

# Obtaining Academic Achievement Data

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# Obtaining Academic Achievement Data



## Overview

- Challenges & roadblocks to obtaining data
- Understanding FERPA
- Establishing data sharing agreements
- Communicating & collaborating with IT office staff
- Data resources:
  - ACT, Inc.
  - National Student Clearinghouse Student Tracker
- Discussion of best practices: experiences, suggestions, etc.

## Obtaining Academic Achievement Data



### Challenges & roadblocks to obtaining data

- (Over) concern for FERPA regulations
- Absence of data sharing agreements
- Difficulty establishing working relations with IT office personnel
- Lack of knowledge of viable data resources

## Obtaining Academic Achievement Data



### The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

- Federal law protecting privacy of student education records
- Schools do not need student/parent consent to provide data to:
  - School officials with legitimate educational interest, or
  - Specified official responsible for program evaluation
- Guidelines say “keep confidential,” don’t say how
- Bottom line: be responsible

## Obtaining Academic Achievement Data



### Establishing data sharing agreements

- Need trust & buy-in from administrators
- Note security measures in place
  - Password protected computers and files
  - Encrypted SSNs and student IDs
- Note privacy measures
  - Restrict disclosure of personally identifiable info
  - Report results in aggregate only – do not report small ns.

## Obtaining Academic Achievement Data



### Communicating & collaborating with IT office staff

- Best when administrator initiates the request
- Construct a data record layout specifying needs
- Include your timeframe

## Obtaining Academic Achievement Data



Data resources:

National Student Clearinghouse

- Background
- How We Obtain the Collegiate Data
- StudentTracker services
- Results

## Obtaining Academic Achievement Data



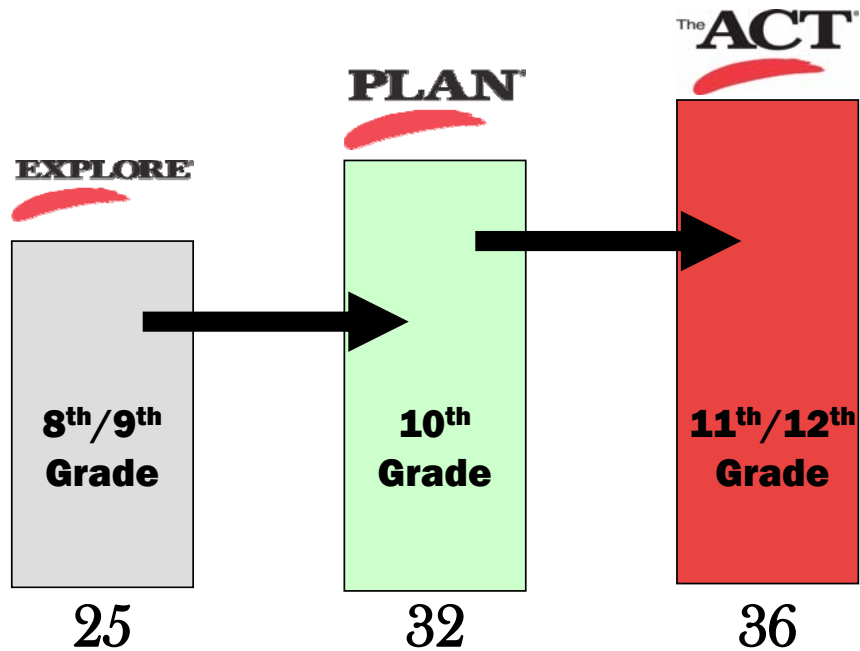
Data resources:

ACT, Inc.

- Who are we?
- What do we do?
- How do we align with GEAR UP?
- What services do we provide?

# LONGITUDINAL ASSESSMENTS

College Readiness System Scores



## College Readiness Benchmarks



Test	College Course(s)	EXPLORE	PLAN	ACT
English	English Composition	13/14	15	18
Math	College Algebra	17/18	19	22
Reading	Social Sciences	15/16	17	21
Science	Biology	20/20	21	24

\*The ACT Benchmark Score indicates a 50% chance of obtaining a "B" or a 75% chance of obtaining a "C" in corresponding credit-bearing college courses.

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Discussion of best practices:  
Experiences, suggestions, etc.

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