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The ACT is a college entrance exam that has four subject area scores (English, mathematics, reading, and science) as well as a composite score. All scores (subject and composite) range from 1 to 36.

In the 2019 to 2020 school year (SY2020), ACT changed how it reported student-level scores. Instead of sending a data file to school districts, district personnel now download ACT scores for their district from [ACT Success for Organizations](#). The SY2020 file downloaded for Atlanta Public Schools (APS) contains all ACT scores for APS students who took the test during SY2020. This file included students who were not graduates and each individual score for students who took the test more than once. To align more closely with ACT profile reports, data presented in this brief represents the most recent ACT score for students who took the ACT more than once in SY2020 and only includes students enrolled in 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup> grade at APS high schools during SY2020.

This brief summarizes APS high school student participation and performance on the ACT during SY2020. Due to the changes in ACT reporting, this brief will not compare SY2020 to previous years. It is also important to note that the COVID-19 pandemic took place in the Spring of SY2020.

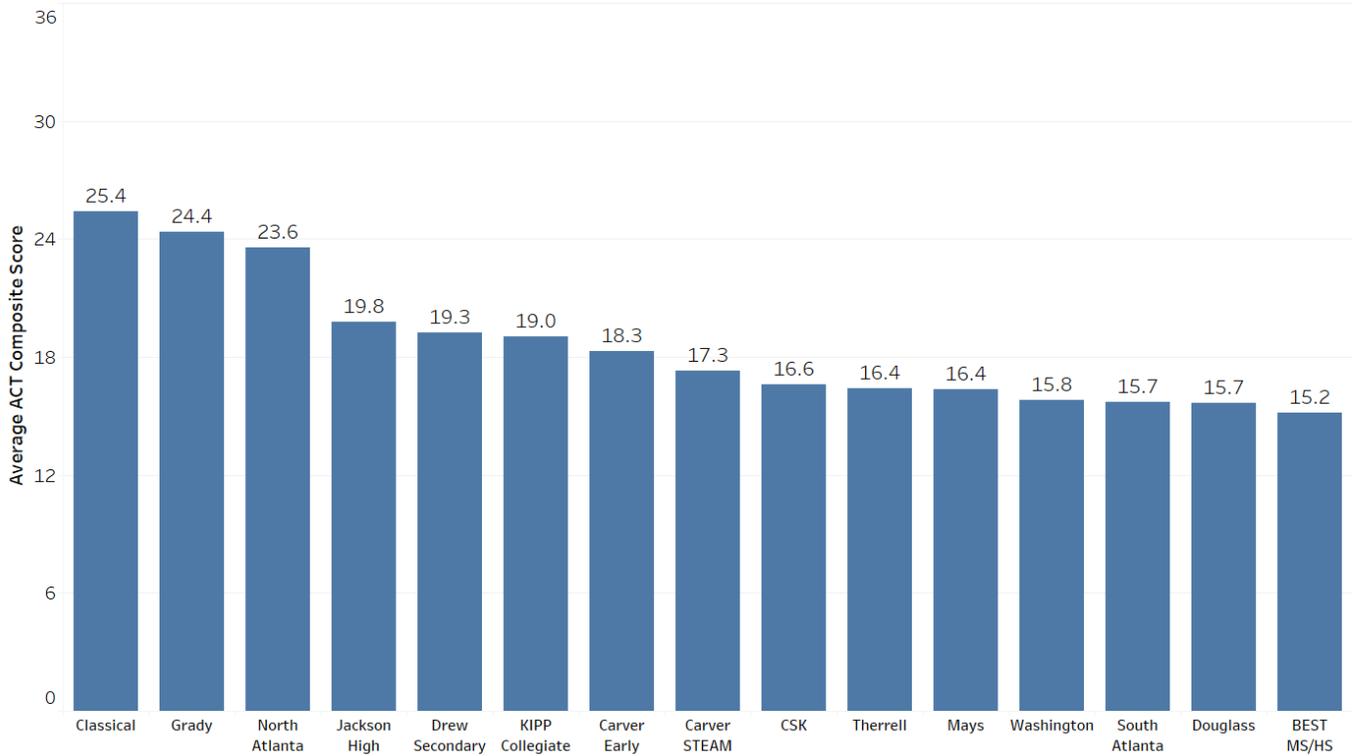
In SY2020, 1,247 APS students took the ACT. Table 1 contains the average composite and subject scores for the district using each student's most recent test score from SY2020. APS high school students overall scored the highest in reading and the lowest in mathematics.

