test administrations during the year, the chart will use only the highest score for the subject. In addition, this chart is based on the students that appear in the student list. For administrators, this chart will reflect results for students in the school or district. For teachers, this chart will reflect results for students enrolled in their courses.

Year Over Year Averages



The series of column charts at the bottom of the first page indicate the Year Over Year Averages of the ACT scores by subject, year, and level (ex: state, district, school).

Regardless of your role, the chart will show averages for the entire school, district, and state.

Mousing over the column causes a **hover over** to appear. This hover over will indicate the average ACT score.

The **legend** can be found on the side of each chart. The different years are indicated by different colors.

If the student had multiple test administrations, the charts will use the highest score for the test year.

IMPORTANT: The label shows the fall of the year. For example, 2010 means 2010-11, 2011 means 2011-12, and 2012 means 2012-13.

ACT Stoplight Report

Data Interpretation Guide (DIG)

Organization	ACT Summary %	% Reached At or Above Benchmark	Year Over Year Averages
School A	Not Include	Not Include	Include
District A	Not Include	Not Include	Include
School B	Include	Include	Not Include
District B	Include	Include	Not Include

Unlike the other column charts on page 1, the Year Over Year Averages bar charts look at students who were enrolled in the school/district at the time they took the test. This was done due to technical constraints. For example, Sarah took the test when she was enrolled as a student in School A in District A and moved to School B in District B a few months

later. In this case, she **would** count in School A and District A “Year Over Year Averages” but **would not** be included in “% Reached At or Above Benchmark” and “ACT Summary %” column charts. On the other hand, she **would not** count in School B and District B “Year Over Year Averages” but she **would** count in the other two column charts.

Now, let’s move on to Page 2

Student List

The second and subsequent pages include a student list.

Student Name	Test Date	Grade	Gender	Race	ED	LEP	IEP	Migrant	Composite	Math	Reading	English	Science					
Student 1	10/1/2012	12	M	WH	**	N	N	N	23	●	21	●	28	●	21	●	22	●
Student 1	12/1/2012	12	M	WH	**	N	N	N	22	●	21	●	24	●	22	●	21	●
Student 1	2/1/2013	12	M	WH	**	N	N	N	19	●	18	●	21	●	18	●	19	●
Student 2	4/1/2013	11	F	WH	**	N	N	N	27	●	26	●	29	●	28	●	26	●
Student 3	4/1/2013	12	M	WH	**	N	N	N	22	●	19	●	21	●	23	●	25	●
Student 4	4/1/2013	11	F	WH	**	N	Y	N	16	●	17	●	16	●	13	●	16	●
Student 5	10/1/2012	12	M	WH	**	Y	N	N	18	●	21	●	13	●	15	●	22	●
Student 5	4/1/2013	12	M	WH	**	Y	N	N	19	●	22	●	16	●	16	●	22	●

There is a **key** at the top of the page describing the colored dots, or stoplights, definitions.

Stoplight Definition						
Definition	Label	Composite	Math	Reading	English	Science
Will need remediation in college	●	0 - 17	0 - 19	0 - 17	0 - 17	0 - 17
Will not need remediation in college	●	18 - 23	20 - 36	18 - 36	18 - 36	18 - 36
Will not need remediation in college AND Eligible for Opportunity Scholarship	●	24 - 36				
Did not receive score or take test	--					

ACT Stoplight Report Data Interpretation Guide (DIG)

The student list contains different columns. All columns are **sortable**.

The remainders of the columns are ACT scores for each of the tests by subject. There are two columns per subject. The first is the score, and the second is the color coding that matches the **key**.

Downloading Report

This report can be downloaded into different formats. The most convenient format for analysis would be Excel. Doing this would put the charts on Sheet 1 and the student list on Sheet 2. Because the stoplights are actually images, sort/filter on the color is not available in Excel. Instead, sort/filter in Excel using the actual scores.

What percent of the students met ACT benchmarks?

Essential Questions

This question can be answered by looking at the “ACT Summary %” chart and “% Reached At or Above Benchmark” chart. The “ACT Summary %” chart will provide the percent of students who met the benchmark by subject. The “% Reached At or Above Benchmark” chart will provide the percent of students who met 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 benchmarks.

How does my school compare with the district? The state?

Using the “Year Over Year Average” charts, you can compare averages for the school, district and state by subject. You can also compare averages by year. The **hover over** will provide the actual score averages.

