

Kansas Student Readiness College and Career Outcomes

Maria Markham, ACT

Kansas House Education Committee
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Kansas Student Readiness

College and Career Outcomes

Agenda

- ACT's Partnership Kansas
- College Readiness In Kansas
 - *ACT Assessment Overview & Results*
- Career Readiness in Kansas
 - *WorkKeys Overview & Results*
- Continued Progress
 - *Trends & Opportunities*



ACT Partnership in Kansas

College Readiness

- *~ 50-55% of graduating seniors enter post-secondary education (per KS Regents)*

Career Readiness

- *~ 70-75% of Kansas jobs will need some post-secondary training/credentials (per KSDE)*

Employers increasingly require post-high school education/training.

College and career readiness should never be an either/or decision



***By measuring both college and career readiness,
Kansas supports multiple pathways to success.***

ACT Partnership in Kansas



- Contracted Partner
- Highschool juniors have option
- Public schools offer school testing



- Contracted Partner
- High school freshmen have option
- Public schools offer to 8th graders through district testing



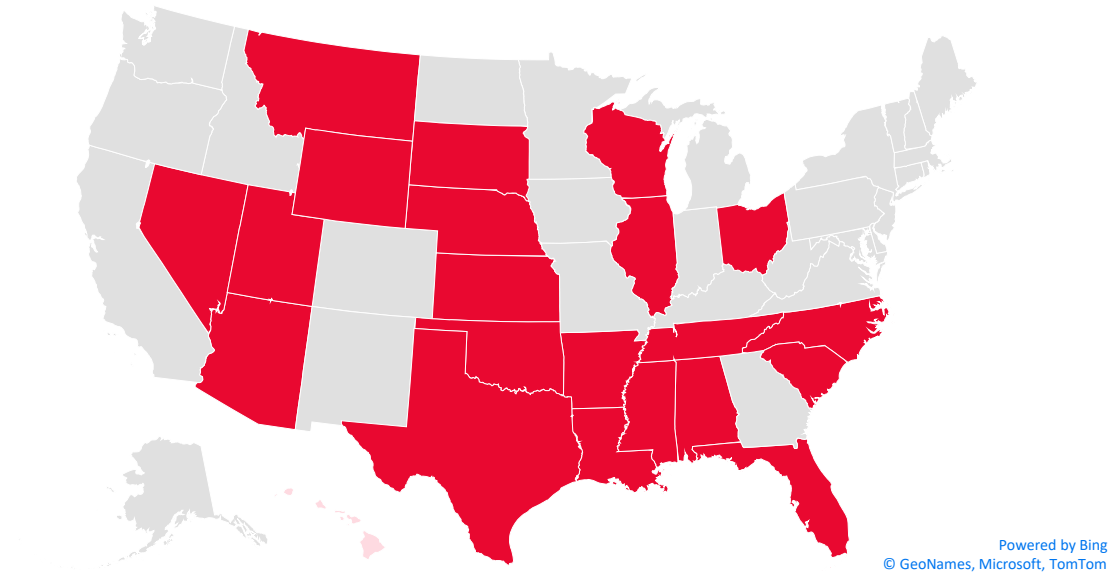
- Contracted Partner
- High school juniors and seniors have the option
- Adults seeking training opportunities have option

❖ *ACT measures college and career readiness, backed by decades of independent research.*

