

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

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EA18-520-4.4

At-a-Glance

One of the goals of Dallas ISD leadership is to increase college enrollment among students who graduate from high school. This goal is based on a belief that exposure to college admissions exams will increase the number of students who consider attending college. To increase the proportion of seniors testing, Dallas ISD provided funding for juniors to take SAT during the school-day the last four school years. This year, the school-day SAT testing occurred on March 7, 2018.

To help students achieve college-ready scores, Dallas ISD used Title I money (total Title I College and Career Readiness funds \$300,367) to offer SAT preparation sessions. Dallas ISD contracted with The Princeton Review to provide student and teacher training. Summer (July) 2017 sessions were scheduled at nine high schools and included a total of four meetings lasting two hours each. A March Saturday Boot Camp was offered lasting five hours. Additional preparatory SAT sessions were held at the end of the school year for students interested in taking the national Saturday SAT administration. End-of-school-year sessions were held at three high schools and included a total of four meetings lasting between 3.5 and 4 hours each.

The College Board redesigned the SAT test in 2016, and the new test includes sections for evidence-based reading and writing (ERW) and mathematics. Scale scores in each section range from 200 to 800, and composite scores range from 400 to 1600.

Methodology

2017-18 school-day SAT testing data and district demographic data files from October 30, 2017 (PEIMS snapshot date) were merged to determine the participation rate of juniors who took the SAT test by campus. The number and percentage of juniors who participated in preparation sessions and met the SAT college readiness and Texas Success Initiative (TSI) benchmarks for ERW (480), and mathematics (530), was calculated. The evaluator also analyzed the percentages of all Dallas ISD juniors who met the SAT benchmarks. If a student met the college readiness benchmarks in ERW and mathematics, the student was exempt from the reading and writing section and the mathematics section of the TSI Assessment (TSIA). SAT school-day testing information for prior years were taken from Zhang (2016) "College and Career Readiness: School-Day SAT Testing, 2015-16" and Zhang (2017) "2016-17 College and Career Readiness: School-Day SAT Testing."

Results

A total of 365 students registered for the Summer 2017 preparatory sessions and/or the March Boot Camp. Two students registered for both sessions but only participated in the March Boot Camp. Of the 365 students, 229 students (63%) attended one or more sessions, and 151 (41%) took the school-day SAT. Of those, 109 students (72%) met the SAT ERW benchmark and 75 (50%) met the SAT Mathematics benchmark.

School-day SAT participation rate for Dallas ISD juniors was 82 percent in 2017-18. Table 1 shows school-day SAT participation rates for 2015 to 2017 by campus.

Table 1: 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18 Juniors' Participation Rates for School-Day SAT by Campus

Campus	2015-16 N=8,915	2016-17 N=9,014	2017-18 N=9,426
	%	%	%
Adams, B	85	83	84
Adamson	82	77	72
Carter	81	83	81
Conrad	82	75	68
Garza	99	97	94
Gilliam	97	95	95
Hillcrest	74	74	78
Jefferson	72	74	83
Kimball	83	83	83
Lassiter	100	98	98
Lincoln	67	80	74
Madison	75	93	82
Molina	88	86	85
North Dallas	70	72	81
Obama HS	100	98	100
Patton	52	58	10
Pinkston	71	78	79
Rangel HS	97	95	97
Roosevelt	62	63	74
Samuell	78	83	83
Seagoville HS	75	80	78
Skyline	86	88	86
Smith New Tech	97	97	100
South Oak Cliff	67	73	69
Spruce	78	81	80
Sunset	81	80	78
Townview Business	100	99	98
Townview Education	100	98	98
Townview Health	99	99	97
Townview Public Svc	100	98	98
Townview Sci & Eng	90	99	100
Townview TAG	95	96	94
Washington	88	93	95
White	79	82	82
Wilmer-Hutchins HS	84	74	83
Wilson	84	86	77
Dallas ISD	82	83	82

Source: District SAT data files 06/06/2018, district demographic data file 10/30/2017, Zhang (2016), and Zhang (2017).

Note: *N indicates District Juniors.

Tables 2 and 3 show the percentage of juniors who met or exceeded school-day SAT ERW and mathematics college readiness benchmarks, by campus over the past three school years.

Table 2: 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18 Percentage of Juniors Meeting or Exceeding School-Day SAT College Readiness Benchmark for ERW (480) by Campus

Campus	2015-16 N=7,275 %	2016-17 N=7,483 %	2017-18 N=7,755 %
Adams, B	39	31	31
Adamson	31	27	27
Carter	12	12	17
Conrad	17	18	22
Garza	78	70	89
Gilliam	59	44	70
Hillcrest	40	42	44
Jefferson	24	21	23
Kimball	26	24	32
Lassiter	82	84	89
Lincoln	13	24	21
Madison	33	14	9
Molina	26	27	25
North Dallas	18	24	24
Obama HS	83	92	89
Patton	3	5	0
Pinkston	19	19	22
Rangel HS	99	98	98
Roosevelt	20	22	15
Samuell	15	23	21
Seagoville HS	28	23	23
Skyline	36	37	34
Smith New Tech	47	40	42
South Oak Cliff	8	13	20
Spruce	17	15	20
Sunset	32	27	29
Townview Business	74	79	91
Townview Education	66	86	84
Townview Health	87	83	91
Townview Public Svc	82	82	92
Townview Sci & Eng	100	99	100
Townview TAG	100	100	98
Washington	93	89	90
White	50	44	40
Wilmer-Hutchins HS	11	13	14
Wilson	55	51	56
Dallas ISD	38	37	38

Source: District SAT data files 06/06/2018, district demographic data file 10/30/2017, Zhang (2016), and Zhang (2017).

