

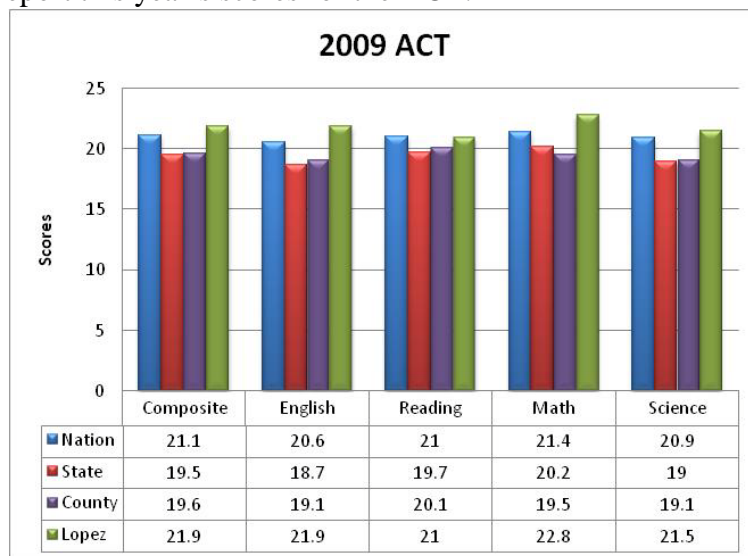
THE ACT: Keeping you informed

Each year, many of our seniors and juniors take the ACT for college admissions. According to the ACT website www.act.org,

The ACT[®] test assesses high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. The multiple-choice tests cover four skill areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science. The Writing Test, which is optional, measures skill in planning and writing a short essay.

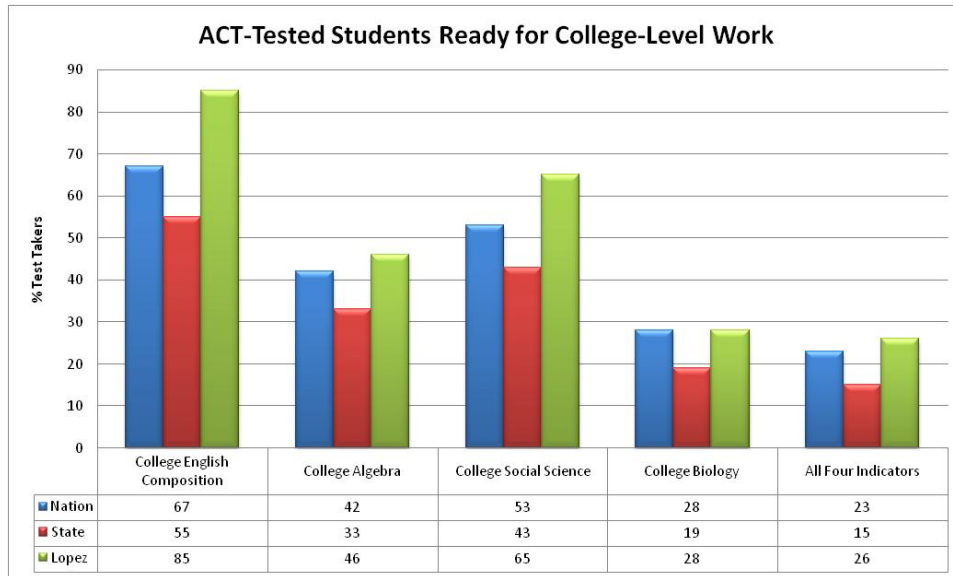
Whereas the SAT is a test of reasoning and critical thinking skills, the ACT is more a test of what a student has learned while in high school. Scores are reported for each sub-test on a scale from 0-36. There is also a “composite” score, which pulls together the data from all of the sub-tests.

We are pleased to report this year's scores for the ACT.



The forty-six seniors who took the ACT in 2009 scored at or above the county, state, and national levels. Of course, as mentioned in the message about the SAT scores, comparing scores for different schools or groups of schools is difficult. In a small school like Father Lopez, there will be large variations in our overall average scores in any given year. As an example, in Volusia County for 2009, only 39.3% of all high school seniors took the ACT; at Father Lopez, 72% of seniors took this test. We are thus limited in drawing comparisons.

The ACT also gives us useful data on college readiness. As you can see below, our students are as or more college-ready than those in the state and nation. County data is not available for comparison.



As you consider this data, you may wonder what you can do to help your student prepare for the ACT. As with the SAT, there are many options depending on your child's and family's needs. ACT preparation courses and practice tests are available through tutoring companies, and preparation books are sold in bookstores. Beginning this year we will administer the PLAN to tenth grade students each year. According to the ACT website,

[The PLAN] is a comprehensive [...] resource that helps students measure their current academic development, explore career/training options, and make plans for the remaining years of high school and post-graduation years.

As a "pre-ACT" test, **PLAN** is a powerful predictor of success on the ACT. [...] it focuses attention on both career preparation and improving academic achievement.

We believe that our rigorous curriculum, its application to the world in which our students live, and the relationships we form with them contribute to their success. Of course, we are very involved in school improvement because we never want to sit back and just enjoy success. Continued success requires concerted efforts. Our teachers continue their education every year through professional development activities like conferences, graduate classes, and professional reading. Our departments formulate goals for improvement each year, and teachers align their professional development goals with those of their departments.