

College and Career Readiness: In-School ACT Testing, 2015-16

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At-a-Glance

The ACT is the most widely used college admission test in the United States. It is administered by ACT Inc., and consists of four sections: English, Reading, Mathematics, and Science. Each section score ranges from 1 to 36. The composite is the average of the scores of the four sections. As part of its Destination 2020 Improvement Plan, Dallas ISD wants to increase the proportion of high school seniors who achieve “college-ready” scores on the ACT. The plan defines a “college-ready” score as at least a 21 composite on the ACT. ACT Inc.’s college readiness benchmarks are as follows: English, 18; Mathematics, 22; Reading, 22; and Science, 23, for an average of 21.25. To help achieve the “college-ready” goal, Dallas ISD administered the ACT to district seniors on September 29, 2015.

Methodology

The evaluation documented the number and proportion of Dallas ISD seniors who participated in In-School ACT testing and reported their results. This information will assist the district in assessing student progress toward meeting district college readiness goals.

ACT Inc. provided data on school-day testing results to the district early in 2016. The evaluators merged these results with district data to determine how many 2015-16 seniors took the ACT during school-day testing. Analysis of the data included assessing the number and proportion of seniors who met the Destination 2020, Texas Success Initiative (TSI), and Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) benchmarks. For the ACT, the benchmarks are: Destination 2020, 21; TSI, 23; and TAPR, 24. A composite score that meets or exceeds the TSI benchmark of 23 is sufficient to exempt a student from developmental courses in college.

Results

The analysis of data showed that 6,685 (83.8%) Dallas ISD seniors took the ACT test on September 29, 2015. Seniors achieved a mean composite score of 16.1, and 16.7 percent of the seniors met the Destination 2020 benchmark compared with 15.2 percent in 2014-15. See Figures 1 through 3.

Figure 1: Seniors’ Participation in School ACT Testing, 2014-15 and 2015-16, by Campus

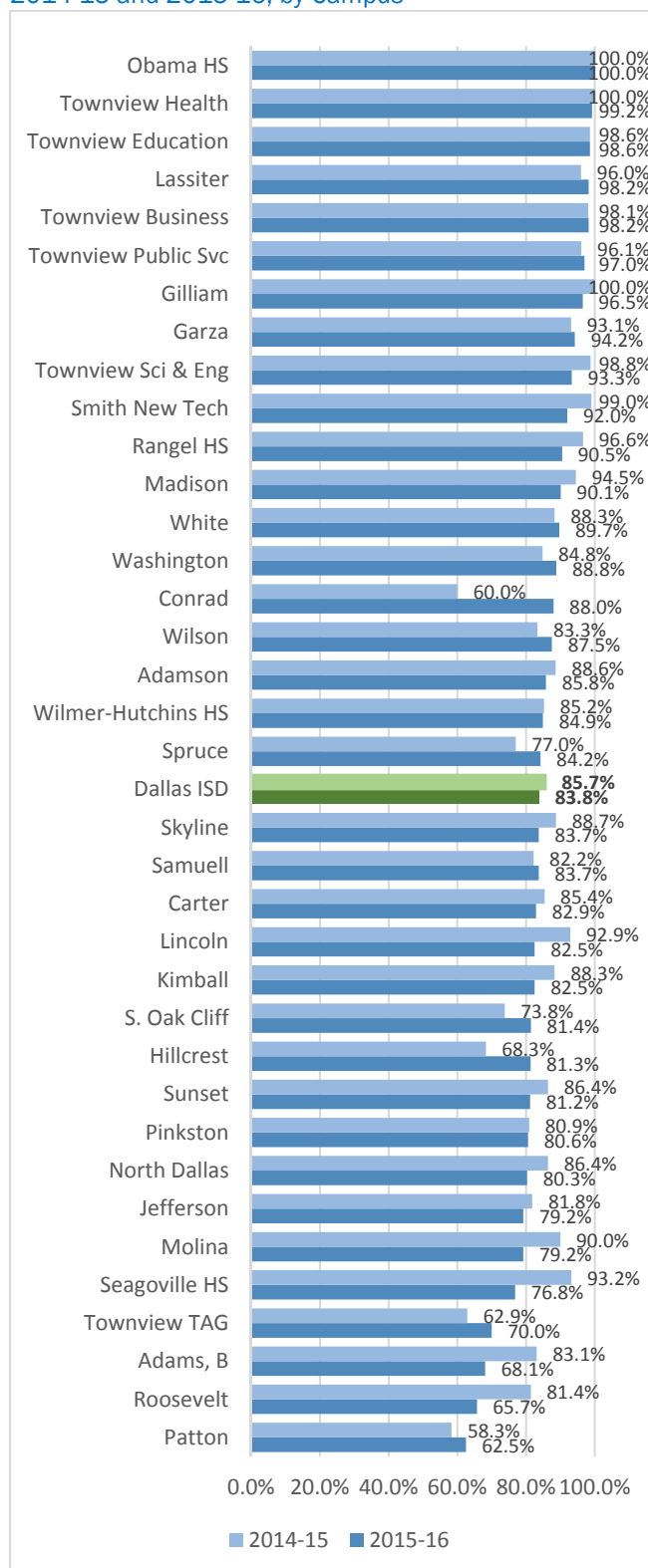


Figure 2: Mean ACT Composite Scores for Dallas ISD Seniors, 2014-15 and 2015-16, by Campus

