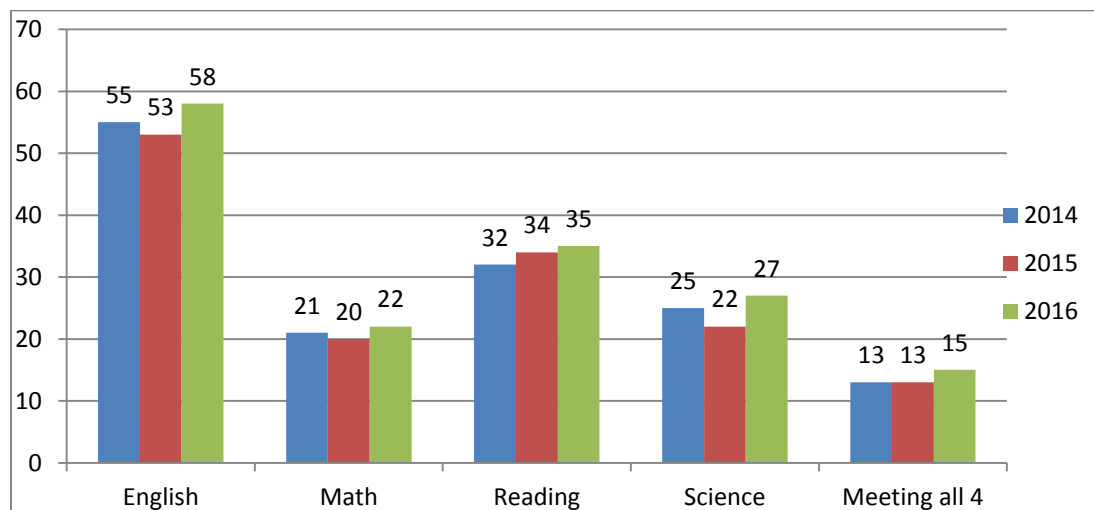


Dr. Linda Cash, Director of Schools for Bradley County, is proud to announce that the 2016 Graduating Class ACT Report reveals the highest ACT Composite Score the system has seen in the past 5 years. Dr. Cash stated that increasing ACT scores was, and still is, part of the district’s strategic plan and that she is excited to see improvement in the first year of this plan. Bradley County Schools has always had a focus on increasing students’ preparedness for life beyond high school. The difference now is the focus is sharper and more refined and the need is more urgent. “When you see this level of improvement, you know it is a system change, a mindset change. Our teachers should be reaffirmed that what they do on a daily basis, matters”, said Dr. Cash.

Bradley Central and Walker Valley High School, and the Bradley County School System, all saw improvements in the 4 benchmark areas – English, Math, Reading, and Science, as well as in their overall composite scores. The 790 students that tested elevated the average ACT Composite Score from 18.8 to 19.4. That is phenomenal! The Tennessee Department of Education has stated previously that raising the composite score even a tenth of a percent is significant. What does this mean? This means that more Bradley County students are proving that they are college and career ready and will be able to benefit from the HOPE Scholarship. This means that fewer students will be required to take remedial courses during their first year of college. For our parents and students, we are so humbled and thankful to have been able to play a part in their celebration.