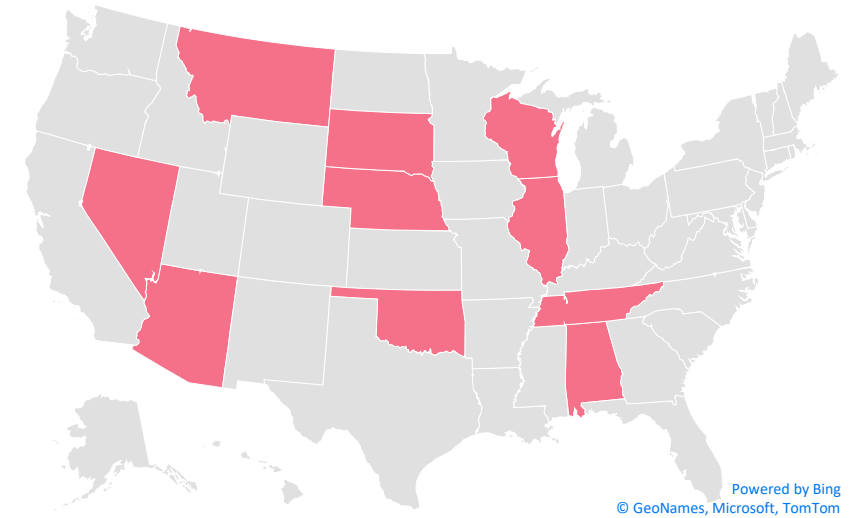
❖ *ACT does not design curriculum, set standards, or influence instruction.*

ACT Partnership in Kansas

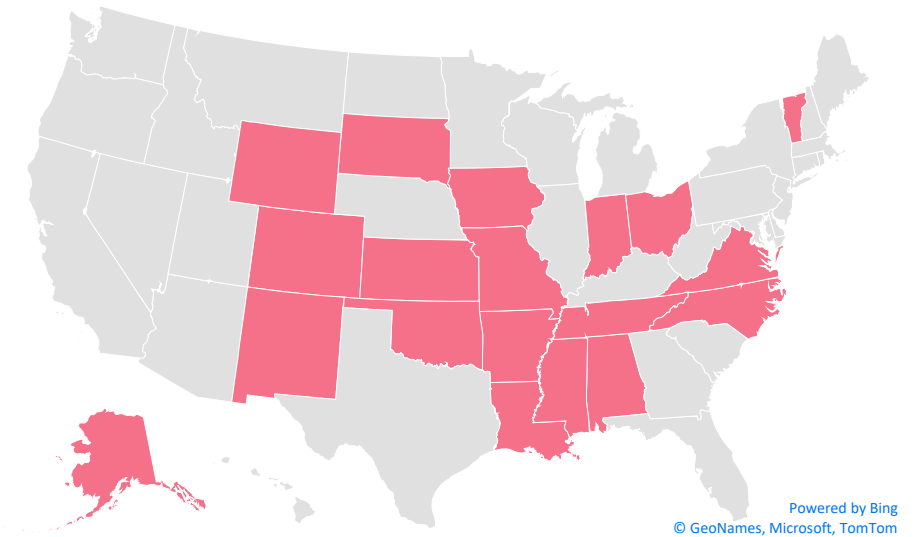
States offering ACT in Public Schools (Juniors)



States Using ACT for ESSA



States offering WorkKeys



College Readiness in Kansas

2025 ACT-Tested Graduates	Avg. Composite Score	% Meeting 3 or 4 Benchmarks	% Testing More Than Once	Avg. Composite Score Gain Among Retested Students
Kansas	19.1	27%	29%	1.4
States testing 50%–89%	19.4	30%	26%	1.3
United States	19.4	30%	34%	1.2