What are the composite and subject scores for students currently enrolled in the school/district?

On the second and subsequent pages, you can view ACT results by student. The report provides the composite and subject scores. The colored dots, called stoplights, help draw attention to how students did on the ACT. The key for the stoplights can be found at the top of Page 2.

Q: Does this report use the ACT results from Infinite Campus?

Frequently Asked Questions

No. The ACT Stoplight Report is based on ACT results that SDDOE receives directly from ACT.

ACT Stoplight Report Data Interpretation Guide (DIG)

Q: I know that a student took the ACT, but he doesn't appear in this report. Why?

SDDOE receives student results from ACT if the student 1) indicated that he/she has or will graduate from a South Dakota district and 2) gives permission to release his/her information to SDDOE. If the student did not do either of these, they will not appear on the report.

Q: How often are the ACT data updated?

For the ACT data, SDDOE receives two files from ACT per year. After receiving the files, the data are loaded into SD-STARS during August-September and again in February-March. Therefore, there may be a 6 month lag in test results.

Q: Do students give permission for ACT to release their results to SDDOE?

Yes. This is done during the official paperwork for ACT registration and test administration.

Q: How is this report the same/different than SPI calculations?

The College & Career Readiness SPI score and this ACT Stoplight report look at the same set of data, but there are important differences in the way they view the data.

First, SPI score only looks at Math and English, while the ACT Stoplight looks at all subjects. As a reminder, SPI considers the following:

1. Percent of students whose ACT Math score is 20 or above (using the highest score if the ACT is taken more than once)
2. Percent of students whose ACT English score is 18 or above (using the highest score if the ACT is taken more than once)

Second, the SPI score looks at the prior year's graduating class. For example, the accountability report cards for 2012-13 looked at the ACT test results for the 2011-12 graduating class. The ACT Stoplight report shows students who were enrolled and took the test during the school year.

Third, SPI considers the top score over multiple years of data. For the ACT Stoplight report, the charts only include the top score for that particular school year. If a student took the test in 2011-12 and 2012-13, their scores will be included in the ACT Stoplight aggregates for the appropriate year. However, the SPI score would only consider the top score over both years.

ACT Stoplight Report Data Interpretation Guide (DIG)

Q: Does the Year-over-Year averages include the best score over multiple years?

No. It only includes the student's best score for each school year. So if it is two different years than the student is included in both averages. If the student takes it twice in the same school year, only his/her best score will be used.

Q: Why are there dashes (--) in my results?

The dashes are used when enrollments are coded incorrectly in the Student Information System (ex: Infinite Campus). For example, if a student has a missing gender code in Infinite Campus, the code will appear as a double dash. This is an indication that a school/district needs to examine the quality of their data.

History

The ACT Stoplight report was originally released in Spring 2013.

Users reported concerns with understanding the data and report format. SDDOE reviewed and enhanced the report. Version 2 was released to district in October 2013.

Report Details

Report Responsiveness

The report requires about 1 minute to process, as it is pulling and aggregating large amounts of data. In addition, heavy usage of this report at the same time may result in a slow-down of the report responsiveness. If, after 1 minute, it does not process, refresh your page.

Problems?

SDDOE validated the data to the best of its ability in Summer 2013. If districts find errors in the data, please contact STARS Support at STARSHelp@state.sd.us.

Roles with Report Access

- District: Assessment
- District: Management
- District: Superintendent

Security

ACT Stoplight Report Data Interpretation Guide (DIG)

- School: Management
- School: Principal
- School: Teacher

Security Consideration

Unlike other reports, those with school- or district-wide permissions (ex: School: Principal, District: Superintendents) will be able to view data for students whose last enrollment was in the school/district. For example, if a student graduates, they will remain on the ACT report for the school/district users. This is because...

1. This information is available to districts through the files ACT sends to districts/schools.
2. This information is available in the accountability report.

Teacher role will only see students currently enrolled in his/her courses in the “ACT Summary %,” “% Reach At Or Above Benchmark,” and in the student list. The “Year-Over-Year Averages” will show the school aggregates. For example, a teacher will be able to see the 2012-13 ACT scores for a student that is currently enrolled in one of the teacher’s courses. On the other hand, a teacher will not be able to see the 2012-13 ACT scores for a student that was enrolled in a course with the teacher in 2012-13 but no longer is enrolled (ex: graduate) for the current school year.