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## **Idaho's 2019 ACT results contribute to college readiness discussion**

(BOISE) – Idaho's ACT results for Idaho's 2019 graduating cohort show consistently higher performance than the national average, and contribute to the continuing conversation about Idaho teens' college readiness, Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra said.

Of public school students in Idaho's 2019 graduating class, 5,782 took the ACT college entry exam. That compares to 19,783 who took the SAT, which was selected by the state as the college entry exam provided free to all students.

"Idaho's SAT results reflect that while the state pays for all high school juniors to take the test, we know that not all students are motivated to prepare and do their best on this test. This calls into question whether this is a reliable indicator of college or career readiness," Superintendent Ybarra said. "With respect to the ACT, about one third of Idaho high school students chose to take this test, and they outperformed their peers across the nation."

The composite ACT score for Idaho's 2019 test takers was 22.3, compared to the national score of 20.7. The ACT was taken by an estimated 52 percent of the nation's 2019 graduating cohort.

The ACT assesses students' college readiness based on meeting benchmarks in four subjects: English, math, reading and science. Fifty percent of Idaho students met three or four of those benchmarks. The national average of 2019 graduates meeting three or four benchmarks was 37 percent.

Other takeaways from this year's results, released Wednesday, include:

- 73 percent of Idaho graduates met the ACT English benchmark, up from 59 percent nationally
- 51 percent met the ACT math benchmark, up from 39 percent nationally
- 59 percent met the ACT reading benchmark, up from 45 percent nationally

- 47 percent met the ACT science benchmark, up from 36 percent nationally

“Idaho’s ACT scores are encouraging, but they are only part of the picture when it comes to analyzing college readiness and how to improve our students’ chances at success in college and career,” Superintendent Ybarra said. “I look forward to a future discussion about graduation requirements and how best to determine the college and career readiness of Idaho’s students.”

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**National ACT report:** [The Condition of College and Career Readiness 2019](#), was released today.