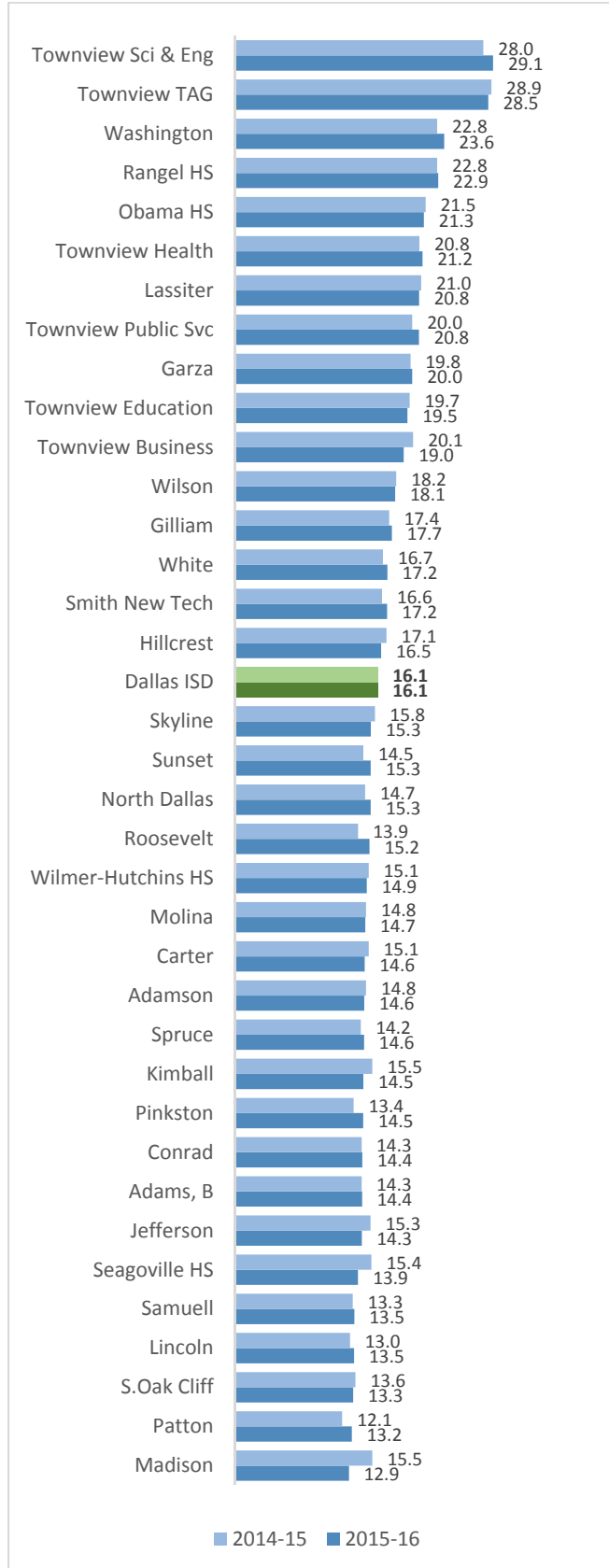
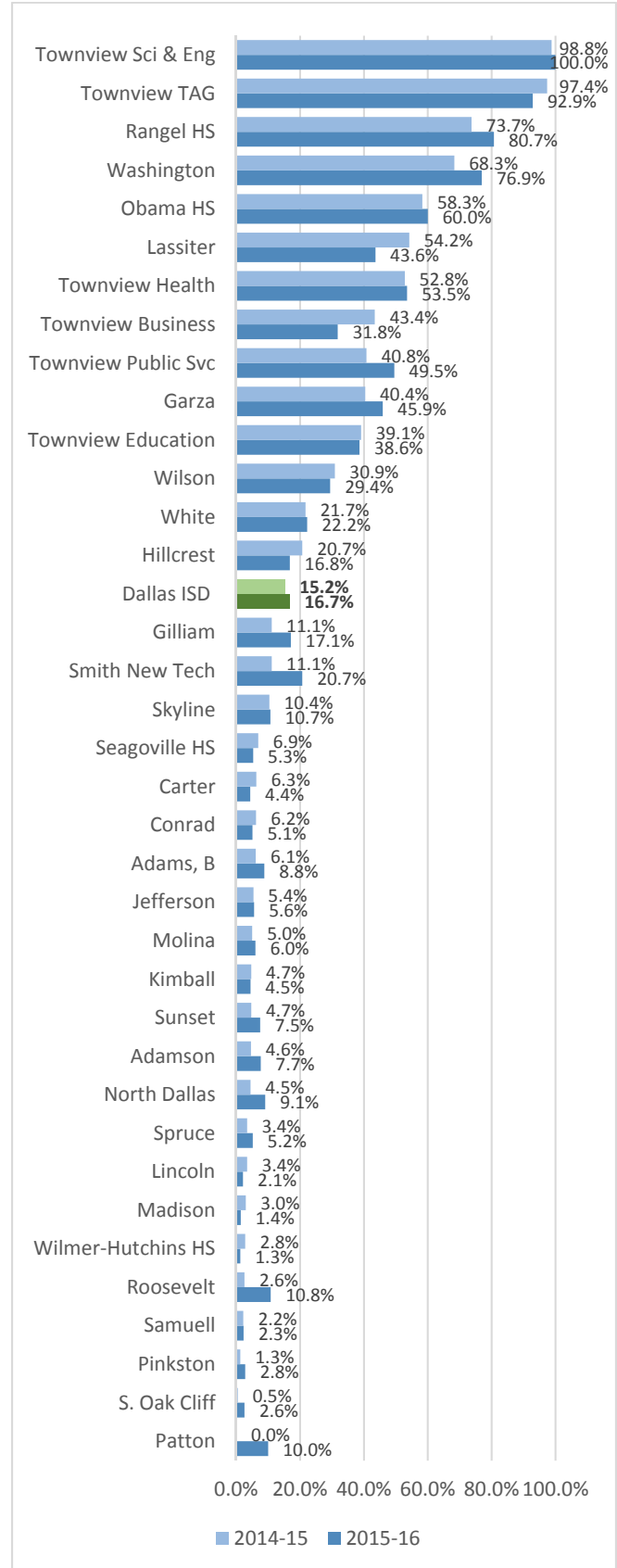