*Table 1. Average ACT Score within APS*

<b>ACT Subject</b>	<b>Average Score</b>
<b>Composite</b>	19.6
<b>English</b>	19.2
<b>Mathematics</b>	18.7
<b>Reading</b>	20.5
<b>Science</b>	19.5

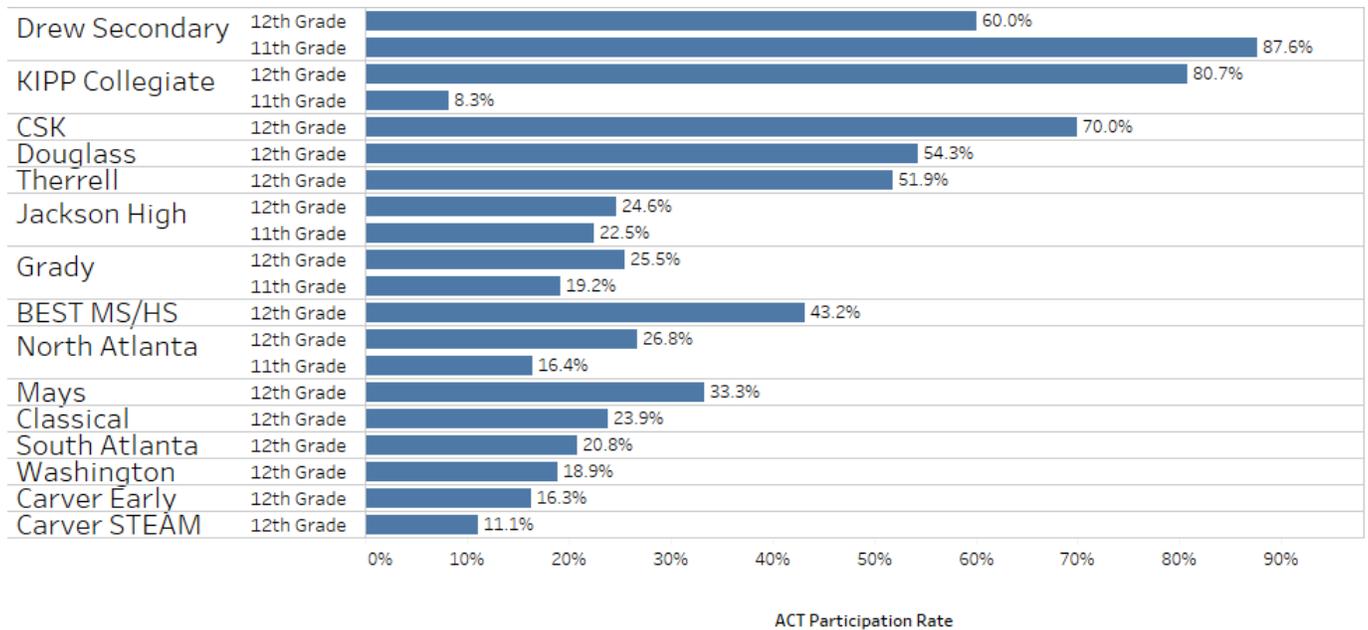
The average ACT score varied widely by school. Figure 1 presents the average ACT composite score for each APS high school where at least 10 students took the ACT. Atlanta Classical Academy had the highest average ACT composite score at 25.4, followed by Grady high school at 24.4 and North Atlanta High School at 23.6. BEST MS/HS had the lowest average ACT composite score at 15.2.

