# Challenges and Solutions in Acquiring Student-Level Academic Data

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# Challenges and Solutions in Acquiring Student-Level Academic Data

## Overview

- Challenges & roadblocks to obtaining data
- Understanding FERPA
- Establishing data sharing agreements
- Communicating & collaborating with IT staff
- Data resources:
  - ACT, Inc.
  - National Student Clearinghouse StudentTracker
- Discussion of best practices: experiences, suggestions, etc.

# Challenges and Solutions in Acquiring Student-Level Academic Data

## Challenges & Roadblocks to Obtaining Data

- (Over) concern for FERPA regulations

- Absence of data sharing agreements

- Difficulty establishing working relations with IT office personnel

- Lack of knowledge of viable data resources

# Challenges and Solutions in Acquiring Student-Level Academic Data

## The Family Education Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA)

- Federal law protecting privacy of student education records
- Schools do not need student/parent consent to provide data to:
  - School official responsible for program evaluation, or
  - Specified official w/ legitimate educational interest
- Guidelines say "keep confidential," don't say how
- Bottom line: be responsible

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## Establishing Data Sharing Agreements

- Need trust & buy-in from administrators

- Note security measures in place
  - Password protected computers and files
  - Encrypted SSNs and student IDs

- Note privacy measures
  - Restrict disclosure of personally identifiable info
  - Report results in aggregate only – do not report small sample sizes.

# Challenges and Solutions in Acquiring Student-Level Academic Data

## Communicating & Collaborating with IT Staff

- Best when administrator initiates the request
- Construct a data record layout specifying needs
- Include your timeframe

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## Data Resources:

**National Student Clearinghouse**

- Background
- How we Obtain the Collegiate Data
- StudentTracker services
- Results

# Challenges and Solutions in Acquiring Student-Level Academic Data
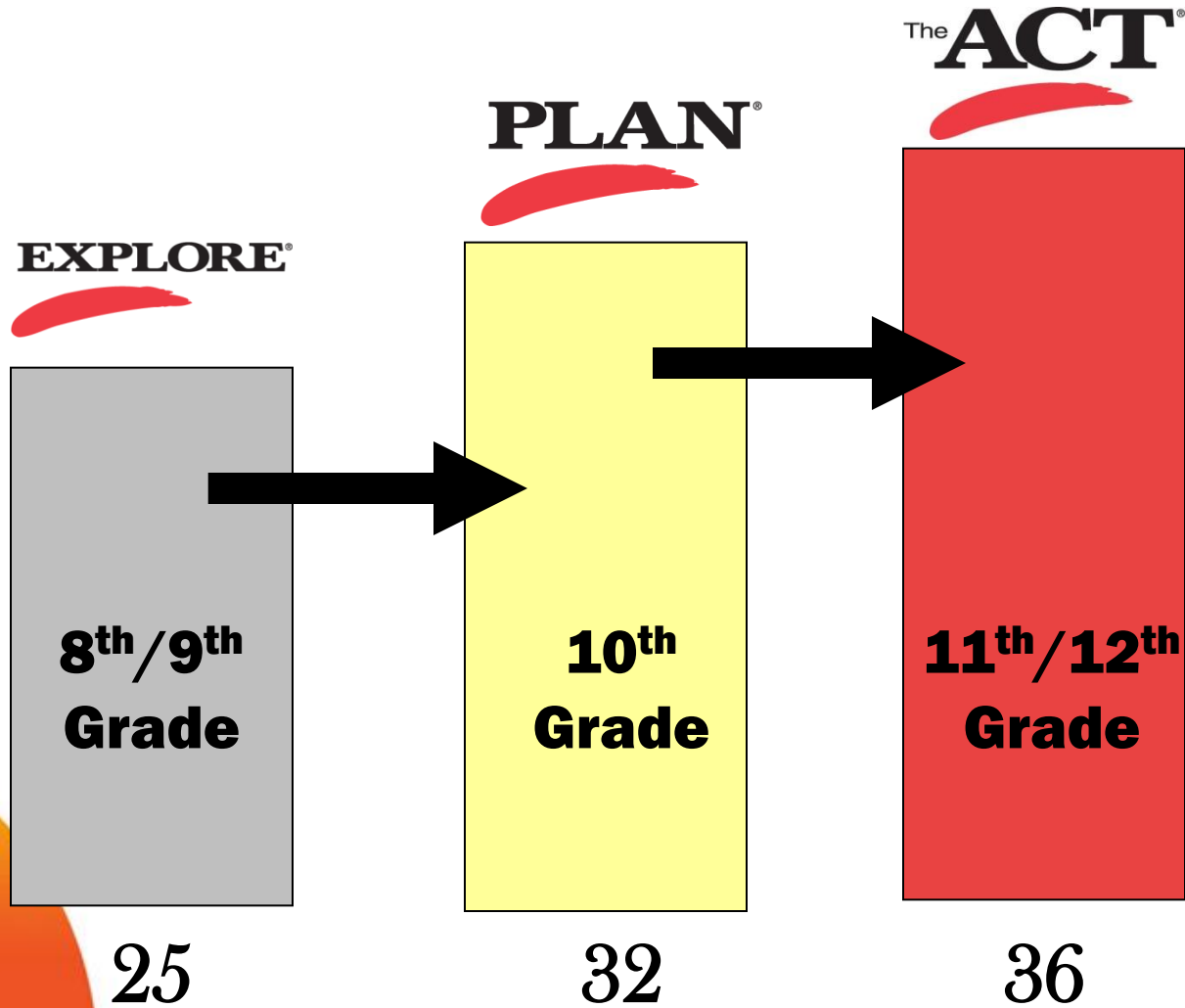
## Data Resources:

**ACT, Inc.**

- Who are we?
- What do we do?
- How do we align with GEAR UP?
- What services do we provide?

# LONGITUDINAL ASSESSMENTS
## College Readiness System Scores

**EXPLORE®**

**PLAN®**

**The ACT®**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 8th/9th Grade | 10th Grade | 11th/12th Grade |
| 25 | 32 | 36 |

# Challenges and Solutions in Acquiring Student-Level Academic Data

## College Readiness Benchmarks

| Test | College Course(s) | EXPLORE | PLAN | ACT |
|------|-------------------|---------|------|-----|
| English | English Composition | 13/14 | 15 | 18 |
| Math | College Algebra | 17/18 | 19 | 22 |
| Reading | Social Sciences | 15/16 | 17 | 21 |
| Science | Biology | 20/20 | 21 | 24 |

**Note. The ACT Benchmark Score indicates a 50% chance of obtaining a "B" or a 75% chance of obtaining a "C" in corresponding credit-bearing college courses.**

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## Discussion of best practices: Experiences, suggestions, etc.

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# Questions?

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