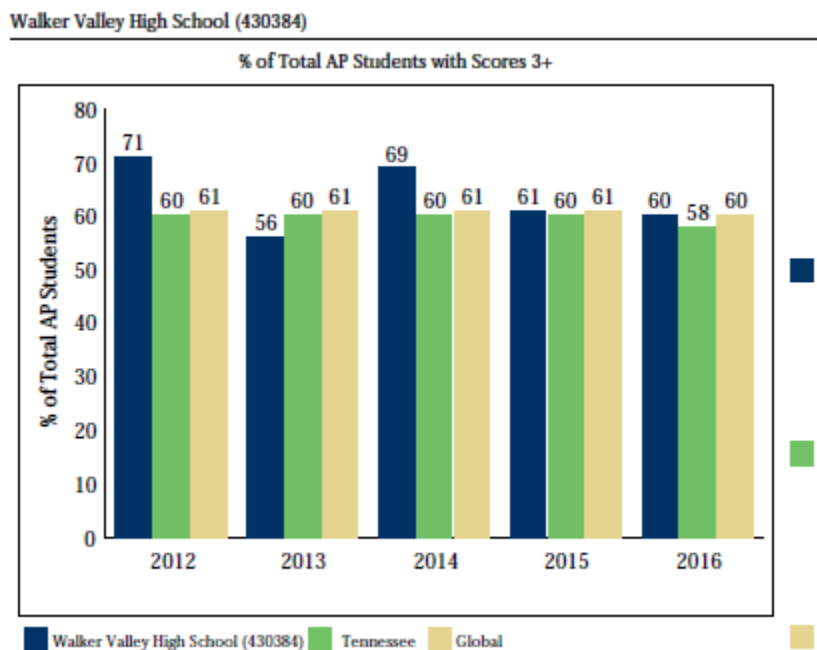
English scores increased from an average of 18.4 to 19.1 and Reading from 19.3 to 19.9. The percentage of students reaching the English benchmark went from 53% in 2015 to 58% in 2016. The percentage increased in Reading to 35%. STEM subjects, Math and Science, also saw progress. Science scores improved from 19.0 to 19.6 and the percentage of students achieving that benchmark improved 5% to 27%. Math scores rose from 18.2 to 18.4 with the percentage of students hitting that benchmark going up 2% to 22%. While we are excited about the gains in all areas, we know we have more work to do, especially in math. Now that we have completed the transition to Integrated Math, we hope to see steady increases in the area of mathematics. In 2015, we had 101 students who met all 4 benchmarks and this year we have 119 students.

Percent of ACT-Tested Students Ready for College-Level Coursework



Now is the time for us to be reflective on 2015-2016 and the strategies that were put in place to help raise not only ACT scores, but to help all students excel. What worked? What didn't work? What can we tweak to allow more students to be successful? How can we grow our students? Many things helped contribute to these gains such as ACT Prep Class, individual teachers giving of their planning/lunch time to tutor students, RTI², and student advisors. Teachers were provided professional development on how to incorporate the ACT standards with TN standards into everyday classroom instruction with more attention being placed on the level of rigor and student engagement. We also stressed a system-wide emphasis on reading 20 minutes a day throughout the schools and the community. Our CTE Department provides opportunities for students to graduate high school with more than just a high school diploma. CTE students can graduate with various industry certifications that will help propel them into the work force or to continue to focus on their craft at 2 year colleges or trade schools.

Classes such as Cambridge, Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Enrollment helped to stretch those students who needed more challenge and opportunities. This year 226 AP tests were given at Walker Valley High School with a 63% passing rate. The chart below displays a 5 year look at how our students at Walker Valley have done in comparison to the state and globally. In the Cambridge Program at Bradley Central High School, 261 students participated and had a 57% pass rate. The table below depicts what we anticipate will become a trend and we will continue to see the percent of students prepared for college level work grow. That is our Vision in Bradley County; Growing Students – Building Futures.



In 2016-2017, the Bradley County School System is participating in a Pilot ACT Prep Class that is organized by the TDOE. We are anticipating that this will help our already existing prep class become more effective in providing support to students as they are preparing to take the ACT for the first time or to perhaps take the ACT again. We also have a wonderful opportunity for all seniors that took the ACT during their junior year to take the ACT test again on October 22nd on the Senior ACT Retake Day. This

is the first year for the TDOE to fund such an initiative and we know our students will benefit. Secondary schools have been working hard to provide communication and support to all seniors who want to participate in the retake and to identify students who would benefit from taking the ACT again. Our student level data indicates that we have approximately 53 students who currently have a composite score of '20'. With these added supports, ACT scores will play a key role in accountability as we are striving to have 95% of our students taking the ACT and to see the number of students scoring a 21 or higher increase. Taking the ACT is now a part of the graduation requirements that students must fulfill in order to get a regular diploma.

It is all about providing opportunities – opportunities for all students to excel.