



# Helena Public Schools

... a great place to learn

May 18, 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Student ID: XXXX

Helena Public Schools is committed to academic excellence and to preparing our students for post-secondary opportunities.

Below, you will find your child's writing score from our most recent benchmark writing assessment which was administered to all high school students April 20, 2016. This district assessment is scored in accordance with the American College Test (ACT) Writing Test Scoring Rubric. The results will help inform you regarding your student's writing skills as they pertain to college/career readiness.

The minimum proficiency score on the Helena School District writing assessment is a 3.5 out of a total of 6. This score is aligned to the proficiency scores for the ACT writing assessment and the Montana University System (MUS) writing proficiency requirement. Please note that all of our students, regardless of grade level, are scored using the same college-level criteria. The goal is for students to reach a minimum of a 3.5 on the district writing assessment by the spring of their junior year when they take the ACT.

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<b>Student Name</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Writing Assessment Score:</b>
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We have also provided the ACT Writing Test Scoring Rubric for your review as a separate attachment. These standards will help you understand the level of your child's writing in accordance with college/career readiness.

Below is a link that provides more information regarding entry requirements for the MUS.

[http://mus.edu/Prepare/Prepare/MUS\\_Admission\\_Standards.asp](http://mus.edu/Prepare/Prepare/MUS_Admission_Standards.asp)

Below are ways to help your child:

- Contact your child's English teacher to discuss strategies to improve your child's writing.
- Check out ACT prep materials at your child's school library or the Lewis & Clark Public Library.
- Visit the ACT web site to review information about the writing portion of the test.
  - <http://www.actstudent.org/writing/sample/>
  - <http://www.actstudent.org/writing/writing-scores.html>

We encourage you to discuss these results with your student. Please contact your school for any questions you may have related to this writing assessment and/or college readiness.

Respectfully,

Mr. Brett Zanto, Capital High School Principal  
Mr. Steve Thennis, Helena High School Principal  
Mrs. Stephanie Thennis, Project for Alternative Learning