

2017-18 College and Career Readiness: School-Day ACT Testing

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At-a-Glance

The ACT is administered by ACT Inc. and consists of four sections: English, reading, mathematics, and science. Scoring for each section can range from 1 to 36. A composite score is calculated by taking the average of the scores for the four sections. A college-ready score is defined by ACT Inc. as a composite score of at least a 21. ACT college readiness benchmarks for individual subjects are: English, 18; reading, 22; mathematics, 22; and science, 23.

One goal of Dallas ISD leadership was to increase the proportion of high school seniors who achieve college ready scores on the ACT. To increase the proportion of seniors testing, Dallas ISD provided funding for seniors to take the ACT during the school-day the last three school years. This year, the school-day ACT testing occurred on October 3, 2017.

To help students receive college-ready scores, Dallas ISD used Title I money (total program funds \$300,367) to offer ACT preparation sessions at nine high schools in July 2017. Dallas ISD contracted with The Princeton Review to provide student and teacher training. Sessions were scheduled to run for two hours and included a total of four meetings. To assist the district in evaluating progress toward college readiness goals, this evaluation documented the number and proportion of Dallas ISD seniors who took the school-day ACT in 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18.

Methodology

2017-18 school-day ACT testing data (dated January 19, 2018) and student demographic data from October 30, 2017 (PEIMS snapshot date) were merged to determine the number of seniors who took the ACT during school-day testing by campus. The number and percentage of seniors who participated in prep sessions and met the ACT college readiness benchmark (21) was calculated. The evaluator also analyzed the percentages of all Dallas ISD seniors who met the ACT college readiness benchmark (21), the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) benchmark (23), and the Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) benchmark (24)¹. ACT school-day testing information for prior years were taken from Zhang (2017) "2016-17 College and Career Readiness: In-School ACT Testing."

Results

Of the 215 students who registered for the prep sessions, 129 or 60 percent attended one or more

meetings. The overall attendance rate for all students who attended the prep sessions was 70 percent. Of the 129 students who participated in the ACT prep sessions, 68 students (53%) took the school-day ACT test, and of those 25 (37%) met the ACT college readiness benchmark (21). No rigorous comparisons between prep session participants and the district could be made due to the small sample size of prep session participants.

Tables 1 - 4 show 2017-18 school-day ACT participation numbers, participation rates, average composite scores, and rates of all Dallas ISD seniors meeting TSI college readiness benchmarks, respectively, by campus.

Table 1: 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18 Number of Seniors and ACT School-Day Participants by Campus

Campus	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18	
	Seniors	Tested	Seniors	Tested	Seniors	Tested
	n	n	n	n	n	n
Adams, B	382	260	401	375	390	332
Adamson	332	285	295	228	319	245
Carter	217	180	191	171	224	193
Conrad	225	198	223	188	248	185
Garza	104	98	97	97	97	96
Gilliam	85	82	99	97	77	75
Hillcrest	235	191	216	189	226	195
Jefferson	317	251	281	228	346	301
Kimball	269	222	271	245	268	241
Lassiter	56	55	58	58	55	55
Lincoln	114	94	96	80	113	96
Madison	81	73	86	82	78	76
Molina	419	332	424	384	518	439
North Dallas	274	220	185	145	209	171
Obama HS	10	10	35	33	50	50
Patton	16	10	20	14	36	22
Pinkston	175	141	171	137	158	139
Rangel HS	63	57	70	70	64	64
Roosevelt	99	65	95	51	113	81
Samuell	361	302	330	245	397	325
Seagoville HS	272	209	253	218	275	228
Skyline	1,115	933	1,005	911	954	852
Smith New Tech	100	92	111	111	98	98
South Oak Cliff	237	193	245	189	264	200
Spruce	272	229	258	199	316	273
Sunset	410	333	440	383	460	407
Townview Business	112	110	117	113	137	134
Townview Education	71	70	70	68	85	84
Townview Health	130	129	135	132	133	131
Townview Public Svc	100	97	86	85	93	92
Townview Sci & Eng	89	83	106	100	103	94
Townview TAG	60	42	61	46	68	58
Washington	224	199	214	202	225	205
White	417	374	450	397	424	364
Wilmer-Hutchins HS	185	157	152	136	174	157
Wilson	353	309	339	291	405	353
District Total	7,981	6,685	7,686	6,698	8,200	7,111

Source: District ACT data file from 01/19/2018, district demographic data file from 10/30/2017, and Zhang (2017).

