

# 2018 ACT Test Results Summary

## Austin Independent School District

2017–2018

### Purpose

This report describes ACT test results for Austin Independent School District (AISD) seniors in the 2017–2018 school year. The ACT is a national college admissions examination developed and administered by ACT, Inc. that consists of the following subject area tests: English, mathematics (math), 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.

### How many AISD students took the ACT?

While there was a decrease in the number of ACT test-takers in 2017 and 2018, AISD ACT test participation has increased over the past ten years (Figures 1 and 2). ACT test participation also decreased at the state and national levels in 2017–2018 (ACT, 2018).

Figure 1

ACT test participation in AISD decreased in 2017–2018 compared with the prior year.

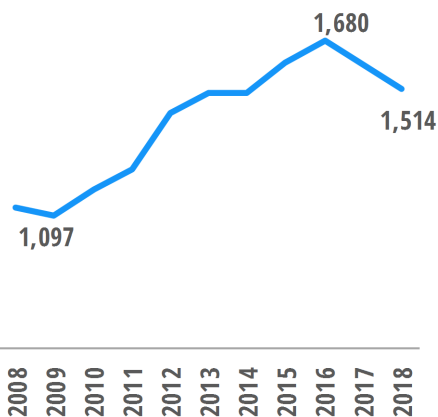
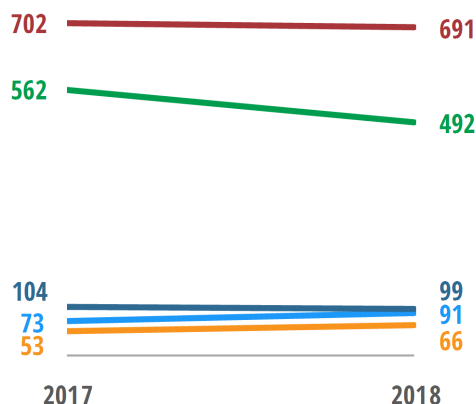


Figure 2

ACT test participation increased for students who were Asian or two or more races and decreased for African American, Hispanic, and White students in 2018.



Source. ACT District Profile Report, 2018

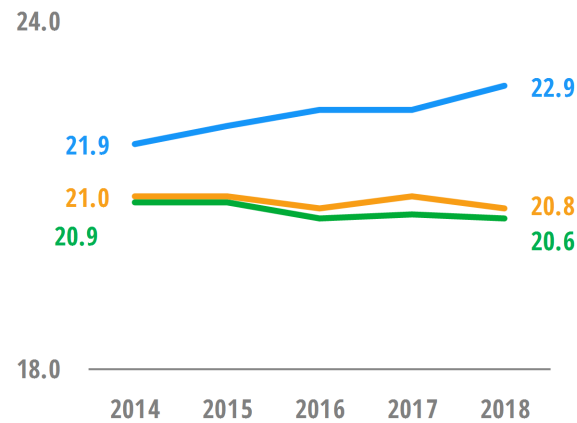
### How did AISD students perform on the ACT?

The district's average ACT composite score of 22.9 exceeded the state and national average composite scores. The district's 2018 ACT composite score surpassed its prior all time high from 2016 and 2017. State and national average achievement levels decreased slightly from the prior year (ACT, 2018). The district's average ACT subject area scores exceeded state and national averages in all subject areas for the past five years (Figures 3 and 4).