Figure 1. Average ACT Composite Score by APS High School



In addition to the average composite score, the percentage of enrolled students who took the test varied significantly from school to school. Figure 2 presents the ACT participation rate by grade level within each school<sup>1</sup>. Grade levels with less than ten students taking the ACT in SY2020 were excluded from the figure. Eleventh grade students at Drew Secondary had the highest test participation rate at 87.6% and twelfth grade students at Carver STEAM had the lowest test participation rate at 11.1%.

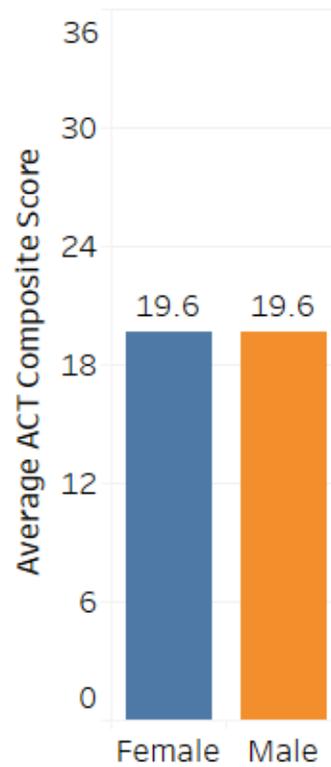
Figure 2. ACT Participation Rate by Grade Level within each School



<sup>1</sup>The participation rate was calculated by dividing the number of students who took the ACT by the number of students who were enrolled at the end of SY2020.

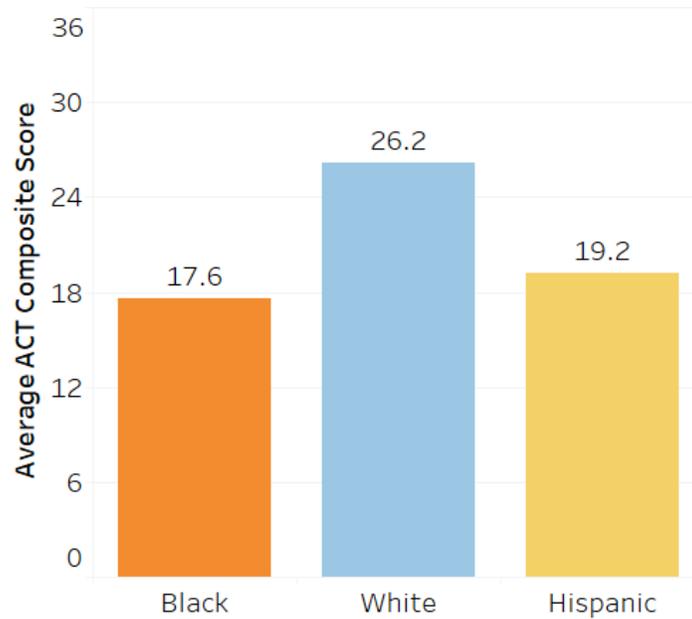
The average ACT composite score did not vary substantially by gender as seen in Figure 3.

