

2017-18 College and Career Readiness: PSAT Testing

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At-a-Glance

The Preliminary SAT 8/9 (PSAT, for grades 8 and 9) and the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT, for grades 10 and 11) were developed by College Board to determine if students were on track for college readiness.

Students are tested in evidence-based reading and writing (ERW) and mathematics. A student's scale score for ERW is calculated by adding the reading test score to the writing and language test score and multiplying by 10. A student's scale score for mathematics is calculated by multiplying the mathematics test score by 20. Scale scores in both sections of the PSAT 8/9 range from 120 to 720, while scale scores on the PSAT/NMSQT range from 160 to 760 (College Board, 2017).

The PSAT 8/9 was administered to district students in grade eight in October 2017. The test measures a student's knowledge and skills that are essential for college and career readiness and success. The PSAT/NMSQT was administered to students in grade ten and to AVID¹ students and DISD Scholars² in grades nine and 11. The test not only measures whether students are on track toward college readiness, but also identifies students who may benefit from enrollment in more rigorous courses, such as Advanced Placement, and helps to determine student eligibility for dual credit classes.

During the 2017-18 school year, 21,846 students participated in either PSAT 8/9 or PSAT/NMSQT testing.

Methodology

2017-18 PSAT testing data (December 7, 2017, December 19, 2017, and January 18, 2018) and student demographic data from October 30, 2017 (PEIMS snapshot date) were merged to determine the percent of students who met the college readiness benchmarks (Table 1) on the PSAT 8/9 and PSAT/NMSQT by grade, campus and ethnicity.

PSAT testing information for the 2016-17 school year was taken from Zhang (2017) "2016-17 College and Career Readiness: PSAT Testing." Comparing PSAT/NMSQT results over three years was not possible because benchmarks were raised between the 2015-16 and 2016-17 school year.

Table 1: 2017-18 PSAT College and Career Readiness Benchmarks for Grades Eight to Eleven

Grade	Exam	College and Career Readiness Benchmark	
		ERW	Mathematics
8	PSAT 8/9	390	430
9	PSAT/NMSQT	N/A	N/A
10	PSAT/NMSQT	430	480
11	PSAT/NMSQT	460	510

Source: College Board, 2017

Note: Dallas ISD grade nine students did not take the PSAT 8/9 exam. PSAT = Preliminary SAT. NMSQT = National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, ERW = evidence-based reading and writing, NA=not available. College Board does not calculate college readiness benchmarks for grade nine students taking the PSAT/NMSQT.

Results

A total of 9,141 students in grade eight took the PSAT 8/9 in 2017-18 (Tables 2 and 3). Districtwide, the percentage of grade eight students who met the PSAT 8/9 ERW benchmark slightly decreased from 35 percent in 2016-17 to 33 percent in 2017-18, while the percentage of students who met the mathematics benchmark increased from 25 percent to 28 percent.

A total of 1,763 students in grade nine took the PSAT/NMSQT test in 2017-18 (Tables 4 and 5). Districtwide, the average ERW score slightly increased from 467 in 2016-17 to 468 in 2017-18; average scores for mathematics fell from 471 to 469.

A total of 8,868 students in grade 10 took the PSAT/NMSQT test in 2017-18 (Tables 6 and 7). Districtwide, the percentage of grade 10 students who met the PSAT/NMSQT ERW benchmark slightly decreased from 40 percent in 2016-17 to 39 percent in 2017-18. The percentage of students who met the mathematics benchmark decreased from 27 percent to 22 percent.

A total of 2,074 students in grade 11 took the PSAT/NMSQT (Tables 8 and 9). Districtwide, the percentage of grade 11 students who met the PSAT/NMSQT ERW benchmark slightly decreased from 69 percent in 2016-17 to 68 percent in 2017-18; the percentage of students who met the mathematics benchmark decreased from 50 percent to 45 percent.

¹ AVID's (Advancement via Individual Determination) mission is to close the gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society.

