



# Ready for College Update, 2016–2017

## Austin Independent School District

### Purpose

This report provides an overview of Austin Independent School District’s (AISD) college readiness outcomes for seniors in the 2015–2016 and 2016–2017 school years.

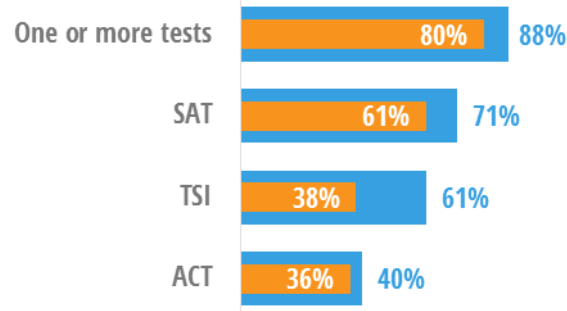
### Background

College readiness refers to the knowledge and skills a high school graduate needs to achieve successful college and career outcomes. Students and educators use multiple assessments to assess college readiness. These assessments include the ACT, SAT, and Texas Success Initiative (TSI) exams. If students meet college readiness benchmarks on these assessments, they are likely to succeed in credit-bearing courses needed for a college degree or program certificate without the need for remedial coursework.

### How many seniors have taken a college admissions test?

Overall, 88% of AISD seniors took one or more college admissions tests in the 2016–2017 school year, a significant increase from the prior year. Participation on each test ( i.e., ACT, SAT, and TSI) also increased significantly in 2016–2017 compared with the prior year. Although test participation was optional, district staff identified students who had not taken a college readiness test and those who took a test and did not meet college readiness criteria and provided necessary academic and/or procedural supports throughout the school year. Each high school also offered TSI testing on site.

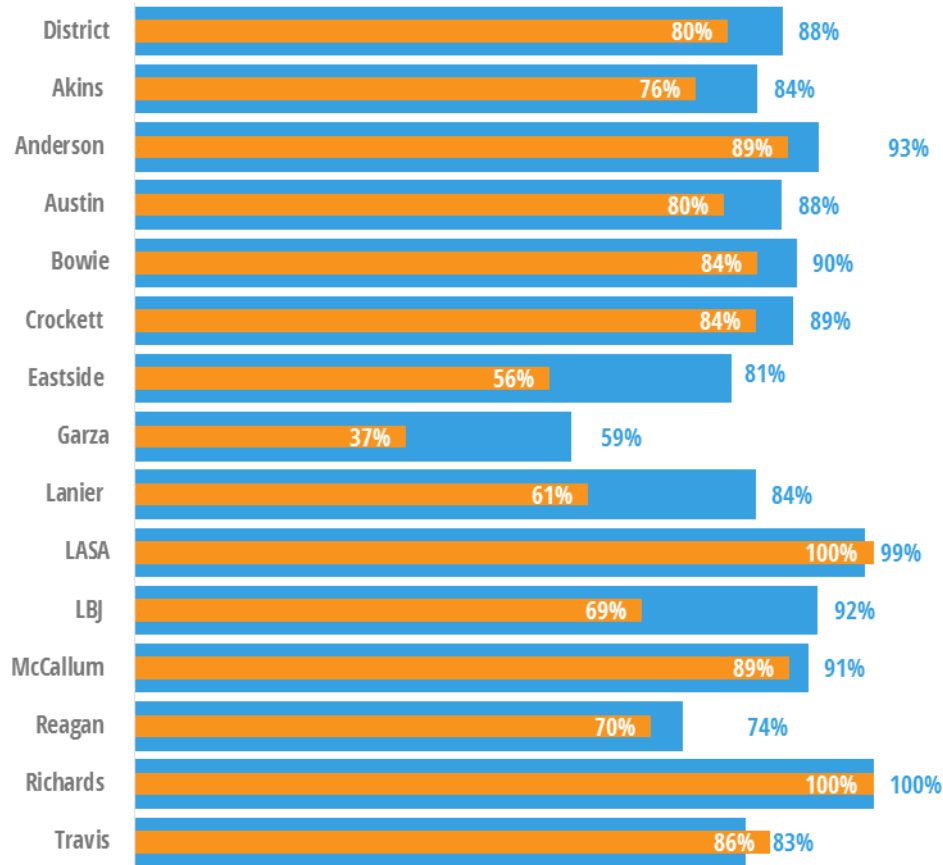
Figure 1  
ACT, SAT, and TSI test taking increased significantly in 2016–2017, compared with the 2015–2016 school year, and most AISD seniors took the SAT.