## 2018 ACT Test Results

Figure 3

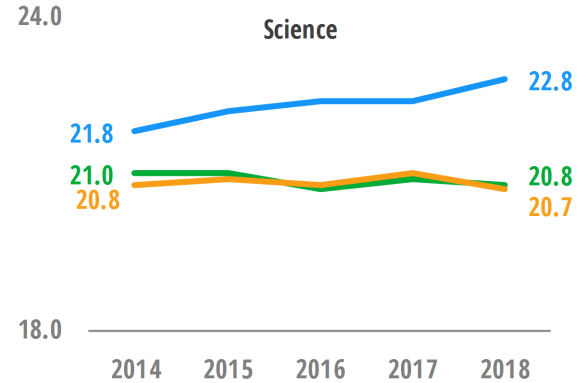
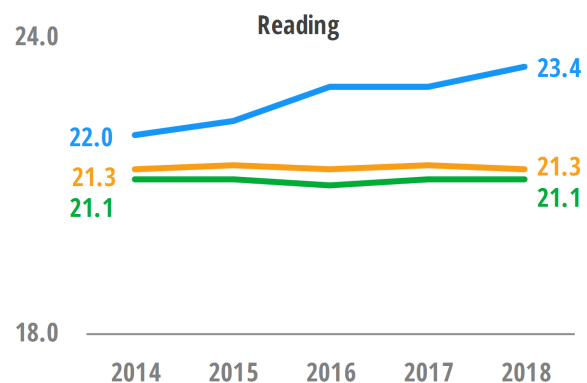
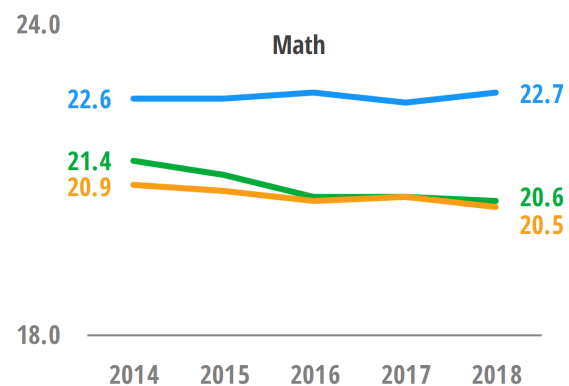
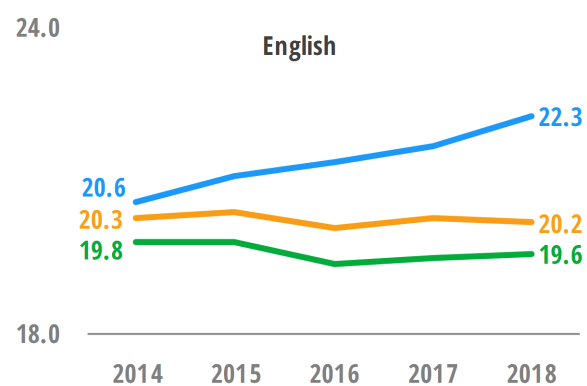
The average ACT composite score of 22.9 for the **district** exceeded **state** and **national** averages. While the **district** average score increased, the **state** and **national** average achievement levels decreased from the prior year.



Source: ACT District Profile Report, 2018

Figure 4

The **district's** average ACT score in each subject area exceeds **state** and **national** averages in each subject for the fourth year in a row.

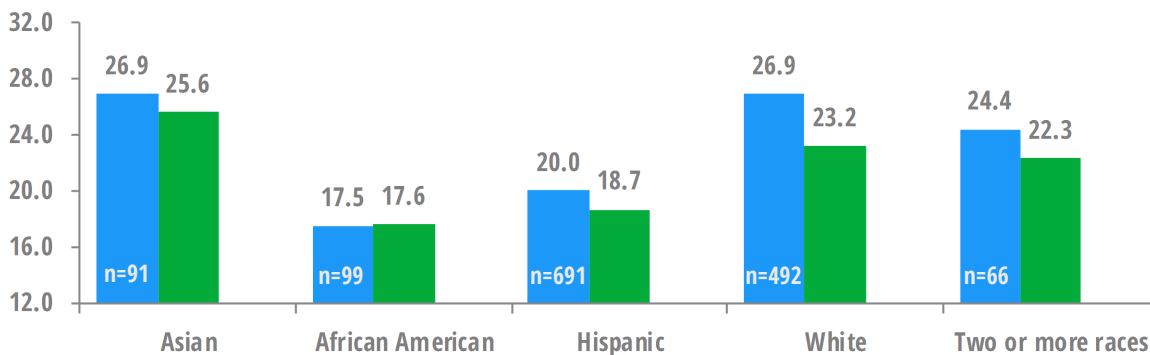


Source: ACT District Profile Report, 2018

With exception of African-American Students, AISD students had greater average composite scores on the ACT, compared with their peers at the state level (Figure 5). Within AISD, Asian and white students performed better than all other groups. Over the past 5 years, the AISD average ACT composite score and subject area scores in English, reading, and science increased in most instances (Figure 6). However, while ACT scores increased, achievement gaps remained as students who were Asian, two or more races, and White consistently scored higher than did Hispanic and African American students.

Figure 5

The average ACT composite score for students categorized as Asian, Hispanic, White, and Two or More Races in AISD exceeded those at state levels.