Figure 3. Average ACT Composite Score by Gender



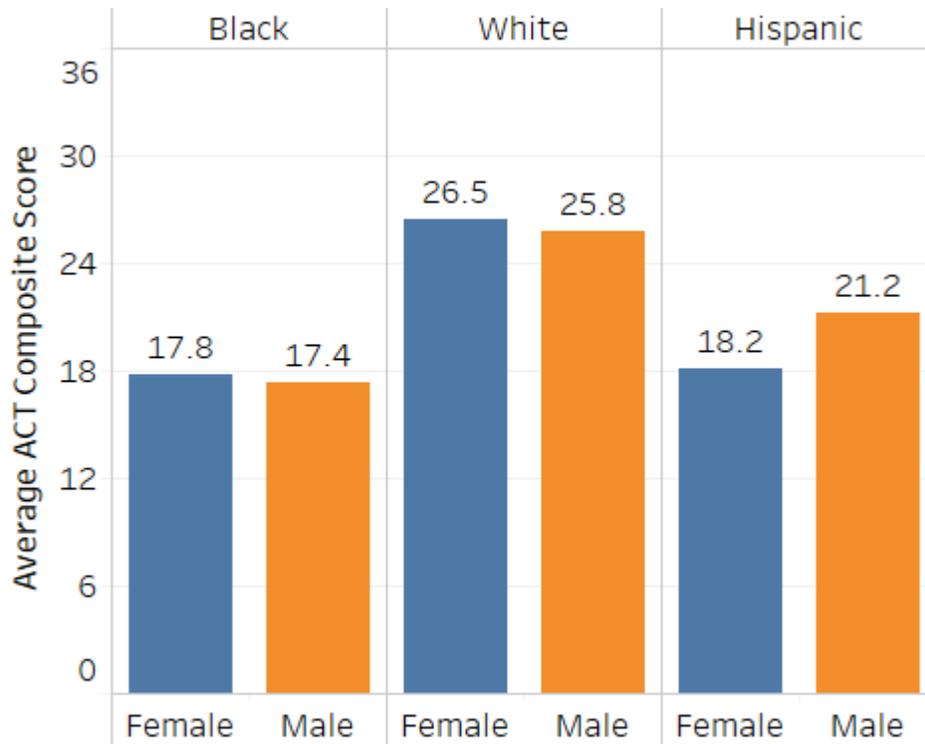
The average ACT composite score varied by race/ethnicity as seen in Figure 4.

Figure 4. Average ACT Composite Score by Race/Ethnicity



Separating students by gender within each racial/ethnic group indicates that on average, White and Black female identifying students have slightly higher ACT composite scores compared to their male counterparts, as seen in Figure 5. However, students identifying as male and Hispanic on average, scored higher than their female counterparts.