Source. District student enrollment and ACT, SAT, and TSI test records, 2016–2017  
Note. Summary includes seniors who were actively enrolled at the end of the 2016 (n = 4,344) and 2017 (n = 4,294) school years.

Figure 2

Although the percentages varied across campuses, the percentages of AISD seniors who took at least one college admissions test increased in 2017, compared with AISD seniors in 2016.



Source. District student enrollment and ACT, SAT, and TSI test records, 2016–2017

Note. Summary includes seniors who were actively enrolled at the end of the 2016 ( $n = 4,344$ ) and 2017 ( $n = 4,294$ ) school years.

## What percentages of AISD students were academically ready for college?

College readiness percentages were calculated for AISD senior test takers who took one or more college admissions tests to monitor the district's progress in preparing its students to be successful after high school graduation. Additionally, college readiness percentages were calculated for all seniors, regardless of whether they reported test scores, to provide information about the overall proportion of seniors confirmed as being college ready. Note, the absence of a test score may not indicate a student was not college ready. Students may be college ready but not have a test record on file (e.g., the student requested the score not be shared with the district). Students also may have opted out of testing because it was not necessary for their postsecondary plans (e.g., earning career certification before graduation, entering the military, or taking a gap year before college enrollment).

## College Readiness Criteria

To be considered college ready, a student must have met college readiness criteria on the SAT, ACT, and/or TSI test. The criteria for each are as follows:

### ELA

SAT:  $\geq 480$  on the evidence-based reading and writing portion of the assessment

or

ACT:  $\geq 19$  on English and  $\geq 23$  composite

or

TSI:  $\geq 351$  on reading and  $\geq 363$  on writing and  $\geq 4$  on essay or  $\geq 351$  on reading and  $\geq 5$  on essay

### Math

SAT:  $\geq 5030$  on the math portion of the assessment

or

ACT:  $\geq 19$  on math and  $\geq 23$  composite

or

TSI:  $\geq 350$  on the math assessment

For more information on these assessments, please refer to the following sites.

### SAT

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/pdf/educator-benchmark-brief.pdf>

### ACT

<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/college-and-career-readiness/standards.html>

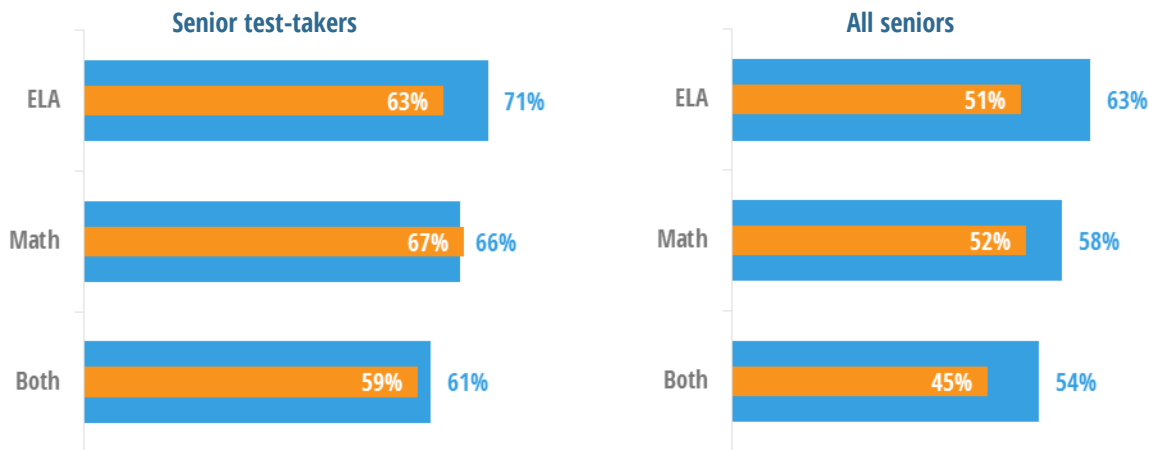
### TSI

<https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/sites/default/files/accuplacer-tsi-assessment-interpreting-score-v2.pdf>