² Dallas ISD Scholars Program recognizes students who have demonstrated academic excellence and college readiness potential. The program includes a recognition ceremony, PSAT prep sessions, parent information sessions, competitions, and other events.

Table 2: 2016-17 and 2017-18 Percentage of Grade Eight Students Meeting PSAT 8/9 ERW Benchmark by Campus

Campus	2016-17 N=9,323 %	2017-18 N=9,141 %
Travis	98	100
Rangel	99	98
DESA	86	95
Dealey	88	92
Stone, H	92	88
Longfellow	72	87
Obama	75	85
Rosemont	62	60
Spence	49	57
Sanger	NA	56
Long	50	46
Greiner	60	44
Walker	39	39
Hill	29	36
STEAM	NA	35
Dallas ISD	35	33
Gaston	33	32
Richards	27	31
Holmes, Z	34	28
Franklin	33	27
Balch Springs	43	27
Rusk	28	27
Quintanilla	37	26
Marsh	25	26
Seagoville MS	36	25
Browne	22	24
Dade	22	23
Atwell	17	23
Edison	16	23
Garcia	28	22
Kennedy-Curry	26	22
Piedmont	27	22
Cary	14	21
Stockard	34	21
Zumwalt	21	19
Florence	23	19
Holmes, O	13	19
Medrano, F	25	18
Storey	27	18
Comstock	18	17
Tasby	12	15
Lang	21	13
Manns	21	NA
Lacey	18	NA

Source: District PSAT data files 12/07/2017 to 01/18/2018, district demographic data file 10/30/2017, and Zhang (2017).

Note: PSAT = Preliminary SAT, ERW=evidence-based reading and writing, NA=not available. Data were sorted by 2017-18 school year percentages.

Table 3: 2016-17 and 2017-18 Percentage of Grade Eight Students Meeting PSAT 8/9 Mathematics Benchmark by Campus.

Campus	2016-17 N=9,323 %	2017-18 N=9,141 %
Travis	96	100
Rangel	93	95
DESA	84	89
Stone, H	73	81
Dealey	78	78
Obama	81	70
Longfellow	60	62
Rosemont	25	47
Spence	42	44
Greiner	40	39
Long	39	37
STEAM	NA	36
Hill	24	31
Balch Springs	24	29
Dallas ISD	25	28
Richards	19	26
Rusk	14	26
Gaston	17	25
Quintanilla	21	24
Piedmont	17	23
Marsh	16	23
Seagoville MS	21	23
Cary	10	21
Stockard	25	21
Walker	22	21
Holmes, Z	18	20
Medrano, F	14	20
Edison	18	19
Dade	12	19
Garcia	14	19
Sanger	NA	19
Zumwalt	16	19
Franklin	20	18
Lang	17	17
Storey	12	17
Tasby	11	16
Florence	23	15
Browne	8	13
Kennedy-Curry	10	12
Comstock	18	12
Atwell	13	11
Holmes, O	6	11
Lacey	9	NA
Manns	5	NA

Source: District PSAT data files 12/07/2017 to 01/18/2018, district demographic data file 10/30/2017, and Zhang (2017).

Note: PSAT = Preliminary SAT, NA=not available. Data were sorted by 2017-18 school year percentages.

Table 4: 2016-17 and 2017-18 Grade Nine PSAT/NMSQT Mean Scale Scores for ERW by Campus

Campus	2016-17 N=1,391 Mean Scores	2017-18 N=1,763 Mean Scores
Townview TAG	620	609
Wilson	551	554
Washington	575	550
Obama HS	NA	549
Townview Sci & Eng	556	547
Rangel HS	547	538
Garza	512	521
Conrad	475	506
Hillcrest	418	500
Townview Health	496	497
Townview Public Svc	472	493
Townview Education	459	470
Dallas ISD	467	468
Townview Business	479	467
Skyline	508	466
Lassiter	NA	466
Gilliam	NA	463
Adamson	NA	462
Adams, B	423	444
Madison	NA	441
Sunset	431	429
Carter	341	425
Jefferson	403	424
Spruce	389	422
Seagoville HS	393	421
White	500	418
CityLab	NA	408
Wilmer-Hutchins HS	NA	403
Molina	407	403
Smith New Tech	409	395
Samuell	388	390
Kimball	436	387
Roosevelt	NA	380
North Dallas	380	380
Patton	362	364
Pinkston	385	359

Source: District PSAT data files 12/07/2017 to 01/18/2018, district demographic data file 10/30/2017, and Zhang (2017).

