



Question: What is the Higher Education Readiness Component, and how many of AISD's students meet the standard?

Response:

Texas Success Initiative

The Texas Success Initiative (TSI) establishes that public institutions of higher education in Texas shall assess the academic skills of each entering undergraduate student to determine the student's readiness to enroll in freshman-level academic coursework. This may be done via a variety of assessments such as the ASSET, COMPASS, or THEA. However, students may be exempt from assessment if they meet one of several criteria, including the following:

Subject	Exit-level TAKS		SAT		ACT
ELA	>=2200 scale score	OR	>=500 on Critical Reading	OR	>=19 on English
	AND A "3" or higher on essay		AND >=1070 Total		AND >=23 Composite
Math	>=2200 scale score on math test	OR	>=500 on Math	OR	>=19 on Math
			AND >=1070 Total		AND >=23 Composite

While the criteria above are used to determine whether a student is considered College Ready, only the TAKS portion is referred to as the Texas Higher Education Readiness Component (HERC). The recently published 2006-07 AEIS report indicates that

- 52% of Exit Level TAKS takers met the HERC standard for ELA in 2007, up from 39% in 2006.
- 57% of Exit Level TAKS takers met the HERC standard for Math in 2007, up from 54% in 2006.

College Ready Graduates

The 2006-07 AEIS report contains, for the first time, a new indicator for College Ready Graduates. This indicator reflects the percentage of graduates who met one of the criteria listed above that qualifies a student for exemption from taking the academic skills assessment prior to undergraduate enrollment in Texas public higher education. The district has prepared these figures internally for the past several years, and data have been shared with the Austin Chamber of Commerce for their annual Report Card. A comparison of methodology reveals the following important distinction:

- Previous district calculations of College Ready Graduates (including those that met the standard in ELA, Math, or Both on TAKS, SAT, or ACT) included all graduates in the denominator. These reflect the true percentage of all graduates that met the criteria.
- AEIS reports indicate the percentage of only those graduates with ELA, Math, or Both results to evaluate. In short, the denominator excludes students such as special education students who were exempt from taking TAKS.

Comparison of AISD's and TEA's College Ready Graduate Calculations

Subject	TEA Methodology for College Ready Graduates Class of 2006 (% of Grads with Test Data)	AISD Methodology for College Ready Graduates Class of 2006 (% of All Grads)	AISD Methodology for College Ready Graduate Class of 2007 (% of All Grads)
ELA	57%	50%	48%
Math	58%	52%	54%
Both	44%	38%	39%

Note: Additional SAT data for the Class of 2006 indicate that AISD's percentages of College Ready Graduates increased by 1 percentage point in each category beyond what is reflected in the table above. Percentages for the Class of 2007 also may increase as more scores become available.