



Dear Parent,

As one of the most influential people in your child's life, you have the opportunity to help him or her understand the importance of preparing for life after high school. While graduation day may seem to be far in the future, now is a critical time to make sure your child is prepared to take that next step **after** graduation, whether that means starting college or starting a career.

ACT is a not-for-profit organization also focused on helping students prepare for that time after high school through its commitment to helping students improve their college and career readiness. To that end, ACT developed the EXPLORE program for 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> graders to provide a baseline assessment of academic progress. Assessing students at this stage allows them to identify areas of need early and helps them make timely interventions. Assessing students before high school also helps them build rigorous high school coursework plans to get, or stay, on track for their educational and career goals.

Taking EXPLORE provides other benefits for students including:

- identifying where they need extra help or additional coursework
- suggestions for improving their skills
- a look at how their scores compare to the ACT College Readiness Benchmark Scores
- the opportunity to begin exploring career areas that match their interests

Taking the EXPLORE assessment is also an excellent way to prepare for the PLAN assessment, and begin early preparation for success on the ACT assessment. Visit [www.explorestudent.org](http://www.explorestudent.org) for more information.

Use **your influence** to help your child reach his or her **greatest** potential.

Regards,

School Administrator / Counselor insert name here