Note: PSAT = Preliminary SAT, NMSQT = National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, ERW=evidence-based reading and writing, NA=not available. Schools with fewer than six test takers not included. Data were sorted by 2017-18 school year mean scores.

Table 5: 2016-17 and 2017-18 Grade Nine PSAT/NMSQT Mean Scale Scores for Mathematics by Campus

Campus	2016-17 N=1,391 Mean Scores	2017-18 N=1,763 Mean Scores
Townview Sci & Eng	576	577
Townview TAG	566	577
Obama HS	NA	528
Wilson	512	523
Rangel HS	511	518
Conrad	464	514
Garza	523	513
Washington	478	499
Hillcrest	417	492
Townview Health	492	486
Townview Business	480	470
Lassiter	NA	469
Townview Public Svc	471	469
Dallas ISD	471	469
Skyline	518	466
Spruce	435	458
Townview Education	470	458
Adamson	NA	458
Wilmer-Hutchins HS	NA	453
Gilliam	NA	451
Adams, B	428	450
Jefferson	409	447
Seagoville HS	411	444
Sunset	442	443
White	489	429
Samuell	425	426
Carter	352	419
Madison	NA	419
Molina	441	418
CityLab	NA	410
Kimball	430	408
Roosevelt	NA	406
North Dallas	423	404
Smith New Tech	417	403
Pinkston	414	399
Patton	348	384

Source: District PSAT data files 12/07/2017 to 01/18/2018, district demographic data file 10/30/2017, and Zhang (2017).

Note: PSAT = Preliminary SAT, NMSQT = National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, NA=not available. Schools with fewer than six test takers not included. Data were sorted by 2017-18 school year mean scores.

Table 6: 2016-17 and 2017-18 Percentage of Grade 10 Students Meeting PSAT/NMSQT ERW Benchmark by Campus

Campus	2016-17 N=9,084 %	2017-18 N=8,868 %
Townview TAG	99	100
Rangel HS	97	100
Townview Sci & Eng	99	99
Obama HS	90	97
Townview Health	86	96
Townview Business	89	92
Garza	82	92
Washington	92	90
Lassiter	83	89
Townview Public Svc	94	88
Townview Education	90	88
Gilliam	74	65
Wilson	56	61
Skyline	45	40
Dallas ISD	40	39
Adams, B	33	38
Smith New Tech	35	36
White	39	35
Seagoville HS	29	33
IDEA	40	33
Adamson	33	33
Roosevelt	18	31
Hillcrest	38	31
Sunset	28	30
Pinkston	21	29
Molina	36	29
Conrad	24	29
Jefferson	23	28
Kimball	33	27
Samuell	24	23
North Dallas	23	23
Spruce	22	21
Carter	26	20
South Oak Cliff	15	17
Wilmer-Hutchins HS	27	17
Madison	16	14
Patton	8	11
Lincoln	21	9

Source: District PSAT data files 12/07/2017 to 01/18/2018, district demographic data file 10/30/2017, and Zhang (2017).
Note: PSAT = Preliminary SAT, NMSQT = National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, ERW=evidence-based reading and writing. Data were sorted by 2017-18 school year percentages.