In most instances during the 2016–2017 school year, greater percentages of AISD seniors met the college readiness benchmarks than did so in the prior school year. The examination of test-taker performance revealed a significantly greater percentage of test-takers meeting college readiness criteria in English language arts (ELA) in 2016–2017 than in 2015–2016. The percentages of test takers who met college readiness criteria in math and across both subjects were about the same year to year.

Figure 3

In most cases, greater percentages of AISD seniors in 2017 met college readiness criteria in each area, compared with the proportion of AISD seniors in 2016.

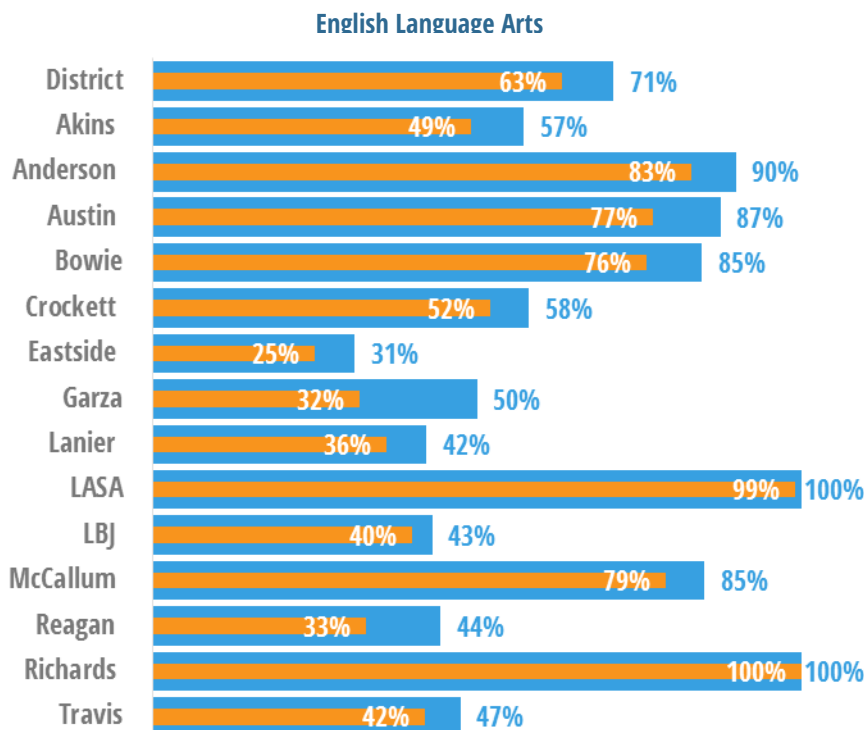


Source. District student enrollment and ACT, SAT, and TSI test records, 2016–2017

Notes. Test takers only includes seniors who took one or more assessments and were actively enrolled at the end of the 2016 ( $n = 3,489$ ) and 2017 ( $n = 3,765$ ) school years. All seniors includes students who were actively enrolled at the end of the 2016 ( $n = 4,344$ ) and 2017 ( $n = 4,294$ ) school years.

Figure 4

Although 71% of AISD test-taking seniors and 63% of all seniors met college readiness criteria in ELA, these percentages varied across high schools.



Source. District student enrollment and ACT, SAT, and TSI test records, 2016–2017

Figure 5

Although percentages varied across high schools, **66% of AISD test-taking seniors** and **58% all seniors** met college readiness criteria in math.

