



To: Lutheran High School Westland FRESHMEN and FRESHMEN PARENTS
 From: Tim Gieschen, Guidance Director tgieschen@lhsa.com
 Subject: EXPLORE test results Date: February 2009

Results from the October EXPLORE test with a booklet of explanation were given to freshmen in November. Students were told to take the results home to parents. Here is a copy for your review.

1. The EXPLORE test (a practice ACT test and career inventory) covers the same 4 subject areas as the real ACT with the EXPLORE questions geared toward 9th grade level coursework.
2. This EXPLORE test is just a 'snapshot' of a student's ability. It usually gives an accurate and realistic reading of the student's progress, but occasionally scores do not reflect true ability.
3. Sophomores will take another practice ACT called the **PLAN test**.
4. **SAT or ACT:** Two competing companies publish college entrance tests – ACT and SAT. Most colleges accept either test. Most colleges in the Midwest prefer the ACT.
5. The first 'real' ACT is given as part of the MI Merit Exam in March of grade 11. Students have time to improve their scores by taking challenging classes and doing well in those classes.
6. **Career websites:** Students should explore careers of interest by visiting career websites.
 - a. www.actstudent.org/explore The official EXPLORE student website
 - b. **Occupational Outlook Handbook:** US Dept. of Labor site describing jobs, training, outlook and earnings. www.bls.gov/oco/home.htm or www.bls.gov/k12/
 - c. www.lhwl.lhsa.com see the Lutheran Westland website for college and career links

1. What your strong and weak areas?

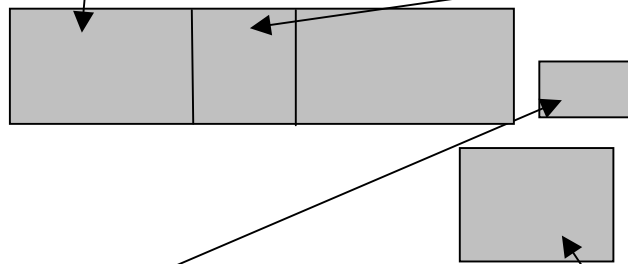
Compare your test scores (1-25) in English, Math, Reading, and Science. The composite score is an overall score based on the four subtests.

2. Look at your percentile scores:

Percentiles compare your score to all students nationally. EXPLORE percentiles are GOOD predictors of actual ACT percentiles. They tend not to change. It gives an idea of where the student ranks to other scores across the US.

Example: A 38 percentile means the score is higher than 38% of the scores, 62% scored higher (below average). 50%ile is exactly middle of the pack 99%ile is the highest possible

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4. COLLEGE READINESS

ACT has set benchmark scores which indicate if a student is on track to be ready for college.

Meeting a benchmark score means the student has a 50% or better chance of getting a 'C' in that course as a freshman in college.

ACT set the benchmark by tracking actual students from grade 9 through to college.

If a student is below a benchmark score, students are encouraged to take classes in that subject during high school to improve their skills in that subject.

3. Predicted PLAN/ACT score

Because ACT publishes the test, it is very accurate at predicting ACT test scores.

PLAN (grade 10) composite scores are 2-4 pts higher than EXPLORE ACT (grade 11) composite scores are 2-4 pts higher than PLAN.

Add 6-8 points to EXPLORE to get a predicted ACT composite.

Here are some general guidelines:

- ACT Composite 26-36: To get into highly selective colleges (U of M)
- ACT 21-26: Traditional 4-year colleges (Eastern MI, Concordia)
- ACT 17-20: 2-yr./Community college (Schoolcraft)