Figure 5. Average ACT Composite Score by Race/Ethnicity and Gender



## Appendix A Average ACT Subject Test Score by School

Table 1A. Average ACT English Score by School

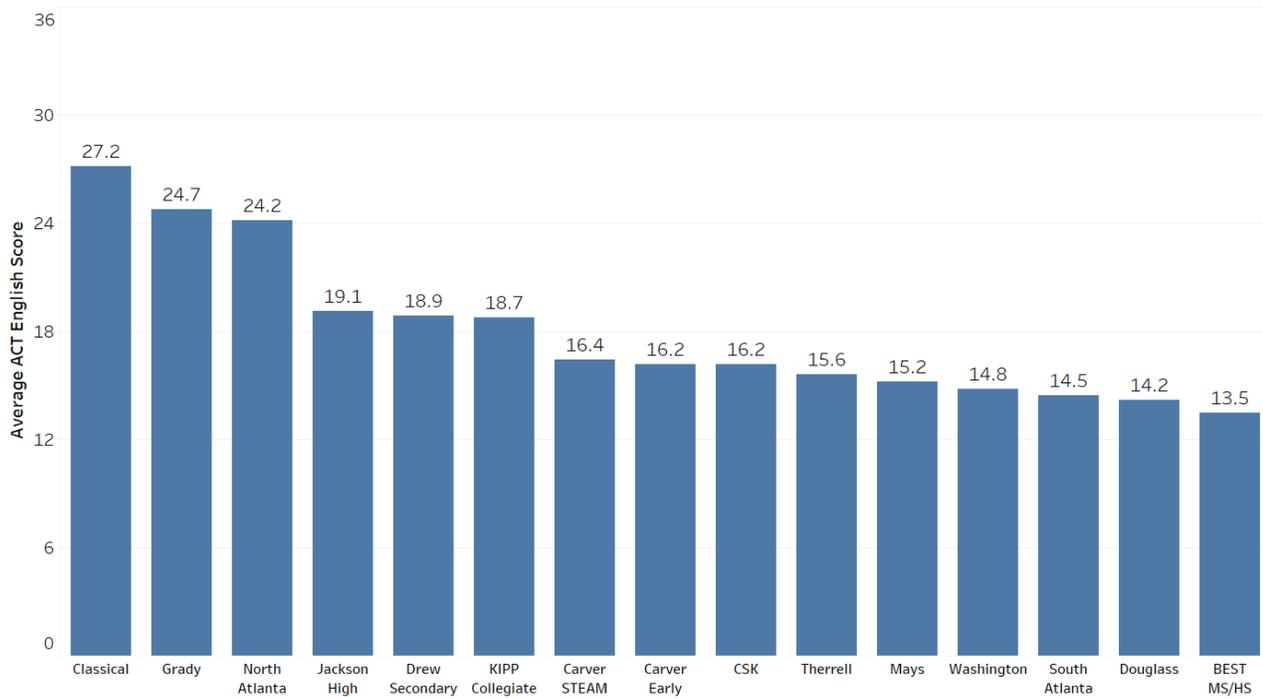
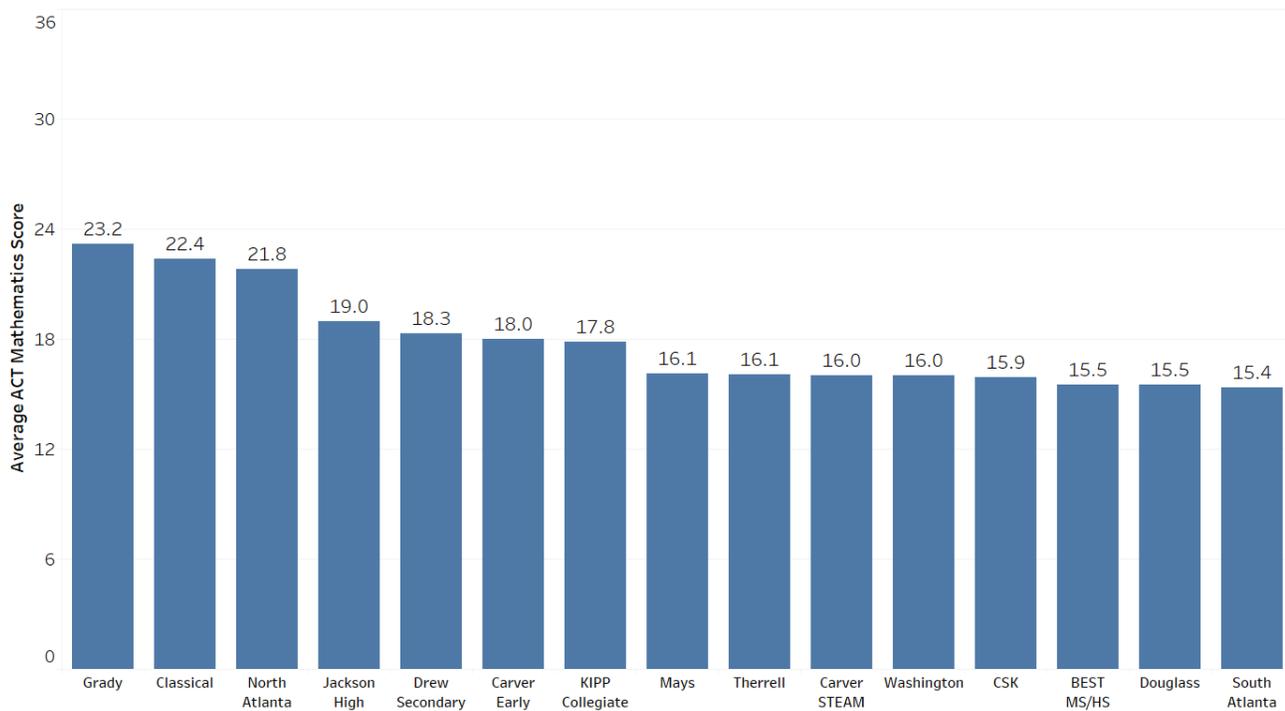
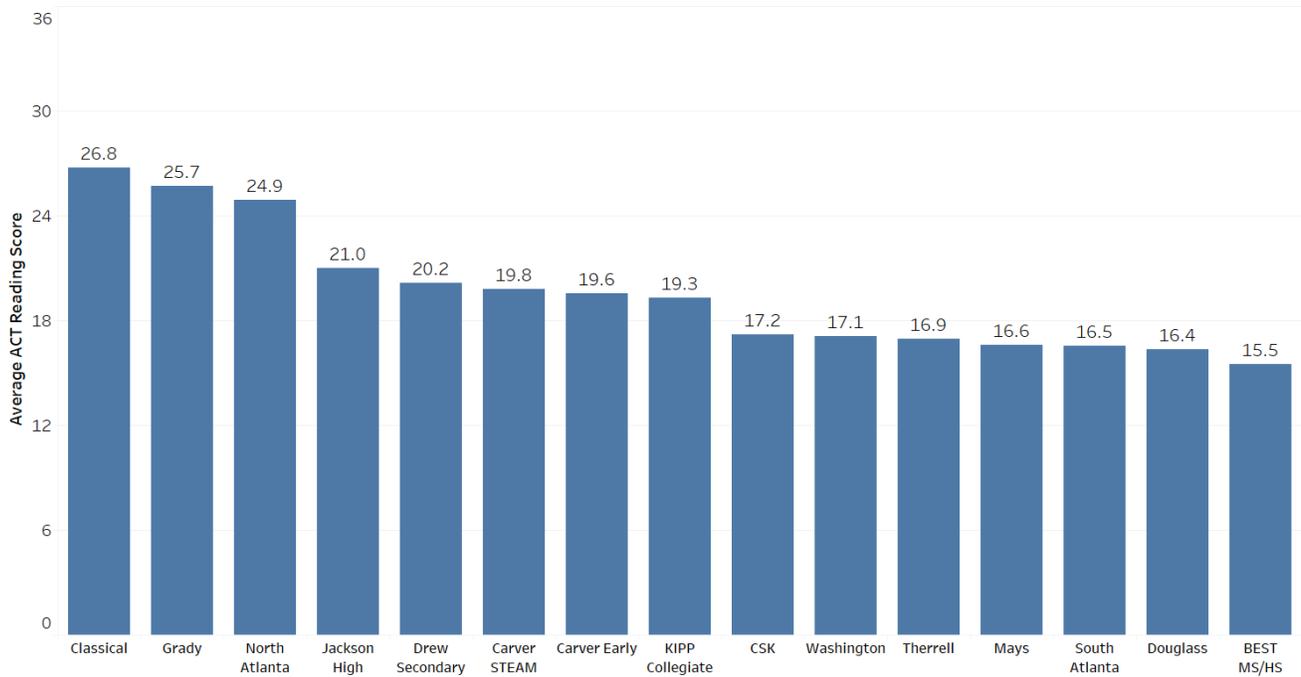


