

2010 ACT Test Results

About the ACT. The ACT is a national college admissions examination developed and administered by ACT, Inc. that consists of subject area tests in: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Scientific Reasoning. The highest score possible on each section of the ACT is 36. Students generally take the ACT during their junior or senior year of high school, and many colleges and universities use the ACT to make admission decisions. ACT, Inc. provides an annual summary of student performance at the end of each academic year. Results from that annual summary are described in this brief.

Austin ISD participation in the ACT increased. AISD student participation (n=1,160) in ACT testing increased in 2010, compared to prior years' participation (Figures 1 and 2). The increase in the 2010 ACT test participation was found for all student groups, with exception of African American students (less 2 students).

Figure 1. Number of AISD Students Taking the ACT

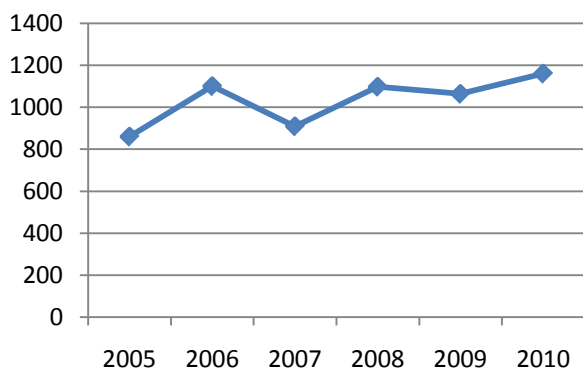
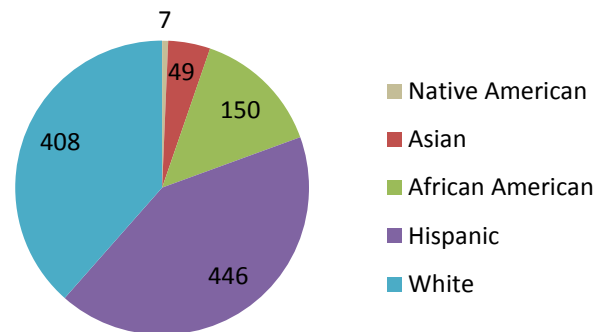


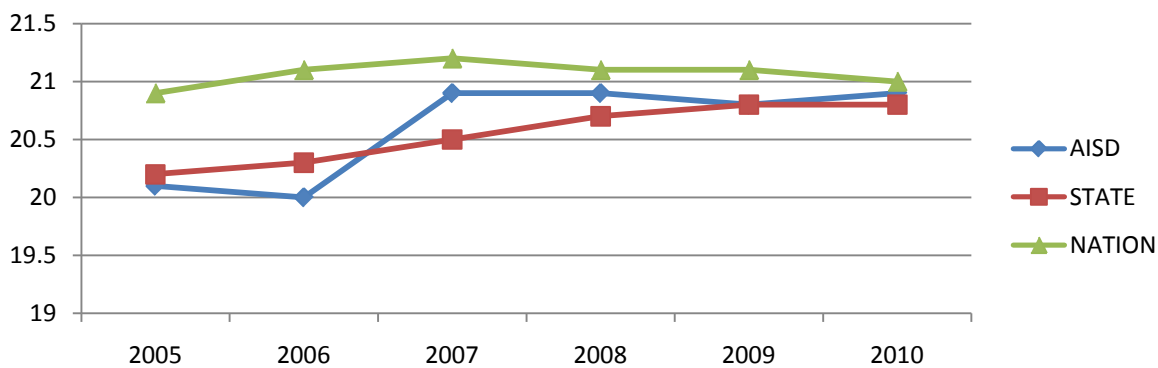
Figure 2. Description of AISD Students Taking the ACT in 2010



Source. ACT Profile Report, 2010

The average composite ACT score (20.9) for AISD students has increased since 2005. In 2010, AISD student performance was comparable to the state (20.8) and national averages (21).

Figure 3. AISD, State, and National Overall Average ACT Scores, 2005-2010



Source. ACT Profile Report, 2010.