Note: *N indicates District Juniors who took the SAT test.
ERW=evidence-based reading and writing.

Table 3: 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18 Percentage of Juniors Meeting or Exceeding School-Day SAT College Readiness Benchmark for Mathematics (530) by Campus

Campus	2015-16 N=7,275 %	2016-17 N=7,483 %	2017-18 N=7,755 %
Adams, B	10	14	11
Adamson	10	6	7
Carter	4	3	2
Conrad	10	6	7
Garza	63	50	50
Gilliam	33	23	29
Hillcrest	24	18	11
Jefferson	9	6	6
Kimball	8	5	6
Lassiter	43	66	53
Lincoln	6	5	8
Madison	15	2	0
Molina	9	10	8
North Dallas	5	13	8
Obama HS	47	50	53
Patton	1	0	0
Pinkston	5	8	7
Rangel HS	69	77	84
Roosevelt	9	7	3
Samuell	4	11	10
Seagoville HS	13	5	5
Skyline	12	16	16
Smith New Tech	9	14	9
South Oak Cliff	3	7	5
Spruce	5	4	7
Sunset	8	9	9
Townview Business	45	47	65
Townview Education	33	45	41
Townview Health	52	51	58
Townview Public Svc	48	45	49
Townview Sci & Eng	100	100	100
Townview TAG	98	100	98
Washington	65	56	52
White	22	20	13
Wilmer-Hutchins HS	7	9	3
Wilson	33	31	34
Dallas ISD	19	19	18

Source: District SAT data files 06/06/2018, district demographic data file 10/30/2017, Zhang (2016), and Zhang (2017).

Note: *N indicates District Juniors who took the SAT test.

Dallas ISD participation rates and percentages of juniors who met the school-day SAT college readiness benchmarks have remained stable over the past three years. Few campuses, however, had changes in benchmark passing rates of 10 percentage points or greater between the 2015-16 and 2017-18 school years. For ERW, six of the 36 campuses (17%)

increased by 10 percentage points or more, while two campuses (6%) showed a decrease by at least 10 percentage points. For mathematics, three Dallas ISD campuses (8%) increased by 10 percentage points or more, while four campuses (11%) saw a decrease of at least 10 percentage points. The number of campuses with less than 10% passing rate in the mathematics school-day SAT test increased from 16 campuses (44%) in the 2015-16 school year to 19 campuses (53%) in the 2017-18 school year.

Table 4 displays the percentage of students meeting or exceeding the SAT college readiness benchmarks by ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic status. More White and Asian students met SAT benchmarks in ERW and Mathematics than students of other ethnicities. Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander were not reported as less than six students took the exam. A higher percentage of female students met ERW benchmark, while the percentage of male students who met the mathematics benchmark was higher. More non-economically disadvantaged students met the benchmarks compared with economically disadvantaged students. Zhang (2017) reported similar results for the 2016-17 school year.

Table 4: 2017-18 Percentage of Juniors Meeting or Exceeding School-Day SAT College Readiness Benchmarks by Student Groups (N=7,755)

		Met Benchmarks	
	Tested n	ERW %	Math %
Ethnicity			
African American	1,604	31	11
Hispanic	5,583	37	16
White	385	80	58
Asian	120	55	43
AM Ind/Alaska Ntv	15	47	33
Ntv Hwi/Pcfc Islander	*	*	*
Two or More Races	45	73	40
Gender			
Male	3,668	36	19
Female	4,087	40	17
Socioeconomic Status			
Econ. Disadv.	6,371	35	15
Not Econ. Disadv.	1,384	52	31

Source: District SAT data files 06/06/2018, district demographic data file 10/30/2017.

Note: ERW=evidence-based reading and writing. Math= Mathematics. AM Ind=American Indian. Ntv Hwi=Native Hawaiian. Pcfc Islander=Pacific Islander. Econ.Disadv.=economically disadvantaged. *=redacted as less than 6 students were tested.

Table 5 displays 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18 Dallas ISD juniors' school-day SAT mean score by subject.

Table 5: 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18 Juniors' School-Day SAT Mean Score for ERW and Mathematics

School Year	Tested N	ERW	Mathematics
2015-16	7,275	454	457
2016-17	7,483	459	456
2017-18	7,755	459	458

Source: District SAT data file 06/06/2018, district demographic data files 10/30/2017, Zhang (2016), and Zhang (2017).

Note: ERW=evidence-based reading and writing.

Comparisons of mean scores revealed that average student achievement in ERW and mathematics remained stable.

Summary

To increase student participation rates, Dallas ISD provided funding for juniors to take the SAT during the school-day the past four school years. Participation rates and percentages of juniors who met the school-day SAT college readiness benchmarks have remained stable over the past three years. Most juniors (82%) participated in the school-day SAT testing on March 7, 2018. Overall, less than half (38%) of those who tested met the SAT college readiness benchmark for ERW (480), while 18 percent met the SAT college readiness benchmark for mathematics (530). However, some campuses showed changes in benchmark passing rates of 10 percentage points or greater between the 2015-16 and 2017-18 school years.

Of the 97 students that participated in the preparatory sessions and took the school-day SAT, 80 percent met the SAT ERW benchmark and 60 percent met the SAT mathematics benchmark. However, participation numbers were too low for a meaningful statistical comparison.

References

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