



# NEVADA STATE HIGH SCHOOL EXECUTIVE BRIEF

NSHS School Administration Data Analysis of School and Student Progress

October 2014

Nevada State High School (NSHS) is an early college high school where 11th & 12th graders attend real college classes as real college student while obtaining the support they need to succeed. The Executive Brief series are data summaries that have been prompted by stakeholder questions generated around the school and student progress. NSHS has access to academic and operational systems that can provide snapshots of school progress and student achievement. With a wide-range of data collection instruments and years of legacy data, the school's administration will summarize results and recommend best practices.

## Question & Methodology:

### What is the correlation between WorkKeys® and the ACT® exams?

For three years, NSHS students have pretested with scores comparable to the national averages with about 17-19% scoring gold level on the career readiness WorkKeys®. NSHS students have self-selected taking the traditional college readiness ACT® exam. Over this period, the school has reimbursed students for the cost to take the ACT® exam while issuing a grade to increase the rate of test takers. Whereas, the WorkKeys® exam was administered directly by the school showing 494 students completing the exam. The data analysis only shows the data on students who took both the WorkKeys® and the ACT® resulting in a data set of 386 students. The WorkKeys® standard score average for applied math, reading, and locating information was calculated for each student and correlated with the composite ACT® score resulting in a strong positive correlation of 0.766.

NOTE: Data analyzed for first time test-takers taking the WorkKey® (typically taken during the first week of starting the school) and the ACT® exams (typically taken late fall or spring of the same school year).

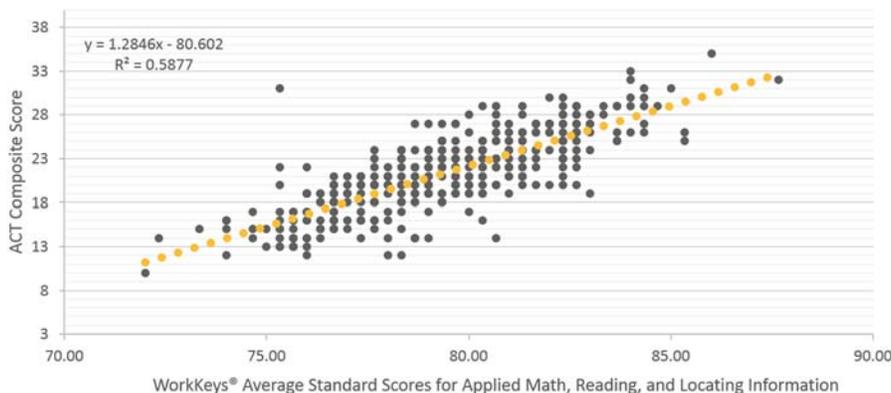


Chart 1: ACT® Composite versus Average of Standard WorkKeys® Scores (386 students)

*“To support our students in a college environment with personal, academic and social skills.”*

*NSHS Mission*

## ACT® correlated with WorkKeys®

- Strong correlation of approximately 0.766
- 43% of subjects show: WorkKeys® > 80 and ACT® > 21
- 54% have ACT® > 14

## Summary & Best Practices:

The results showed a strong correlation of approximately 0.766 between the ACT® and an average of the three standard scores that comprise the National Career Readiness Certificate for WorkKeys®. Over 43% of the 386 students earned an average standard score greater than an 79.33 on WorkKeys® and a composite of 21 or greater on the ACT®. The school took a deeper look at the 54% of the 386 students earning a 21 or greater composite on the ACT® against those who placed out of remedial math (MATH 124—College Algebra or higher) and found that 14.5% of the 386 students earned a 21 or greater on the ACT® and were out of remedial college math. Because of the strong correlation between the ACT® and WorkKeys®, the presence of one score could potentially be a valuable predictor for the other. High schools, colleges, and employers could utilize the assessments as best practice to implement interventions and target potential individuals worth investing in college or training.

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