2010 ACT Test Results

For most subjects in 2010, AISD student performance was similar to that of the state and slightly lower than that of the nation. In Math, AISD students' average score has increased each year and has been above that of the state and the nation since 2007 (Figures 4 through 7).

Figure 4. ACT Average Scores: English

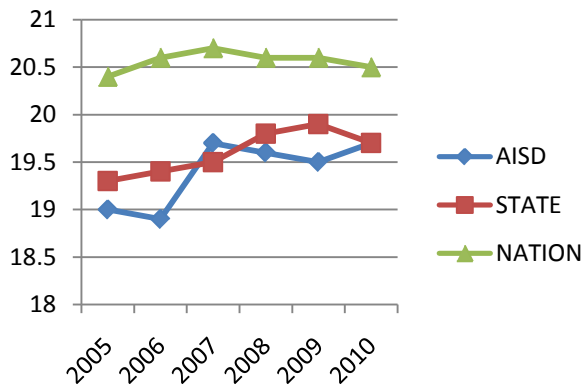


Figure 5. ACT Average Scores: Math

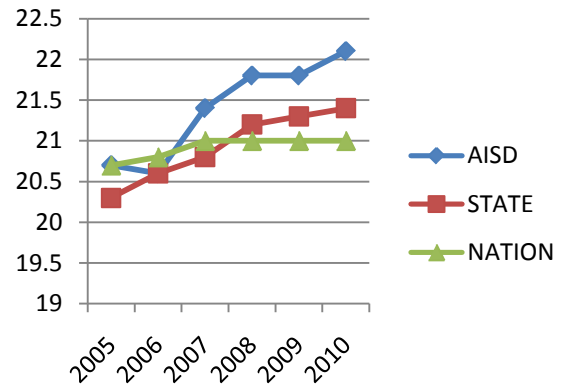


Figure 6. ACT Average Score: Reading

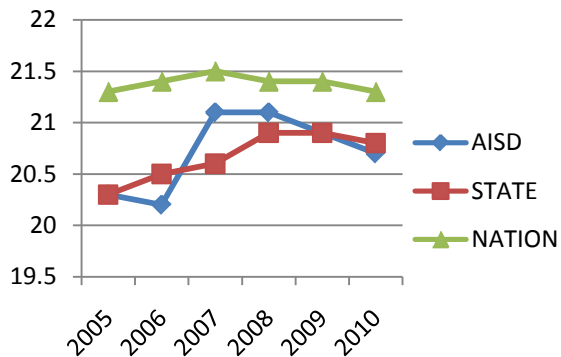
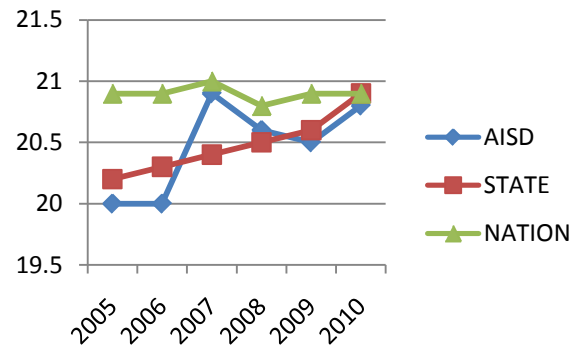


Figure 7. ACT Average Score: Scientific Reasoning



Source: ACT Profile Report, 2010

The average ACT score varied across student groups by subject. In math, the average ACT score for each student group increased slightly in 2010, compared with their average scores in 2009 (Table 1), with exception of African American students. The 2010 performance of African American students declined in every subject area, compared with their average scores in 2009. Additionally, the average ACT scores for Native American students declined in English, Reading, and Science between 2009 and 2010, with the greatest change of -3.5 percentage points in Reading.

However, almost all of the student ethnic groups improved their ACT performance in all subjects over the past five years, with the exception of African American students (Table 2). Across school years, an achievement gap on the ACT test was evidenced between African American and Hispanic students and their White and Asian peers.