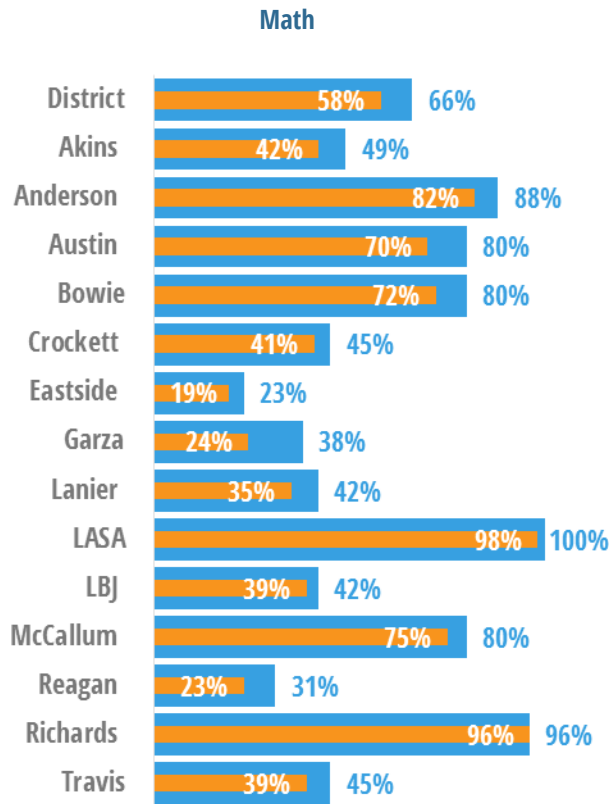
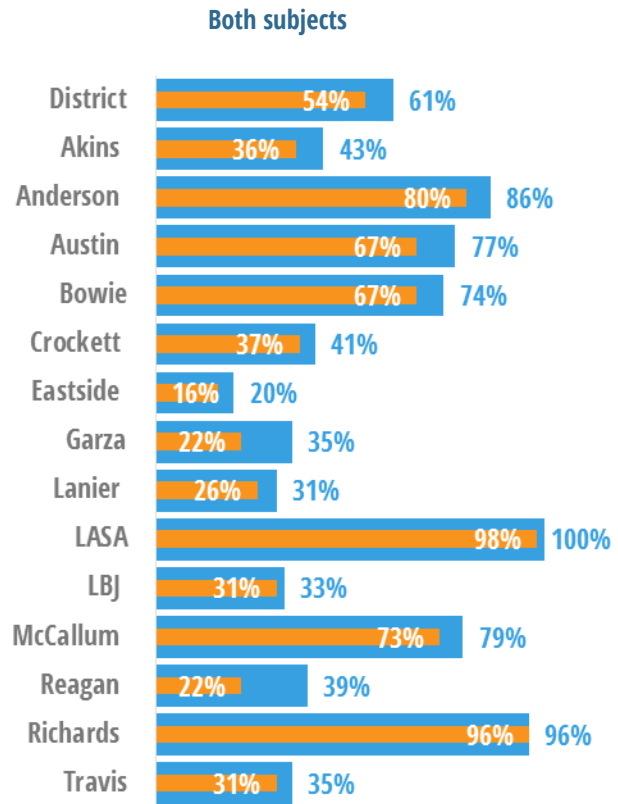


Figure 6

In both subjects, **61% of AISD test-taking seniors** and **54% all seniors** met college readiness criteria, and percentages varied across campuses.



Source. District student enrollment and ACT, SAT, and TSI test records, 2016–2017

Notes. Test takers only includes seniors who took one or more assessments and were actively enrolled at the end of the 2016 ( $n = 3,489$ ) and 2017 ( $n = 3,765$ ) school years. All seniors includes students who were actively enrolled at the end of the 2016 ( $n = 4,344$ ) and 2017 ( $n = 4,294$ ) school years.

## AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Karen Looby, Ph.D.

### Department of Research and Evaluation

1111 West 6th Street, Suite D-350 | Austin, TX 78703-5338  
 512.414.1724 | fax: 512.414.1707  
[www.austinisd.org/dre](http://www.austinisd.org/dre) | Twitter: @AISD\_DRE

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