Table 7: 2016-17 and 2017-18 Percentage of Grade 10 Students Meeting PSAT/NMSQT Mathematics Benchmark by Campus

Campus	2016-17 N=9,084 %	2017-18 N=8,868 %
Townview Sci & Eng	100	100
Townview TAG	99	98
Rangel HS	88	84
Lassiter	68	75
Obama HS	78	72
Townview Health	64	67
Townview Business	71	64
Garza	66	63
Washington	64	57
Townview Public Svc	71	50
Townview Education	53	45
Gilliam	44	41
Wilson	42	38
Dallas ISD	27	22
Skyline	29	21
Adamson	18	20
Smith New Tech	17	19
Pinkston	14	19
Conrad	12	17
Seagoville HS	16	16
IDEA	27	16
Hillcrest	24	15
Jefferson	17	15
White	18	15
Adams, B	16	15
Molina	23	14
Sunset	21	14
Samuell	19	13
Spruce	14	12
Roosevelt	12	9
South Oak Cliff	7	9
Kimball	15	9
North Dallas	11	9
Madison	7	7
Carter	11	6
Wilmer-Hutchins HS	15	4
Patton	4	3
Lincoln	7	0

Source: District PSAT data files 12/07/2017 to 01/18/2018, district demographic data file 10/30/2017, and Zhang (2017).
Note: PSAT = Preliminary SAT, NMSQT = National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Data were sorted by 2017-18 school year percentages.

Table 8: 2016-17 and 2017-18 Percentage of Grade 11 Students Meeting PSAT/NMSQT ERW Benchmark by Campus

Campus	2016-17 N=1,986 %	2017-18 N=2,074 %
Garza	100	100
Lassiter	100	100
Townview TAG	100	100
Townview Sci & Eng	99	100
Washington	90	99
Rangel HS	97	97
Wilson	86	96
Townview Health	85	94
Townview Business	84	93
Townview Public Svc	84	93
Skyline	90	91
Obama HS	82	86
Townview Education	82	84
Adamson	NA	78
North Dallas	55	70
Dallas ISD	69	68
Kimball	55	57
Adams, B	40	56
Jefferson	34	55
Hillcrest	62	54
Pinkston	68	52
Sunset	52	51
White	68	47
Spruce	33	45
Roosevelt	44	40
Smith New Tech	60	37
Samuell	29	32
Molina	50	25
Seagoville HS	74	24
Madison	25	12
Carter	38	NA
Patton	4	NA

Source: District PSAT data files 12/07/2017 to 01/18/2018, district demographic data file 10/30/2017, and Zhang (2017).
Note: PSAT = Preliminary SAT, NMSQT National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, ERW=evidence-based reading and writing, NA=not available. Schools with fewer than six test takers not included. Data were sorted by 2017-18 school year percentages.

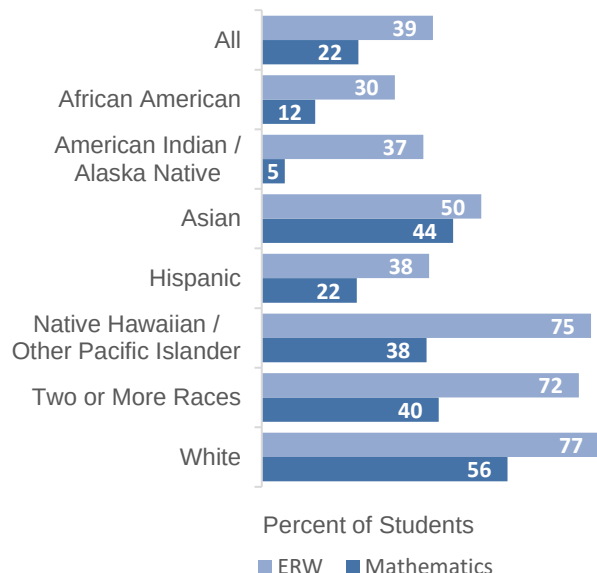
Table 9: 2016-17 and 2017-18 Percentage of Grade 11 Students Meeting PSAT/NMSQT Mathematics Benchmark by Campus