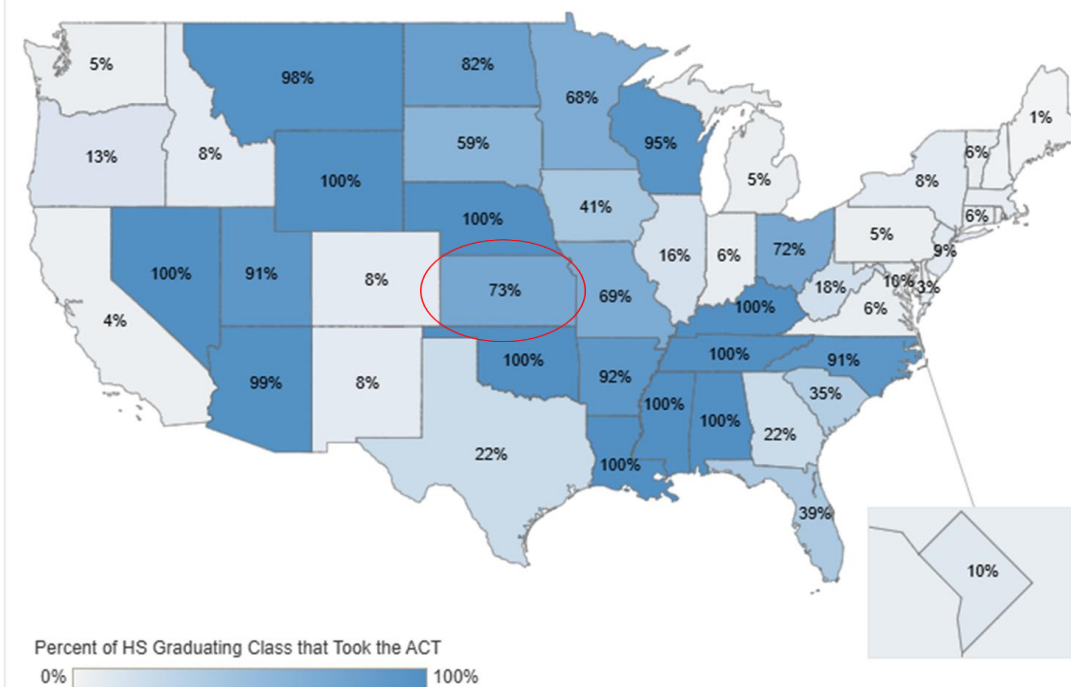
States testing 50%–89% of their graduates: Hawaii, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, and South Dakota.

Predicted Career Readiness

Sixty-two percent of ACT-tested high school graduates in Kansas would likely earn a Silver NCRC or higher if all students took the ACT WorkKeys NCRC assessments. Individuals who possess a Silver NCRC have the essential foundational skills needed for the majority of jobs in the U.S.

Ensuring Access For All Students

ACT offers fee waivers for test registration and test prep for students who are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. In the 2024–2025 academic year, ACT provided schools with more than one million fee waivers, valued at more than \$100 million. ACT issued 10,801 fee waivers to Kansas.



College Readiness in Kansas

ACT assesses college readiness across English, mathematics, reading, and science — aligning with Kansas’s emphasis on STEM education.

Including science reasoning allows readiness data to reflect skills relevant to STEM coursework and careers.

“

“Innovations in science and technology are critical for Kansans to provide basic services for healthy and vibrant communities and to create economic stability and growth.”

