To: All Media Outlets

From: Gainesville City School System

Subject: Release of ACT Scores

Date: September 7, 2017

Today, district results for the 2017 administration of the ACT were released. The ACT consists of curriculum-based tests in English, math, reading, and science and is designed to measure the skills needed for success in first-year college coursework.

The district had more test takers in 2017 than 2016. Scores in all areas were the highest achieved in the previous five years, with a substantial increase in the average composite score from 19.9 in 2016 to 20.8 in 2017. In the area of English, the district had an average score of 19.9; the benchmark score to determine success in college English classes is 18.

Math and science continue to be areas of opportunity for growth in the district, as they are for the entire state. However, the district is making positive progress, averaging scores above 20.0 in both areas in 2017.

According to Tom Smith, Principal of Gainesville High School, "At Gainesville High School, we are very proud of the work our teachers and students are doing, academically, to get better inside and outside of the classroom. This marks the fourth consecutive year that GHS has improved upon our ACT score. We believe one of the best ways to improve on standardized test scores is to increase the rigor in every classroom on a day to day basis. We know that we still have work to do and this is just one data point, but the ACT is a pretty significant data point; therefore, we are confident that we are doing the right work."

ACT research has shown that it is not simply the number of core courses, but the rigor of coursework taken, that has the greatest impact on ACT performance and college readiness. With a variety of pathway courses, Advanced Placement courses, and a full range of Honors courses available, the Gainesville City School System stands ready to support students in their preparation for college and career opportunities.

For additional information, please contact Shea Ray, Director of Student Data and Assessment, at shea.ray@gcssk12.net or Tom Smith, Principal of Gainesville High School, at tom.smith@gcssk12.net.