¹ A composite score that meets or exceeds the TSI benchmark of 23 is sufficient to exempt a student from developmental courses in college.

A total of 7,111 students participated in school-day ACT testing during the 2017-18 school year. Although the number of students tested increased from the 2016-17 school year, the participation rate (87%) and mean composite scores (17) remained at the 2016-17 level. The percentage of students who met the college readiness benchmark slightly decreased from 18 percent in 2016-17 to 17 percent in 2017-18.

Table 2: 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18 Seniors' Participation Rates for School-Day ACT by Campus

Campus	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
	%	%	%
Lassiter	98	100	100
Obama HS	100	94	100
Rangel HS	91	100	100
Smith New Tech	92	100	100
Garza	94	100	99
Townview Public Svc	97	99	99
Townview Education	99	97	99
Townview Health	99	98	98
Townview Business	98	97	98
Madison	90	95	97
Gilliam	97	98	97
Townview Sci & Eng	93	94	91
Washington	89	94	91
Wilmer-Hutchins HS	85	90	90
Kimball	83	90	90
Skyline	84	91	89
Sunset	81	87	88
Pinkston	81	80	88
Wilson	88	86	87
Jefferson	79	81	87
Dallas ISD	84	87	87
Spruce	84	77	86
Hillcrest	81	88	86
Carter	83	90	86
White	90	88	86
Townview TAG	70	75	85
Adams, B	68	94	85
Lincoln	83	83	85
Molina	79	91	85
Seagoville HS	77	86	83
Samuell	84	74	82
North Dallas	80	78	82
Adamson	86	77	77
South Oak Cliff	81	77	76
Conrad	88	84	75
Roosevelt	66	54	72
Patton	63	70	61

Source: District ACT data file from 01/19/2018, district demographic data file from 10/30/2017, and Zhang (2017).

Note: Data were sorted by 2017-18 school year percentages.

Table 3: 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18 Seniors' Mean School-Day ACT Composite Scores by Campus

Campus	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Townview TAG	29	31	31
Townview Sci & Eng	29	29	30
Rangel HS	23	23	25
Washington	24	24	23
Lassiter	21	20	23
Obama HS	21	21	22
Townview Health	21	21	21
Townview Public Svc	21	21	20
Townview Business	19	20	20
Garza	20	20	20
Townview Education	20	19	19
Wilson	18	19	18
Smith New Tech	17	16	17
Gilliam	18	19	17
White	17	18	17
Hillcrest	17	17	17
Dallas ISD	16	17	17
Skyline	15	16	16
Adams, B	14	16	16
Molina	15	15	16
Adamson	15	16	15
North Dallas	15	14	15
Sunset	15	16	15
Roosevelt	15	17	15
Kimball	15	15	15
Samuell	14	14	15
Conrad	14	14	15
Jefferson	14	15	15
Lincoln	14	14	15
Seagoville HS	14	15	15
Pinkston	15	15	15
Spruce	15	15	15
Wilmer-Hutchins HS	15	14	14
Carter	15	15	14
Madison	13	14	14
South Oak Cliff	13	14	14
Patton	13	13	12

Source: District ACT data file from 01/19/2018, district demographic data file from 10/30/2017, and Zhang (2017).

Note: Data were sorted by 2017-18 school year scores.

Table 4: 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18 Percentage of Seniors Meeting the ACT College Readiness Benchmark (21) by Campus

Campus	2015-16 %	2016-17 %	2017-18 %
Townview Sci & Eng	100	100	100
Townview TAG	93	100	100
Rangel HS	81	77	83
Washington	77	78	70
Lassiter	44	45	69
Obama HS	60	55	56
Townview Health	54	57	50
Townview Business	32	40	41
Townview Public Svc	50	49	40
Townview Education	39	28	39
Garza	46	45	39
Wilson	29	34	28
Hillcrest	17	22	17
Dallas ISD	17	18	17
Smith New Tech	21	9	15
White	22	23	15
Skyline	11	10	12
Adams, B	9	10	10
Gilliam	17	31	9
Adamson	8	9	8
Molina	6	5	7
Sunset	8	10	7
Conrad	5	3	6
Seagoville HS	5	7	6
Samuell	2	4	6
North Dallas	9	4	6
Jefferson	6	8	4
Spruce	5	4	4
Kimball	5	6	4
Roosevelt	11	8	4
Pinkston	3	2	3
Madison	1	4	3
South Oak Cliff	3	2	3
Lincoln	2	1	2
Wilmer-Hutchins HS	1	3	1
Carter	4	5	1
Patton	10	7	0

Source: District ACT data file from 01/19/2018, district demographic data file from 10/30/2017, and Zhang (2017).