Campus	2016-17 N=1,986 %	2017-18 N=2,074 %
Townview Sci & Eng	100	100
Townview TAG	100	100
Garza	88	100
Wilson	71	85
Washington	66	85
Rangel HS	79	82
Townview Business	55	75
Skyline	80	74
Lassiter	93	73
Townview Health	66	67
Obama HS	62	66
Townview Public Svc	54	57
Adamson	NA	52
Dallas ISD	50	45
Townview Education	55	37
Spruce	17	36
North Dallas	27	30
Kimball	29	25
Adams, B	34	24
Sunset	31	24
Pinkston	37	22
Samuell	26	22
White	50	21
Jefferson	17	18
Hillcrest	31	17
Smith New Tech	26	15
Seagoville HS	30	14
Roosevelt	22	13
Molina	38	13
Madison	3	1
Carter	0	NA
Patton	0	NA

Source: District PSAT data files 12/07/2017 to 01/18/2018, district demographic data file 10/30/2017, and Zhang (2017).
Note: PSAT = Preliminary SAT, NMSQT = National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, NA=not available. Schools with fewer than six test takers not included. Data were sorted by 2017-18 school year percentages.

Figures 1 and 2 display the percentages of students in grades 10 and 11 who met or exceeded the PSAT/NMSQT benchmark by ethnicity.

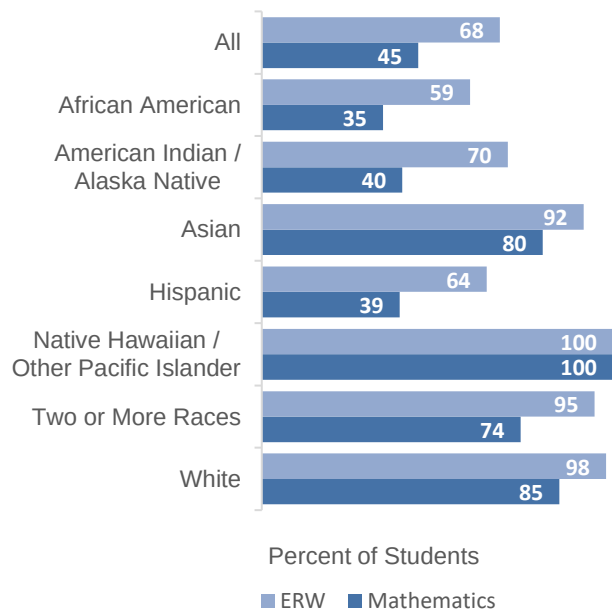
Figure 1: 2017-18 Percentage of Grade 10 Students Meeting PSAT/NMSQT Benchmarks for ERW and Mathematics by Ethnicity (N=9,084)



Source: District PSAT data files 12/07/2017 to 01/18/2018, district demographic data file 10/30/2017.

Note: PSAT = Preliminary SAT, NMSQT = National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, ERW=evidence-based reading and writing.

Figure 2: 2017-18 Percentage of Grade 11 Students Meeting PSAT/NMSQT Benchmarks for ERW and Mathematics by Ethnicity (N=2,074)



Source: District PSAT data files 12/07/2017 to 01/18/2018, district demographic data file 10/30/2017.

Note: PSAT = Preliminary SAT, NMSQT = National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, ERW=evidence-based reading and writing.

Summary

A total of 21,846 students participated in either PSAT 8/9 or PSAT/NMSQT testing during the 2017-18 school year. Students were tested in evidence-based reading and writing (ERW) and mathematics. Compared to the 2016-17 school year, the percentage of students meeting their grade level benchmarks decreased for all grades in ERW and for grades 10 and 11 in mathematics. Only the percentage of grade eight students who met the PSAT 8/9 mathematics benchmark increased by three percentage points from 2016-17 to 2017-18. Overall, like the past year, less than half of students in grades 8 to 10 who tested met their given benchmarks. Of the students who tested in grade 11, less than 50 percent passed mathematics while 68 percent passed ERW.

References

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