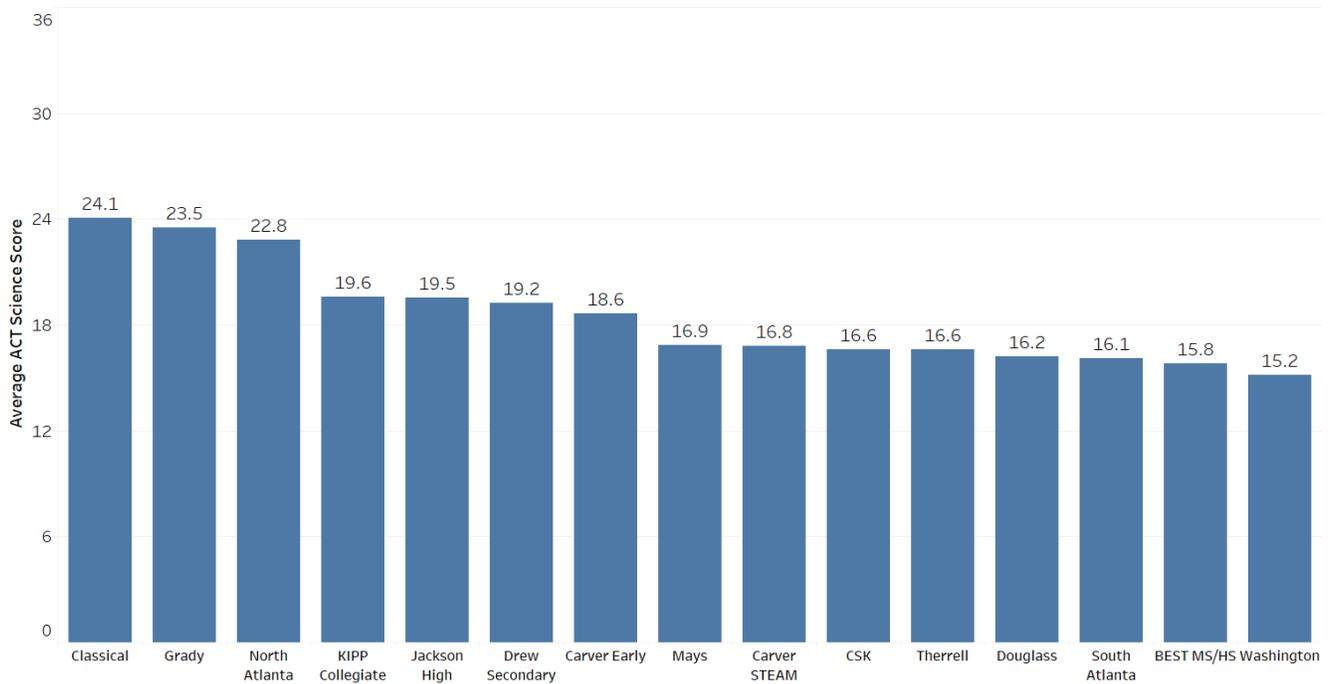
Table 2A. Average ACT Mathematics Score by School



