

NCCEP/GEAR UP Conference 2010

Acquiring Student-Level Academic Data

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Acquiring Student-Level Academic Data

Overview

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



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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

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The Family Education Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA)

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

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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 sample sizes.



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Communicating & Collaborating with IT Staff

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



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Data Resources:

National Student Clearinghouse

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



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Data Resources:

ACT, Inc.

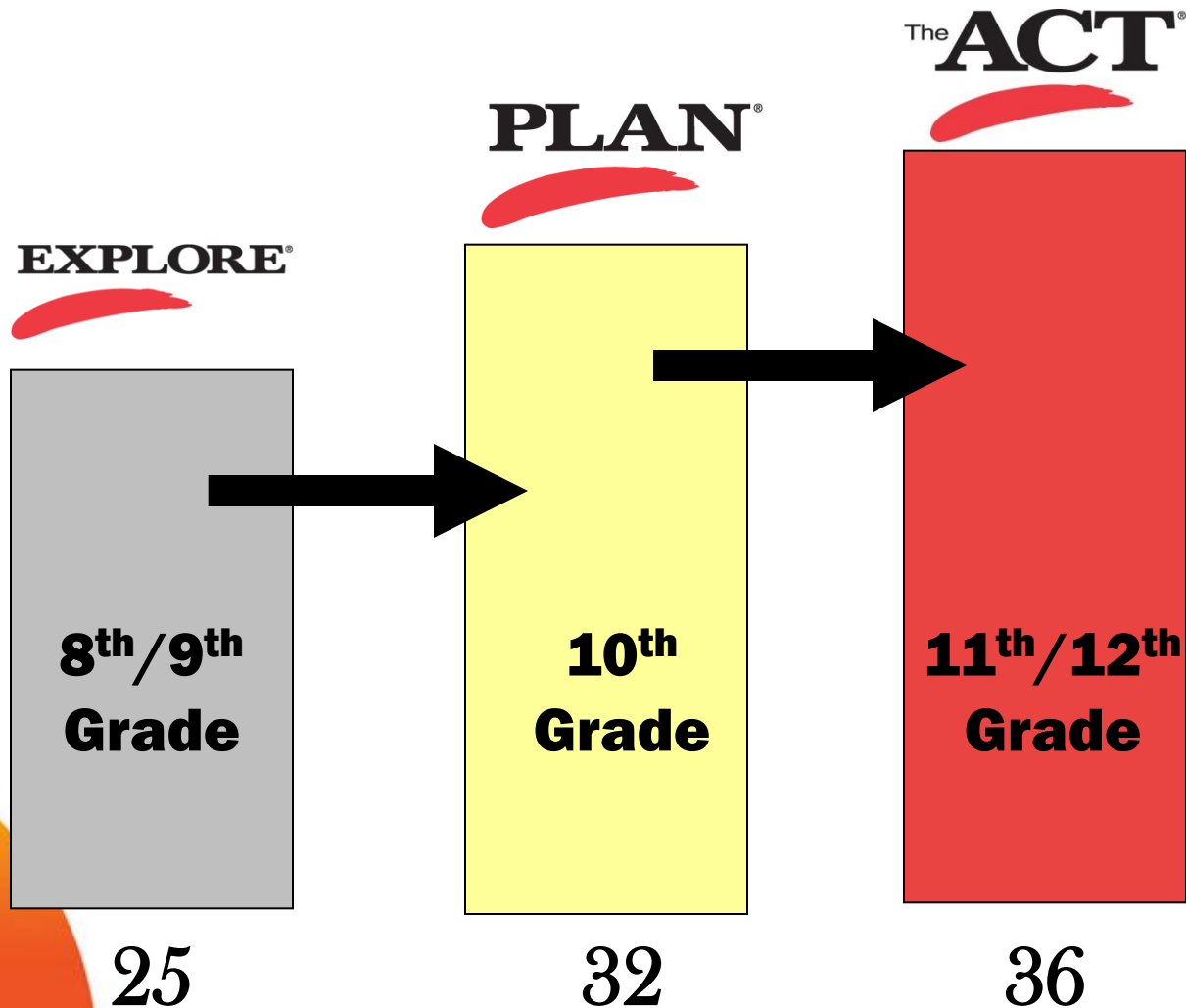
- Who are we?
- What do we do?
- How do we align with GEAR UP?
- What services do we provide?



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LONGITUDINAL ASSESSMENTS

College Readiness System Scores



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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

Note. 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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Questions?

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