

# Understanding ACT ELA Scores

## Did you know?

- To get an **ACT® English Language Arts (ELA) score**, students must take the ACT writing test – in addition to the English and reading tests.
- The ACT ELA score is calculated by taking the average of the English, reading, and writing scale scores. See the diagram for more details on how the score is derived.
- The **ACT College Readiness Benchmark** for ELA is 20. Students who meet the Benchmark are likely to do well in first-year English and social science courses.
- ACT ELA scores tend to be lower than ACT English and reading scores. Among students who had an ELA score and completed high school in 2020, the average scores were higher in English (19.7) and reading (21.2) than in ELA (19.1).