Note: Data were sorted by 2017-18 school year percentages.

Tables 5 and 6 show the percentage of students who met TSI and TAPR college readiness benchmarks by

campus. The percentage of students who met the TSI ACT benchmark slightly decreased from 12 to 11 percent, while the percentage of students who met the TAPR ACT benchmark remained the same (9%).

Table 5: 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18 Percentage of Seniors Meeting the TSI ACT College Readiness Benchmark (23) by Campus

Campus	2015-16 %	2016-17 %	2017-18 %
Townview TAG	88	98	100
Townview Sci & Eng	99	100	97
Rangel HS	58	63	72
Washington	58	60	55
Lassiter	31	19	44
Obama HS	40	39	34
Townview Health	33	30	33
Townview Public Svc	27	28	23
Townview Business	14	24	21
Garza	25	26	21
Townview Education	13	13	19
Wilson	20	27	18
Dallas ISD	10	12	11
Smith New Tech	11	5	9
White	13	13	9
Hillcrest	12	14	9
Adams, B	5	5	6
Skyline	5	5	6
Gilliam	4	14	5
Adamson	4	3	5
Roosevelt	5	2	4
Samuell	1	2	3
Molina	3	2	3
Seagoville HS	3	3	3
Conrad	3	1	3
North Dallas	5	3	2
Spruce	2	2	2
Kimball	2	3	2
Sunset	4	5	2
Jefferson	3	2	1
Pinkston	1	2	1
Carter	2	2	1
Lincoln	0	1	0
Madison	0	1	0
Patton	10	0	0
South Oak Cliff	1	2	0
Wilmer-Hutchins HS	1	2	0

Source: District ACT data file from 01/19/2018, district demographic data file from 10/30/2017, and Zhang (2017).

Note: TSI stands for Texas Success Initiative; Data were sorted by 2017-18 school year percentages.

Table 6: 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18
Percentage of Seniors Meeting the TAPR ACT College
Readiness Benchmark (24) by Campus

Campus	2015-16 %	2016-17 %	2017-18 %
Townview TAG	89	96	100
Townview Sci & Eng	95	96	94
Rangel HS	40	47	58
Washington	49	52	44
Lassiter	22	10	38
Obama HS	10	24	30
Townview Health	24	23	27
Townview Public Svc	21	27	16
Townview Business	7	18	15
Wilson	16	23	15
Garza	15	19	14
Townview Education	10	10	13
Dallas ISD	8	9	9
Smith New Tech	7	3	7
Hillcrest	11	12	7
White	9	11	6
Adams, B	2	3	5
Skyline	3	4	4
Gilliam	1	8	4
Roosevelt	3	2	4
Adamson	3	2	4
Seagoville HS	2	2	3
Samuell	0	1	2
Molina	2	1	2
Kimball	2	2	2
North Dallas	4	1	2
Sunset	3	3	1
Jefferson	2	1	1
Conrad	1	1	1
Spruce	1	2	0
Carter	2	1	0
Lincoln	0	1	0
Madison	0	1	0
Patton	0	0	0
Pinkston	0	0	0
South Oak Cliff	1	1	0
Wilmer-Hutchins HS	1	1	0

Source: District ACT data file from 01/19/2018, district demographic data file from 10/30/2017, and Zhang (2017).

Note: TAPR stands for Texas Academic Performance Report; Data were sorted by 2017-18 school year percentages.

Summary

To increase student participation rates, Dallas ISD provided funding for seniors to take the ACT during the school-day the past three school years. Most seniors (87%) participated in the school-day ACT testing on October 3, 2017. Like the last three years, less than a fifth of those who tested met the ACT college readiness benchmark (17%), TSI benchmark (11%), or TAPR benchmark (9%).

References

Zhang, J (2017). 2016-17 College and Career Readiness: In-School ACT Testing. Dallas, TX: Dallas Independent School District.

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