



Title: **Flag Observance**

Author:

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Flag Observance

Governor Nikki Haley has ordered that the flags be flown at half-staff from sunup to sundown on Wednesday, September 7, 2016, as a mark of respect for the memory and long-standing public service of Senator John W. Drummond.

Title: **County below state averages on ACT scores**
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County below state averages on ACT scores

IL only over-performer
on college-readiness test

Hannah L. Strong

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South Carolina released ACT scores for all 2016 graduating classes this week, and Lancaster County students received a 17.2 average composite score, a notch below the statewide average of 18.5.

The S.C. Department of Education said in a release Tuesday that last year's ACT reports show much room for improvement.

The ACT, a career and college readiness test, scores high school students on English, math, science and reading. The test is scored on a 1 to 36 point scale.

This year's scores are significantly lower than last year's. But the comparison isn't meaningful, because for

ILHS students averaged 18.5 in English, 19.2 in math, 20 in reading and

19.4 in science.

ILHS Principal David Shamble said his school will use the data to determine areas of strength and areas of need within its curriculum.

"We are satisfied with our 19.4 composite average and other benchmark scores, as they are all close to a full point higher than the state average," Shamble said. "We also realize there is still plenty of room for improvement."

Andrew Jackson High School's average was 18.3. Students' average scores were 16.8 in English, 19 in math, 18.7 in reading and 18.1 in science.

The average at Buford High School was 16.9. BHS students averaged 15.1 in English, 17.5 in math, 17.3 in reading and 17.2 in science.

Lancaster High School had the lowest average in the district at 15.4. LHS scores averaged 13.6 in English, 16.3 in math, 15.8 in reading and 15.5 in science.

"We are frustrated with the scores," said LHS Assistant Principal Rosalyn

the first time, all of this year's graduating seniors were required to take the ACT as juniors. Previously, students were required to take the test only if they needed it for college applications. With that larger pool of students, scores were expected to drop.

Gov. Nikki Haley signed new requirement into law in May 2014. All juniors in the state now must take the ACT and WorkKeys, a skills-assessment test.

The number of 2015 graduating seniors in Lancaster County taking the ACT was 280, compared to 795 in this year's graduating class. Ten years ago, 220 students in the district took the ACT, averaging 18.3 points.

Lancaster Co. scores

Among the four high schools in the district, Indian Land High had the highest average composite score at 19.4.

Mood. "We did anticipate a drop."

Mood said the school has initiated ways to increase scores.

LHS has hired literacy and math coaches to help teachers learn strategies that touch on curriculum across the board, Mood said.

Students at LHS will receive Google Chromebooks this semester. Mood said they will help students to access and utilize learning software.



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Targeting ninth-graders early on, she said, helps in finding areas where they're struggling.

"We are looking for positive change," Mood said.

Across the region, Fort Mill's school

district had the highest scores, with an average composite score of 21.7, followed by Kershaw County at 18.1, Chesterfield County at 17.1 and Chester County at 16.6.

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