2010 ACT Test Results

Table 1. Change in ACT Average Score Between 2006 and 2010, by Ethnicity

	English		Math		Reading		Science	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
Native American	22.0	20.6	23.8	25.1	24.8	21.3	22.3	21.6
Asian	23.1	23.1	25.6	26.5	22.9	23.6	22.7	23.9
African American	15.4	14.9	17.8	17.3	17.0	16.0	17.2	16.5
Hispanic	16.6	16.7	19.6	19.8	18.2	18.0	18.5	18.9
White	23.8	24.1	25.4	25.8	25.0	24.8	23.8	24.0

Source. ACT Profile Report, 2010

Table 2. Change in ACT Average Score Between 2006 and 2010, by Ethnicity

	5-year Difference				
	English	Math	Reading	Science	Composite
Native American	*	*	*	*	*
Asian	4.1	3.8	3.8	3.0	3.8
African American	-0.4	0.4	-0.3	0.0	-0.1
Hispanic	0.4	1.1	0.2	0.4	0.6
White	1.2	2.1	0.8	1.2	1.3

Source. ACT Profile Report, 2010. * There were no Native American ACT test-takers in 2006.

ACT began reporting College Readiness Benchmark Scores in 2010. Compared with the state, AISD had a greater percentage of students meeting the College Readiness Benchmark in math and science had slightly lower percentages of students meeting the College Readiness Benchmark in the other subjects. A gap in college readiness was observed between African American and Hispanic students and their White and Asian peers.

Table 3. ACT Percentage College Ready by Ethnicity, 2010

	English (score= 18)	Math (score= 22)	Reading (score= 24)	Science (score= 18)	All Four Subjects
Native American	57%	71%	57%	14%	14%
Asian	69%	76 [^]	65%	61%	51%
African American	26%	17%	15%	7%	4%
Hispanic	41%	35%	30%	13%	10%
White	87%	78%	75%	54%	50%
AISD Students	58%	51%	47%	30%	27%
State	61%	46%	48%	29%	

Source. ACT Profile Report, 2010

Notes. As reported by ACT, "The benchmark score is the minimum score needed on an ACT subject-area test to indicate a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75% chance of obtaining a C or higher in the corresponding credit-bearing college courses, which include English Composition, Algebra, Social Science and Biology. These scores were empirically derived based on the actual performance of students in college".

2010 ACT Test Results

While the district overall ACT average was greater than both the national and state averages, performance by campus varied widely across the district. LASA and Anderson high schools had the highest composite scores. Green Tech, Lanier, and Reagan high schools the lowest average scores.

Table 4. ACT Campus, District, State, & National Average Scores, 2010

Campus	Number Tested	English	Mathematics	Reading	Science	Composite
Akins	79	16.4	19.2	17.5	18.9	18.1
Anderson	148	25.4	27.8	25.7	25.2	26.1
Austin	187	21.4	23.1	22.4	21.9	22.3
Bowie	190	22.1	24.7	22.9	23.0	23.4
Crockett	111	17.2	19.1	18.1	18.6	18.4
Garza	6	18.5	20.2	21.2	19.5	19.8
Eastside	9	9.6	16.1	10.9	13.6	12.7
Lanier	65	13.3	17.7	15.8	16.3	15.9
LBJ	68	12.8	16.8	14.3	16.3	15.1
LASA	62	25.9	26.3	26.3	24.6	25.9
McCallum	111	20.4	22.6	21.9	20.7	21.5
Reagan	19	12.8	17.9	14.8	17.0	15.8
Travis	105	14.9	17.7	16.1	17.0	16.6
AIISD	1160	19.7	22.1	20.7	20.8	20.9
State	92,615	19.7	21.4	20.8	20.9	20.8
National	1,568,835	20.5	21.0	21.3	20.9	21.0

Source. ACT Profile Report, 2010

Reference

College Board (2010). *College-Bound Seniors District Profile Report for Austin Independent School District (AISD)*, College Board, September 2010.