



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

Results from the October PLAN test with a booklet of explanation were given to sophomores recently. Students were told to take the results home to parents. Here is a copy for your review.

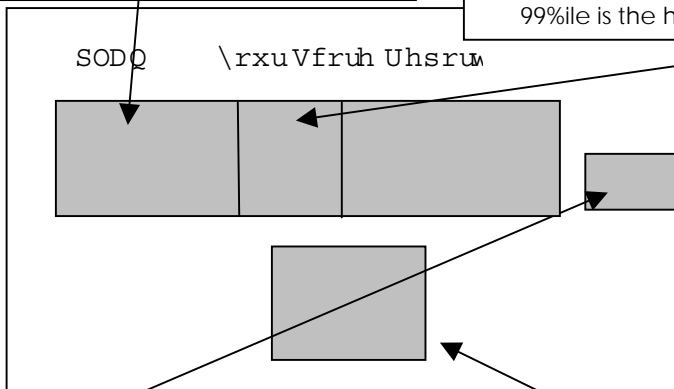
1. The PLAN test (a practice ACT test and career inventory) covers the same 4 subject areas as the real ACT with the PLAN questions geared toward 10th grade level coursework.
2. This test is just a 'snapshot' of a student's ability on that day. It usually gives an accurate and realistic reading of the student's progress, but occasionally scores do not reflect true ability.
3. **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.
4. 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.
5. **Career websites:** Students should explore careers of interest by visiting career websites.
 - a. www.actstudent.org/plan 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 (1-32) 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. PLAN 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).
 50th percentile is exactly middle of the pack
 99th percentile is the highest possible



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 ACT score

PLAN is a very accurate predictor of ACT test scores. ACT (grade 11) composite scores are usually 2-4 pts higher than PLAN.

Here are some general guidelines:

Open admissions	ACT Composite 16-21	(Schoolcraft)
Traditional admissions	ACT Composite 18-24	(Northern MI, Ferris)
Selective admissions	ACT Composite 21-26	(Eastern MI, Concordia)
Highly Selective	ACT Composite 25-30	(U of M)