



Guide to Understanding the EXPLORE Score Report

For your child to get admitted to the college he or she wants and get needed financial aid, your child must be well prepared. The EXPLORE test is an important part of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education's overall efforts to help your child be prepared for success in college and in the workplace.

If you haven't received your child's EXPLORE Score Report or can't locate it, contact your child's school counselor. Once you have the Score Report, sit down with your child and go over the results.

The enclosed SAMPLE REPORT is divided into four areas: scores, plans, career possibilities and skills. The information below will help you understand the information in the Score Report so you can help your

child plan his or her high school coursework and begin thinking about college and a career.

As a parent, you will have the greatest impact on your child's goals and aspirations. Helping your child prepare for college will put him or her on a proven path to a brighter future and greater financial success. The benefits from earning a college degree will last a lifetime.

- With a college degree, your child will earn about \$1 million more than a non-graduate.
- Your child will be two to three times more likely to be employed.
- Your child will have a much broader range of opportunities throughout his or her lifetime.

Your Scores

The **Your Scores** section of the report shows what your child scored on the EXPLORE test, how the score compares to others, and how your child is likely to score on the PLAN test (taken in the 10th grade) if he or she takes the right courses and works hard in those courses.

Your Career Possibilities

It's not too soon for your child to begin exploring possible careers! The **Your Career Possibilities** section helps your child start by focusing on a few career areas. Exploring careers is easier if you have a good map. Sit down with your child and launch the World-of-Work Map at www.actstudent.org/wwm/explore_world.html to begin exploring careers and occupations that might interest your child.

Your Plans

When taking EXPLORE, your child was asked about the courses he or she plans to take in high school. The **Your Plans** section of the Score Report compares your child's plans to ACT's recommendations for "core" college prep courses. Talk to your child's counselor if his or her high school course plans fall short of the "core" college prep course recommendations. This section also lists the areas your child reported he or she needs help with and how your child's scores compare to ACT's College Readiness Benchmark Scores.

Your Skills

The **Your Skills** section on the back of the Score Report describes the skills and knowledge your child probably already has. You'll also see some ideas for helping your child improve even more in the different subject areas. The suggestions are based on your child's scores and can help him or her do better.

Now What?

1. Stay in touch with your child's counselor. Counselors are great resources and partners in helping students achieve success.
2. Keep your child on track with the Achieving Classroom Excellence curriculum which brings high school graduation requirements in line with college admission and the ACT-recommended core college-preparatory curriculum. This is a great way to make sure your child is taking the courses needed to qualify for enrollment in Oklahoma's public colleges and universities and for most student financial aid.
3. Go to **www.OKcollegestart.org** – Oklahoma's official one-stop shop for college prep – and help your child set up a secure account. Explore the site together and help your child maintain and monitor his or her profile.
4. Sign up for Oklahoma's Promise now if your family meets requirements outlined at **www.okpromise.org** or open an Oklahoma College Savings Plan account by visiting **www.ok4saving.org**.
5. Make sure your child takes the PLAN test in the 10th grade. The PLAN test helps your child prepare for the ACT test.
6. Suggest your child get involved in extracurricular activities that help develop teamwork, leadership and commitment.
7. Be positive and encouraging. As your child continues through adolescence, there is a tendency to be self-critical and isolated. Take it in stride and talk to your child about his or her concerns and plans for the future!

Resources

OKcollegestart.org

Sign up at **www.OKcollegestart.org**, Oklahoma's official Web site to plan for college. Your child can create an online profile, learn about paying for college, prep for the ACT and explore exciting careers.

Oklahoma Guaranteed Student Loan Program

OGSLP is a non-profit division of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education that functions as a guarantor for low-cost federal student loans. OGSLP also offers important financial literacy, college access and default prevention programs and services. **www.ogslp.org**

Oklahoma's Promise

Oklahoma's Promise is a state scholarship that allows students from families that meet a certain income requirement to earn free college tuition. Parents must enroll their child for Oklahoma's Promise in the 8th, 9th or 10th grade. **www.okpromise.org**

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP)

This federally funded program is designed to better prepare middle and high school students for college through academic preparation programs and scholarships for students, professional development activities for educators, and college access information for students and parents. **www.okhighered.org/gearup**

Other Resources

ACT Student Center **www.actstudent.org**

ACT Financial Aid Need Estimator **www.act.org/fane**

Cash for College **www.cashforcollegeok.info**

FastWeb Free Scholarship Search **www.fastweb.com**

Federal Student Aid **www.studentaid.ed.gov**

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) **www.fafsa.ed.gov**

Mapping Your Future **www.mappingyourfuture.org**

Summer Academies in Math, Science and Technology **www.okhighered.org/summer-academies**

For more information on planning for college and more resources to help you, visit **www.okhighered.org/epas/score-report.shtml**, call **1.800.858.1840** or e-mail **epas@osrhe.edu**.