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Most schools improve ACT

Weston High School and West Monroe High School led northeastern Louisiana schools with the highest composite ACT scores for students who graduated or would have graduated in 2011 in a report released Wednesday by the state Department of Education.

The two schools' overall scores are part of a statewide trend that has 39 of the state's districts increasing composite scores over 2010.

The average ACT composite score for Louisiana's public and non-public students has increased from 19.8 in 2005 to 20.2 in 2011.

Weston High School in Jackson Parish had an average composite score of 22.7, an improvement over the school's 2010 average score of 19.4.

West Monroe High School increased its composite score from 21.9 testing 287 students in 2010 to 22.5 testing 328 students in 2011.

Overall, the majority of scores from schools in both the Monroe City Schools and Ouachita Parish Schools improved.

Scores at Ouachita Parish High School improved from 19.2 to 19.3 and the number of students testing increased from 191 to 209.

Richwood High School's scores increased from 16.3 to 16.8, but the number of students tested decreased from 101 to 81. Scores at Sterlington High School dropped from an average of 21.3 in 2010 to 20.6 in 2011.

The number of students testing at Sterlington dropped slightly from 54 to 50. West Ouachita High School's score remained the same, 20.6, from 2010 to 2011. The number of students tested at West Ouachita increased from 156 to 190.

Ouachita testing coordinator Brenda Deason said the district is happy with its progress overall. "We are absolutely pleased with our scores," she said. "We are fifth in the state overall."

In Monroe City Schools, scores at Carroll High School improved from an average of 16.8 in 2010 to 16.9 in 2011, but the number of students testing dropped by more than one-third from 98 in 2010 to 60 in 2011.

Neville' scores improved from an average of 19.9 in 2010 to 21.3 in 2011, and the number of students testing increased from 150 to 158.

Wossman High School scores dropped slightly from 17.0 in 2010 to 16.8 in 2011, but the number of students tested increased from 87 to 91.

Monroe Superintendent Kathleen Harris is out of town on Wednesday and had not seen the district's scores. However, she has set a long-term goal for 85 percent of students in the district to have an average ACT score of 24 by the school year 2012-13.

Lincoln Parish's district composite scores places it as the third-highest in the state.

Louisiana's average ACT score, which includes public, private and parochial students, is 20.2, up slightly from 20.1 in 2010.

Other northeastern Louisiana schools scoring at or above the state's average are Quitman, 20.2; Ruston, 21.4; Simsboro, 20.2; and Forest.

According to a release by the Louisiana Department of Education, Louisiana was one of eight states nationally that had 100 percent of its graduates for 2011 taking the ACT.