

# READINESS DAY

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Setting a Higher Standard to Increase Student Success

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Three years ago, Affton High School in St. Louis, Missouri sought to improve student learning and readiness for college and career. To achieve their goal, administrators wanted to create a culture around college and career readiness and set a standard that all students who want a higher education have the academic skills to earn one. **By dedicating a day to college and career readiness, they have had success.**

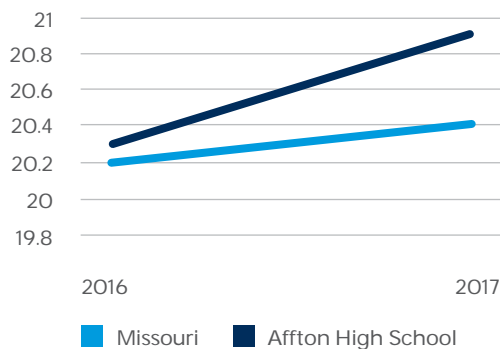
- First-year students take ACT Aspire®
- Sophomores take PreACT®
- Juniors take the ACT test
- Seniors celebrate completing ACT testing at an offsite picnic

- School administrators use multiple channels like classroom time, parent meetings, email, and social media to communicate with students and parents.
- Juniors are enrolled in a preparatory course that helps them with test-taking strategies, specifically for the ACT test.
- Parents learn how to interpret the ACT score report and take steps to help their child improve academic skills.
- Dr. Tim Luecke, Assistant Principal, gives students a pep talk after they have completed their pretest activities.
- There are even plans in the future for banners and pep rallies.

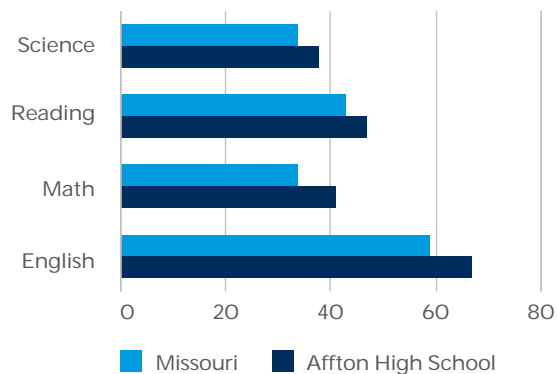
**“We really want the students and their parents to have a positive experience leading into test day. I believe students who feel like they’ve been treated with their best interests in mind will step up and give it their best effort,”** said Dr. Luecke.

**Affton’s ACT scores are higher compared to the state over the past five years. And, 41% of Affton students met three or four ACT College and Career Readiness Benchmarks, while only 35% of students statewide are at that same level.**

**Average ACT Scores: Affton High vs State**



**2017 Percentage of Students Meeting College and Career Readiness Benchmarks**



The results connected to Affton’s college and career readiness day have been impressive and demonstrate the value of **building a culture of college and career readiness and creating a testing environment that inspires confidence in students and educators.**