

FairTest

National Center for Fair & Open Testing

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for use with annual ACT scores release – 3:00am, Wednesday, August 17, 2011

FLAT ACT RESULTS, RISING COLLEGE PREP. SCORE GAPS SHOW FAILURE OF TEST-DRIVEN SCHOOL “REFORM”

Annual ACT college admissions exam scores released today show, “Test-driven policies which claim to be improving U.S. public schools are, in fact, a proven failure,” according to FairTest, the National Center for Fair & Open Testing.

FairTest Public Education Director Bob Schaeffer, explained. “Proponents of ‘No Child Left Behind’ and similar state-level high-stakes testing programs, such as exit exams, made two promises: their strategy would boost overall academic performance, and it would narrow historic achievement gaps between ethnic groups. But, academic gains, as measured by ACT, are stagnant and racial gaps are increasing.”

A recent report by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Science, *Incentives and Test-Based Accountability in Education*, also concluded that high-stakes testing programs have not raised student achievement in the U.S.

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2011 COLLEGE BOUND SENIORS AVERAGE ACT SCORES

Approximately 1.62 million test takers, of whom ~54% were female

	COMPOSITE SCORE TREND	FOUR-YEAR SCORE (2007 – 2011)
ALL TEST-TAKERS	21.1	- 0.1
Asian	23.6	+ 1.0
White	22.4	+ 0.3
African-American	17.0	0.0
American Indian	18.6	- 0.3
Hispanic	18.7	0.0

source: ACT, *The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2011*