

Oldham Era

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Continuing a tradition of excellence

By Paul Upchurch, Oldham County Schools' Superintendent

ACT scores above the national level. The district and 11 of 17 schools above the state's 2014 goal of 100 – certainly a clear signal that Oldham County students continue to demonstrate strong academic success as seen in recent national and state assessment results.

A brief look at two sets of recent test reports absolutely give students, parents, teachers and administrators reasons to celebrate.

The 2009 ACT report for all graduating seniors is the first under the new state assessment regulations that require each high school junior to take the ACT regardless of their plans after high school.

PROGRESS MADE BY OLDHAM SCHOOLS SINCE 2007 USING THE TRANSITION INDEX			
SCHOOLS	2007	2008	2009
Buckner Elementary	106	112	113
Camden Station Elementary	102	98	101
Centerfield Elementary	101	103	103
Crestwood Elementary	87	90	98
Goshen Elementary	112	110	112
Harmony Elementary	105	107	105
Kenswood Elementary	96	100	108
La Grange Elementary	92	96	98
Liberty Elementary	108	106	109
Locust Grove Elementary	NA	NA	104
East Oldham Middle	106	107	111
North Oldham Middle	110	112	110
Oldham County Middle	94	96	97
South Oldham Middle	98	103	104
North Oldham High	98	98	97
Oldham County High	87	88	85
South Oldham High	91	94	94

2009 ACT Results for Oldham students					
	English	Math	Reading	Science	Composite
Oldham County	21.9	21.7	22.6	21.9	22.1
Kentucky	18.8	19.0	19.8	19.7	19.4
National	20.6	21.0	21.4	20.9	21.1

Prior to the graduating class of 2009 students took the ACT before going to college; students who did not plan on attending college did not take the ACT. For previous graduates, parents individually paid the cost of taking the ACT.

Beginning with the class of 2009 all students were required to take the ACT as part of the state assessment program; the state paid the cost of the ACT.

In the years before 2009, groups of students took the ACT usually in the junior year, but sometimes in the senior year; students can take the ACT more than once if they want to do that; parents pay the cost of those extra tests. The change in the state assessment means that for the first time ACT scores for the entire graduating class are reported. Thirty-four percent more students are included in the 2009 Oldham County ACT report than were included in the 2008 ACT report.

The Kentucky ACT report shows a 43-percent increase while the national increase is 4 percent.

The picture of Oldham County results at the state assessment level is just as bright. Action taken by Kentucky legislators during the 2009 session again changed the state education assessment system and eliminated the previous system of accountability.

Schools are now held accountable only through the NCLB process which reports the success of groups of students in meeting the federal targets in the areas of reading and math.

Using the results generated for the NCLB reports and the results in the other three content areas (science, social studies and on-demand writing), three state groups – The Prichard Committee, the Council for Better Education and the Kentucky Association of School Councils – created a new Index for directly comparing the Kentucky Core Content Test results across schools and districts.

This Transition Index provides all schools and districts a way to consider progress made through state assessment. The state goal for all schools and districts is 100 by the year 2014. With more than five

years remaining in the timeline to meet that target, 65 percent of Oldham County schools and the district are already above the goal:

- Eight of the 10 Oldham County elementary schools have already reached 100 (range from 113 to 98);
- Three of the four middle schools have also reached the goal of 100 (range from 111 to 97);
- The district score for elementary schools is at 105; for middle schools the score is also 105

The high schools are on their way to the score of 100 with scores that range from 85 to 97.

The total district score has moved from 98 in 2007 to 101 in 2009.

Results like these happen only with strong, focused work on the part of students, teachers and administrators.

All are to be commended for their success.

Additional details are available from school and district Web sites, including www.oldham.kyschools.us.

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