Figure 3: Seniors Meeting Destination 2020 Benchmark (21) for the ACT, 2014-15 and 2015-16, by Campus



From 2014-15 to 2015-16, the district overall increased the percentage of students meeting TSI benchmarks (9.2% to 10.3%) and TAPR benchmarks (6.9% to 7.9%). About 50 percent of campuses showed some improvement in the percentage of students meeting TSI and TAPR benchmarks. The remaining campuses either showed no improvement or decreases. See Table 1.

For more information, please contact Program Evaluation at 972-925-6457.

Table 1: Seniors Meeting TSI (23) and TAPR (24)
Benchmarks for ACT, 2014-15 and 2015-16, by Campus

Campus	TSI		TAPR	
	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16
Townview TAG	94.9%	88.1%	92.3%	88.1%
Townview Sci & Eng	93.8%	98.8%	87.5%	95.2%
Rangel HS	54.4%	57.9%	42.1%	40.4%
Washington	50.3%	58.3%	41.5%	49.2%
Lassiter	35.4%	30.9%	25.0%	21.8%
Obama HS	33.3%	40.0%	25.0%	10.0%
Townview Health	26.0%	33.3%	12.2%	24.0%
Townview Education	23.2%	12.9%	13.0%	10.0%
Garza	21.3%	24.5%	12.8%	15.3%
Wilson	20.8%	19.7%	17.1%	16.2%
Townview Business	20.8%	13.6%	13.2%	7.3%
Townview Public Svc	19.4%	26.8%	14.3%	20.6%
Hillcrest	14.4%	11.5%	9.6%	10.5%
White	13.1%	12.8%	10.1%	8.8%
Dallas ISD	9.2%	10.3%	6.9%	7.9%
Skyline	4.4%	4.7%	3.1%	3.0%
Gilliam	4.2%	3.7%	4.2%	1.2%
Seagoville HS	4.1%	3.3%	2.8%	2.4%
Smith New Tech	4.0%	10.9%	2.0%	6.5%
Conrad	3.5%	2.5%	0.9%	1.0%
Adams, B	2.6%	5.0%	1.6%	2.3%
Kimball	2.4%	2.3%	2.0%	1.8%
Spruce	2.3%	1.7%	1.7%	0.9%
Molina	2.2%	3.0%	0.7%	2.1%
Sunset	2.1%	3.9%	1.6%	2.7%
Adamson	1.9%	3.5%	0.8%	2.5%
Wilmer-Hutchins	1.7%	0.6%	1.1%	0.6%
Lincoln	1.7%	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%
Jefferson	1.7%	2.8%	0.8%	2.0%
North Dallas	1.4%	5.0%	0.9%	3.6%
Samuell	1.1%	0.7%	0.4%	0.3%
Carter	1.1%	1.7%	0.0%	1.7%
Pinkston	0.6%	0.7%	0.6%	0.0%
Patton	0.0%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%
S. Oak Cliff	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.5%
Roosevelt	0.0%	4.6%	0.0%	3.1%
Madison	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Note. A decrease in percentage from 2014-15 to 2015-16 is highlighted in blue.