Kansas Regents
Kansas Science + Technology Plan
August 2021

College Readiness in Kansas

Figure 1.1. Average Composite Scores: 5 Years of Testing*

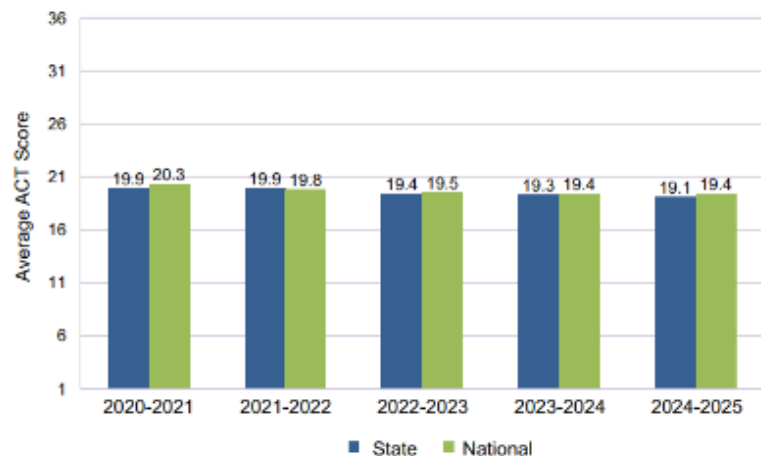


Figure 1.2. Percent Meeting 3 or 4 Benchmarks: 5 Years of Testing*

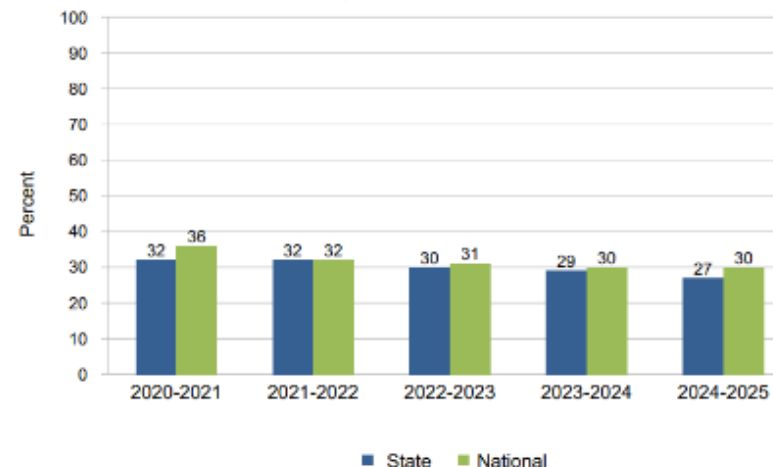


Figure 1.3. Percent Meeting STEM Benchmark: 5 Years of Testing*

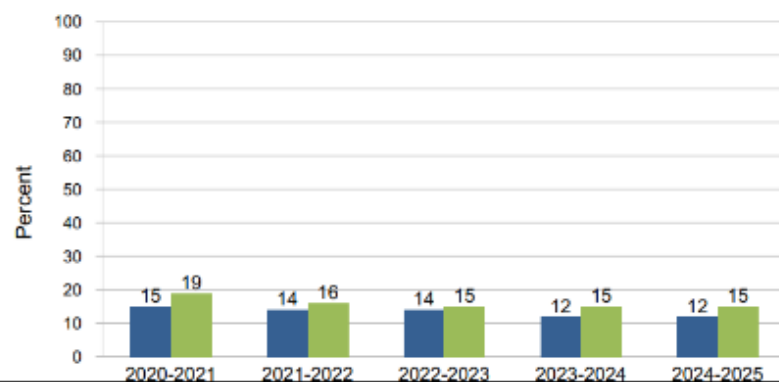
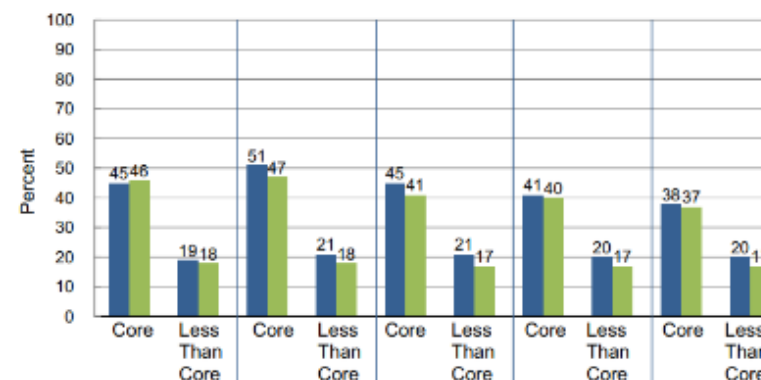
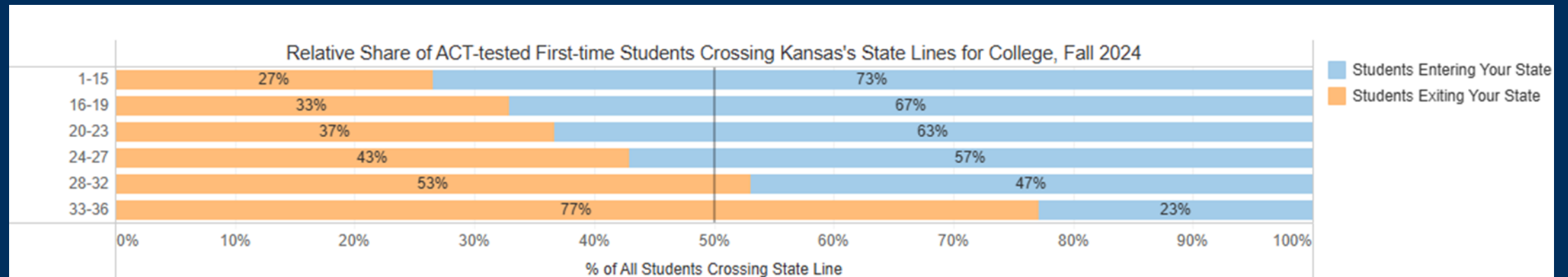