**Table 3A. Average ACT Reading Score by School**



**Table 4A. Average ACT Science Score by School**



**Appendix B Average ACT Subject Test Score by Race/Ethnicity and Gender**

Table 1B. Average ACT English Score by Race/Ethnicity and Gender

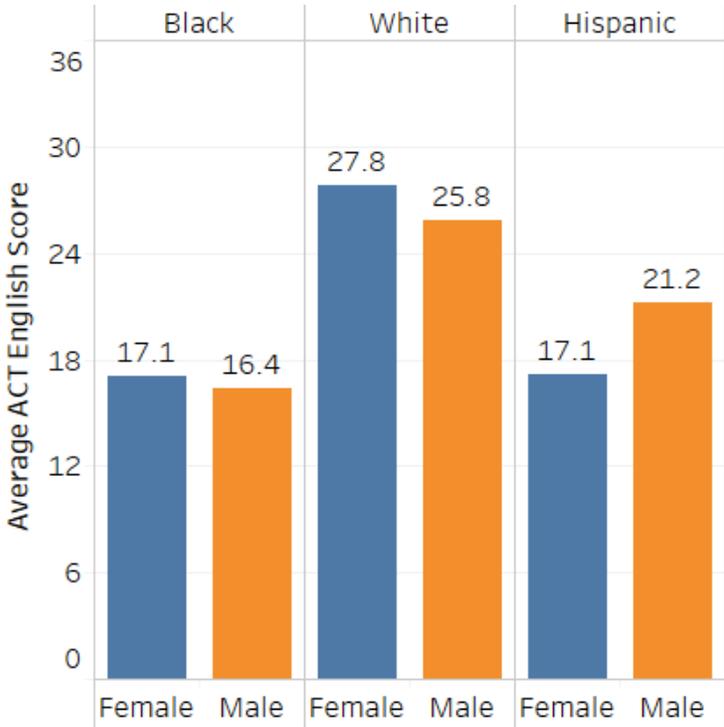


Table 2B. Average ACT Mathematics Score by Race/Ethnicity and Gender

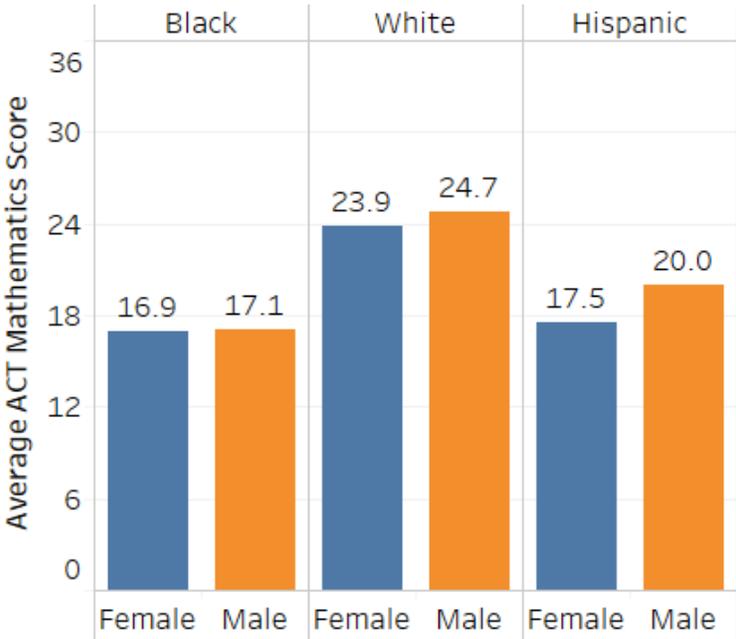


Table 3B. Average ACT Reading Score by Race/Ethnicity and Gender

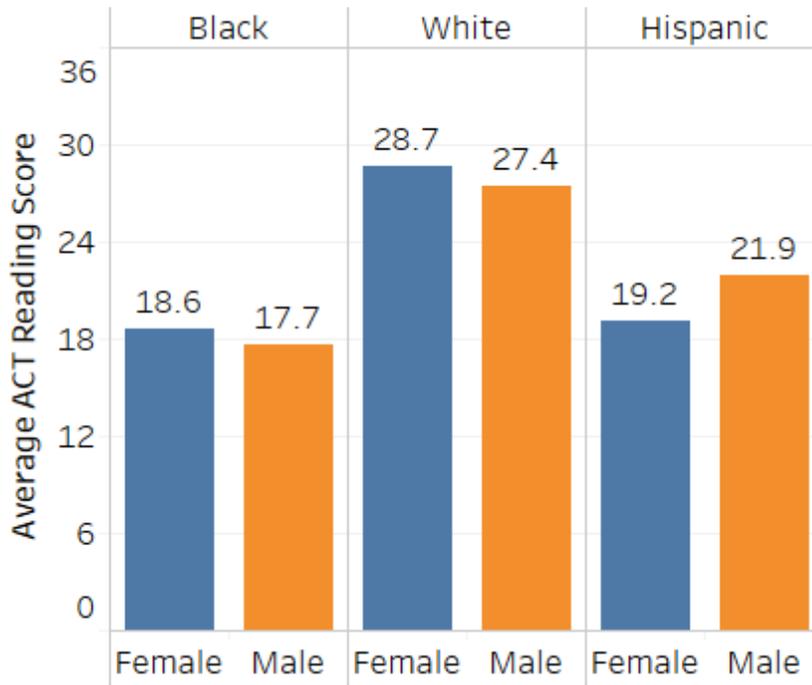


Table 4B. Average ACT Science Score by Race/Ethnicity and Gender

