

ACT Research and Policy

Research Reports
Educator Reports
Policy Reports
Issue/Information Briefs

Information Brief

There is a strong relationship between ACT Explore® test Composite scores and high school graduation rates.

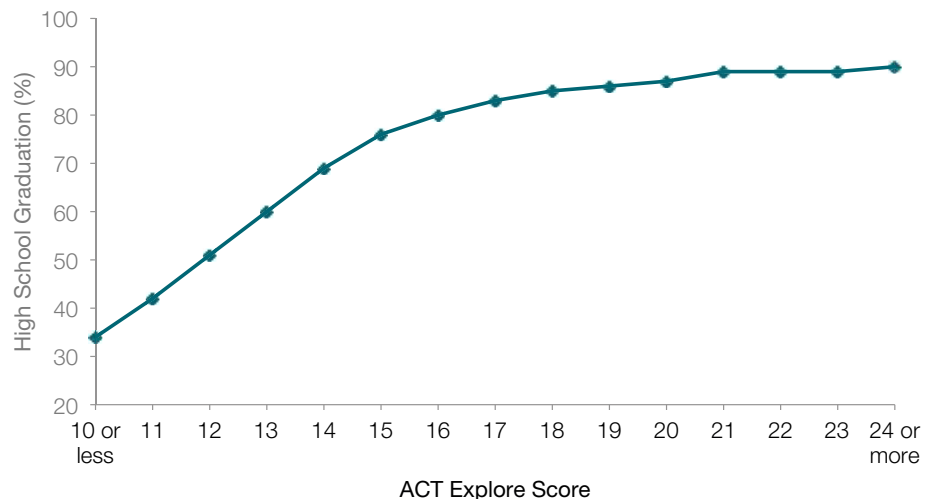
High School Graduation and Early High School Achievement

April 2013

An earlier ACT study found a strong relationship between student achievement at the beginning of high school and subsequent high school graduation.¹

- Students who received an ACT Explore Composite score of 15, which is the average Composite score, had a high school graduation rate of 76 percent.
- 61 percent of students who received an ACT Explore score of 13 (25th percentile) graduated from high school.
- 86 percent of students who received an ACT Explore score of 18 (75th percentile) graduated from high school.
- 34 percent of students whose ACT Explore score was 10 or less eventually graduated from high school.
- The graduation rate for students who scored a 24 or greater on ACT Explore was 90 percent.

High School Graduation by ACT Explore Achievement



Note: Students in the study took ACT Explore in 8th or 9th grade during the 2004–05 or 2005–06 school years and were expected to graduate from high school in 2009.

¹ Richard Buddin, *Implications of Educational Attainment Trends for Labor Market Outcomes*. ACT Research Report No. 2012-7 (Iowa City, IA: ACT, Inc., 2012).

infobrief@act.org for more information or to suggest ideas for future ACT Information Briefs.



www.act.org/research