Figure 1.4. Percent Taking A Core Curriculum: 5 Years of Testing*



College Readiness in Kansas



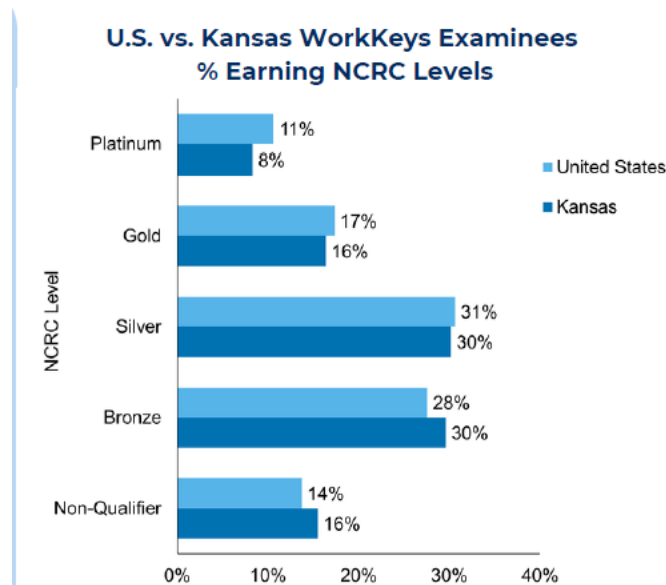
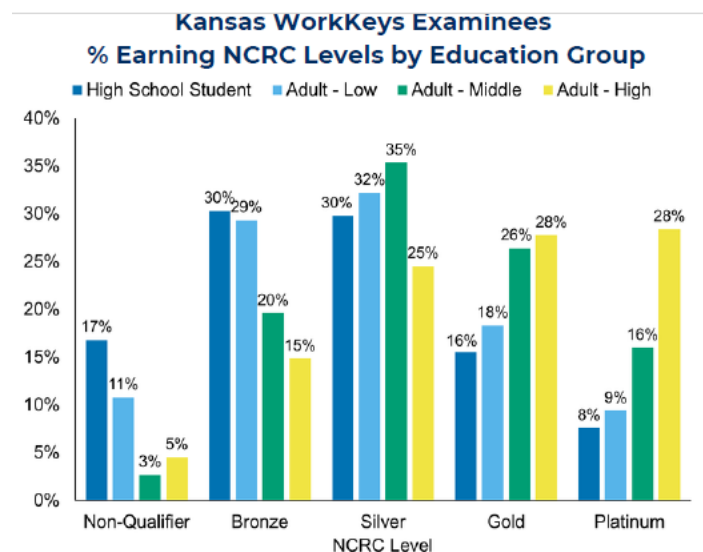
Career Readiness in Kansas

Kansas WorkKeys 2023-2025

2023-2025 NCRC Test-Takers



Non-Qualifier	4,818
Bronze	9,202
Silver	9,377
Gold	5,090
Platinum	2,577
Total	31,064



Continued Progress: Trends & Opportunities

College Readiness

- Senior Retakes
 - TN & WY - NE considering
- Institutions reinstating ACT for admissions and placement considering grade inflation concerns.

Career Readiness

- WorkKeys College Credit
 - ACE Recommend
- WorkKeys for scholarship eligibility-WY
- WorkKeys for admissions to dual enrollment CTE programs

When Readiness is Clear, Pathways are Strong.



College and career readiness,
because it should never be an either/or choice.

Every student deserves a choice-filled future.

By measuring both college and career readiness,
Kansas can support multiple pathways to success