

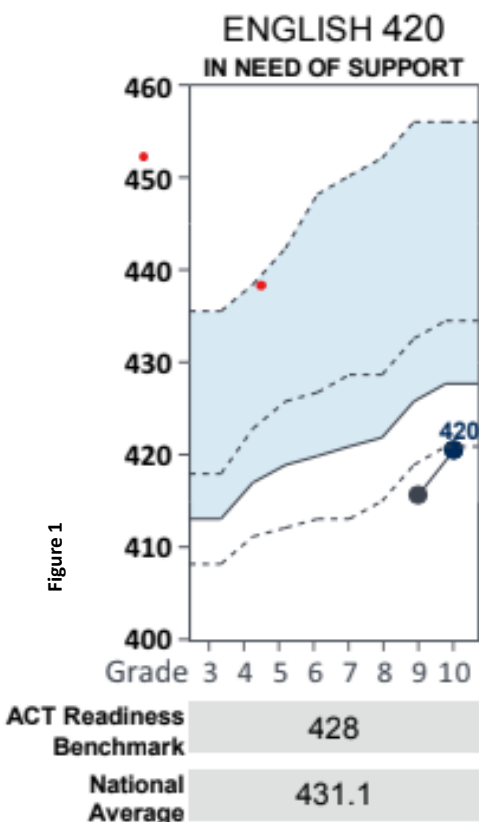
**UNDERSTANDING THE PURPOSE:** For years, we have understood the ACT test as one of the many indicators of college readiness for our juniors and seniors, but we have not always had clear predictors for their on-track readiness in their earlier years of high school. In order to better identify and address areas of academic strengths and weaknesses within our freshmen and sophomore students, the high schools of the Bismarck Public School District have adopted the ACT Aspire assessments.

The ACT Aspire results provide students with their predicted ACT score as well as their level of college and career readiness. It also breaks down each core area into subcategories of readiness and provides improvement ideas for students. The results produce snapshots of each learner’s achievement while showing a strong correlation to ACT performance. Your results will be used when helping you make course selections. Additionally, results will help determine placement in intervention and in advanced courses.

## A Quick Look at ACT Aspire™ Results

Your ACT Aspire student score report contains a lot of information about your skills that can help answer three important questions about you and your future.

- 1. Where do I stand right now?** ACT Aspire shows your strengths and weaknesses in up to five subject areas: English, math, reading, science, and writing. You can also see how you are doing in combined subject areas such as English language arts (ELA) and science and math (STEM). Your report also shows how you performed in specific skill areas within each subject. Finally, you can see how your scores compare to those of other students who have taken ACT Aspire.
- 2. How can I make goals for the future?** The scores you achieved on the ACT Aspire test(s) can help you decide what to do next. Looking at specific areas of strength and weakness can help you determine where you need help and where you may need to be challenged. This information can help you plan coursework and set goals.
- 3. Am I on target for high school, college, and a career?** For most students, reaching their goals includes getting a high school and college education. Preparing for college or workplace training means having access to quality instruction and putting forth your best effort. Your ACT Aspire score report references ACT Readiness Benchmarks, ACT Readiness Ranges, and a Progress Toward Career Readiness indicator.



## What the scores mean

For each subject you took, you will see a three-digit score. Just like your teachers turn your quiz and test scores into grades, ACT Aspire takes the number of points you got right on each test and translates it into a number. Your score for each subject will fall into one of three levels: Ready, Close, or In Need of Support. The level your score falls into indicates how you did in meeting certain standards or benchmarks (Figure 1).

The **national percentile** ranks are also provided for each subject tested. Your ranks show the percentage of students in the nation who took the exam and scored the same or lower than yours.

Students also receive a **skills score**, which provides more specific information regarding the subject score, breaking each subject into strands of skills so students can better understand areas of strengths and weaknesses (Figure 2).

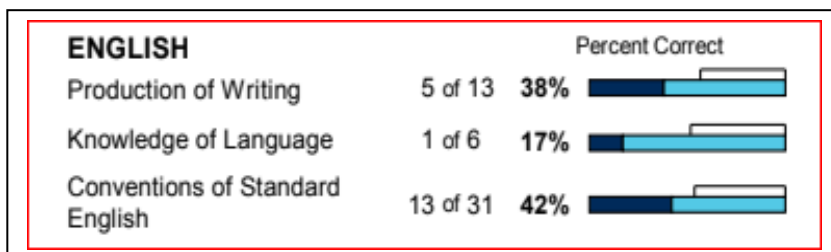


Figure 2

## Benchmark Readiness Levels

Subject	Grade	Benchmark on Summative Aspire given in the spring	Predicted ACT score	Subject	Grade	Benchmark on Summative Aspire given in the spring	Predicted ACT score
English	9	426	18	Reading	9	425	22
	10	428			10	428	
Math	9	428	22	Science	9	430	23
	10	432			10	432	
Writing <small>not included in the composite score</small>	9	428	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Composite Score/Predicted ACT Composite Score</b></p> <p><b>Range:</b> The predicted ACT score ranges that are included in your student score report can guide college preparation and help you see if you are on target to achieve the ACT scores you want by the time you take the ACT.</p> <p><b>Scholarships:</b> ND State Scholarship requires <math>\geq 24</math> on the ACT.</p> <p><b>College &amp; University view of ACT:</b> Assists in course placement as well as serves as a strong predictor of overall academic success.</p>				
	10	428					
<p><b>What the ACT Readiness Benchmarks Mean</b></p> <p>The ACT Aspire scale gauges student progress toward college readiness. Students who are at and above the benchmark are on track to have a high probability of future success in first-year college courses. For more information, visit the ACT Aspire website: <a href="https://www.discoveractaspire.org/assessments/">https://www.discoveractaspire.org/assessments/</a></p> <p>For exemplar questions, visit ACT Aspire website: <a href="https://www.discoveractaspire.org/assessments/test-items/">https://www.discoveractaspire.org/assessments/test-items/</a></p>							

## What to do with the results

Look at how your scores for each subject compare to the ACT Readiness Benchmark scores on your score report.

**Are your scores at or above the ACT Readiness Benchmarks?** If so, you are doing well, but keep working hard. Think about improvement ideas given for your lowest-performing skill in each subject and take challenging classes.

**Are your subject scores below the ACT Readiness Benchmarks or your skills scores below the ACT Readiness Ranges?** Don't panic, but do set aside time to discuss any improvement ideas with your counselors, teachers, and parents so you can work together to get the most from your courses and reach the goals of being ready for college and workplace training. It's important to start taking action now and to take these tests seriously.

As always, with any assessment, keep perspective: this is a snapshot of one day's performance in a four-year high school career. You may want to consider areas of strength when signing up for advanced classes; access the Patriot Hub, take advantage of teacher tutorial, and take class work seriously as the strands of ACT align with our district standards.

For more comprehensive information, go to

[https://www.discoveractaspire.org/pdf/2014\\_actaspire\\_UnderstandingAspireResults.pdf](https://www.discoveractaspire.org/pdf/2014_actaspire_UnderstandingAspireResults.pdf)