

ACT Performance for Students with Disabilities who Tested with Accommodations in 2014

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Students with documented disabilities may take the ACT® test with test accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Examples of test accommodations include a large type test booklet, extended time, and alternate test formats, including Braille, DVDs, or a reader (www.actstudent.org/regist/disab/). The table below shows the

average ACT scores for students with disabilities who tested under accommodations during the 2013–2014 academic year, compared to the population of all ACT-tested high school graduates of 2014. Figure 1 shows the average ACT Composite score by disability type.

Table 1. Average ACT Scores for Students who Tested with Accommodations in 2013–2014

Reference group	Number of students	Average ACT score				
		ACT English	ACT Mathematics	ACT Reading	ACT Science	ACT Composite
Learning Disability						
Mathematics Disorder	3,585	14.3	15.4	16.4	15.5	15.5
Reading Disorder	31,753	13.7	16.5	16.3	16.9	16.0
Writing Disorder/Written Expression	938	16.7	19.2	18.7	19.4	18.6
Speech/Language Disorder	251	15.6	17.7	17.5	18.3	17.4
Physical/Sensory Disabilities						
Hearing Impairment	1,132	13.2	16.7	16.3	17.3	16.0
Motor Impairment ¹	719	21.1	20.5	23.4	21.9	21.8
Visual Impairment ²	869	19.0	19.2	21.5	19.7	20.0
Other Physical/Sensory Disability	218	18.5	19.0	19.0	19.8	19.2
Psychological Disability						
ADD/ADHD	14,449	18.2	18.8	19.9	19.4	19.2
Psychiatric Disorder ³	937	23.9	22.4	25.6	23.7	24.0
Emotional/Behavioral Disorder	2,294	15.3	16.5	17.3	16.8	16.6
Autism Spectrum Asperger's Disorder	1,314	18.6	18.8	19.6	19.8	19.4
Traumatic Brain Injury	81	18.1	19.1	19.3	19.5	19.0
Other ⁴	8,779	12.2	15.2	14.6	15.2	14.4
All ACT-tested high school graduates, 2014	1,845,787	20.3	20.9	21.3	20.8	21.0

Note: 1 – e.g. Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy. 2 – e.g. 20/100 corrected Visual Acuity. 3 – e.g. Mood or Anxiety. 4 – Includes Mental or Intellectual Disability.

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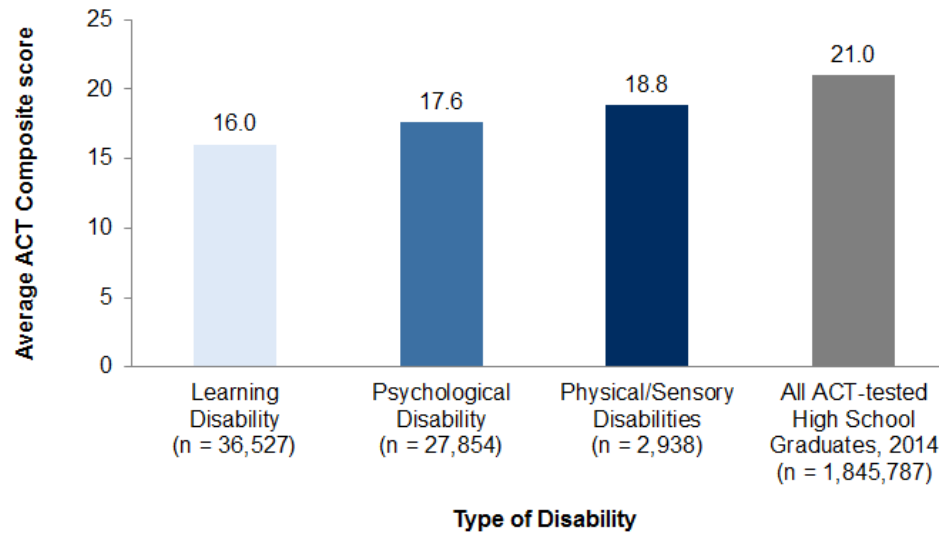


Figure 1. Average ACT Composite Score by Disability Type Compared to the Population of ACT-tested High School Graduates of 2014

Key Takeaways

- On average, with a few exceptions, students who tested with accommodations earned lower scores than did students from the population of all ACT-tested high school graduates of 2014.
- On average, students with motor impairments and psychiatric disorders (e.g., mood or anxiety) scored as well as or better than the average score for the population of ACT-tested high school graduates of 2014.
- Students with learning disabilities tended to score lower on average than did students with other types of disabilities.

Other recent ACT Research on special tested-students includes:

- Allen, J. (2016). [*Subgroup Representation and Validity in ACT College Readiness Benchmark Development Samples*](#). Iowa City, IA: ACT.
- Huh, N. and Huang, C. (2016). [*Examining the Validity of ACT Composite Score and High School Grade Point Average for Predicting First-Year College GPA of Special-Tested Students*](#). Iowa City, IA: ACT.