



BARROW COUNTY SCHOOLS

"World class education, hometown values"

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Barrow Student's ACT Performance Improves in 2011

For the 2010-2011 school year Barrow County high school students performed at a higher level on the ACT examination than they did in the year previous. A record number of Barrow Students took part in the 2010-2011 American College Testing Program, more commonly referred to as the ACT. The ACT is a competitor to the more widely known SAT Reasoning Test. Like the SAT, the ACT is used as an entrance exam by major colleges and universities to gauge how prepared students are for a college curriculum. The ACT differs from the SAT in that the range of possible scores runs from an 11 to a 36, with an average of approximately 20, as compared to the SAT which has possible scores from 500 to 1600 with an approximate average of 1000. The ACT also lacks a mandatory writing section and students are not penalized for missed responses, as they are on the SAT. The ACT is split into four sections, which are English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science.

Overall, 255 Barrow Students took the ACT in 2010-2011, an increase of 16 from 2009-2010. The average composite score for Barrow students increased from an average of 19.1 in 2010 to 19.2 in 2011. Barrow students did lag behind the State average of 20.6. Nationally, the average was 21.0. The strongest areas for Barrow students were Science and Reading, which both yielded an average of 19.4, and the weakest area was English, which yielded an average of 18.2. Statewide approximately 49 percent of Georgia Seniors participated in the ACT assessment last year. For 2011 the Barrow county participation rate was approximately 37 percent.

Dr. Wanda Creel, Superintendent states, "As we continue to identify the best strategies for our students in the classroom we want to do the same with assessments. Traditionally, the SAT has been advocated as the assessment needed to apply for college. That is no longer the case. Before deciding to take either the ACT or the SAT we encourage each student to first meet with their advisor or school counselor to see which assessment may be best aligned with their individual strengths academically and from a learning style perspective. The ACT is as equally regarded as the SAT and is accepted as an entrance exam at our colleges and universities."

ACT	English	Math	Reading	Science	Composite
Georgia	20.1	20.7	20.8	20.3	20.6
Barrow	18.2	19.1	19.4	19.4	19.2
AHS	18.2	19.1	19.9	19.6	19.3
WBHS	18.2	19.1	18.9	19.3	19.0

