On an important measure of college and career readiness, high school students in most Midwestern states continue to outperform their peers from across the country.

For the 10th year in a row, Minnesota had the highest average score in the nation, 22.7 for the graduating class of 2015, among states where at least 50 percent of high school juniors took the test.

The national average ACT score was 21.0. Only three states in the Midwest — Illinois (20.7), Michigan (20.1) and North Dakota (20.6) — fell below this mark. They are among the 13 U.S. states where all high school juniors take the ACT. Minnesota and Wisconsin recently joined this group under graduation requirements established by their legislatures. As a result, these two states' average ACT scores for the graduating class of 2016 will likely drop due to the participation of all students.

Other scores for the 2015 graduating class were as follows: Indiana, 22.1; Iowa, 22.2; Kansas, 21.9; Nebraska, 21.5; Ohio, 22.0; South Dakota, 21.9; and Wisconsin, 22.2. Makers of the ACT say the average national score is too low and indicates that many students are not prepared for postsecondary success.