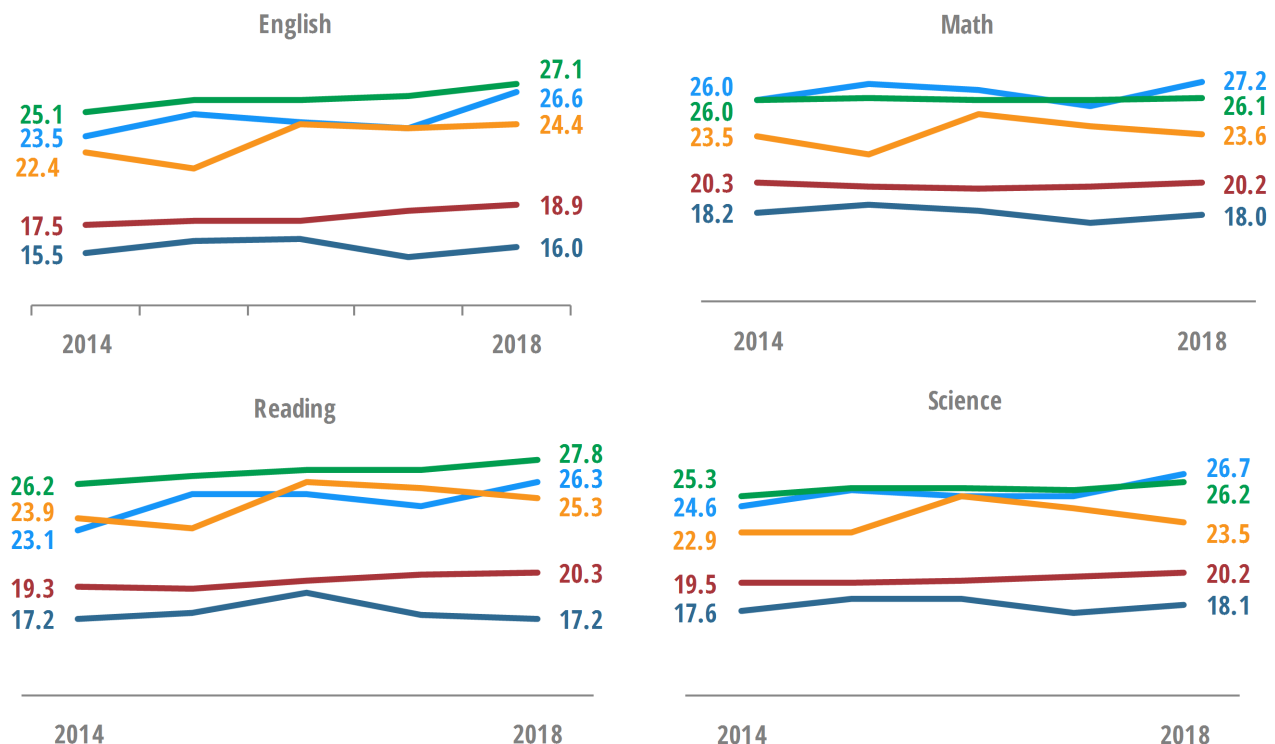


Source. ACT District Profile Report, 2018

Note. At the time this report was written, ACT national composite score averages for each ethnic group were not publicly available.

Figure 6

While average ACT scores increased over the past 5 years in most instances, students who were Asian, two or more races, or White continued to score higher on the ACT than students categorized as African American or Hispanic.



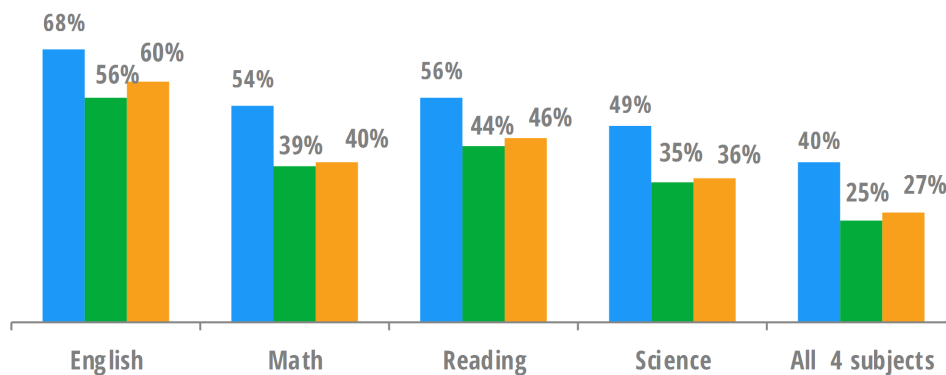
Source. ACT District Profile Report, 2018

## How many AISD students met college readiness benchmarks on the ACT?

AISD had greater percentages of students who were college ready, compared with percentages at the state and national levels, in English, math, reading, and science and across all four subjects (Figure 7). In a year-to-year comparison, the percentage of AISD students who were college ready increased in English, reading, science, and across all four tests (Figure 8).

Figure 7

Greater percentages of AISD test-takers met college readiness benchmarks on the ACT than did students at the state and national levels.

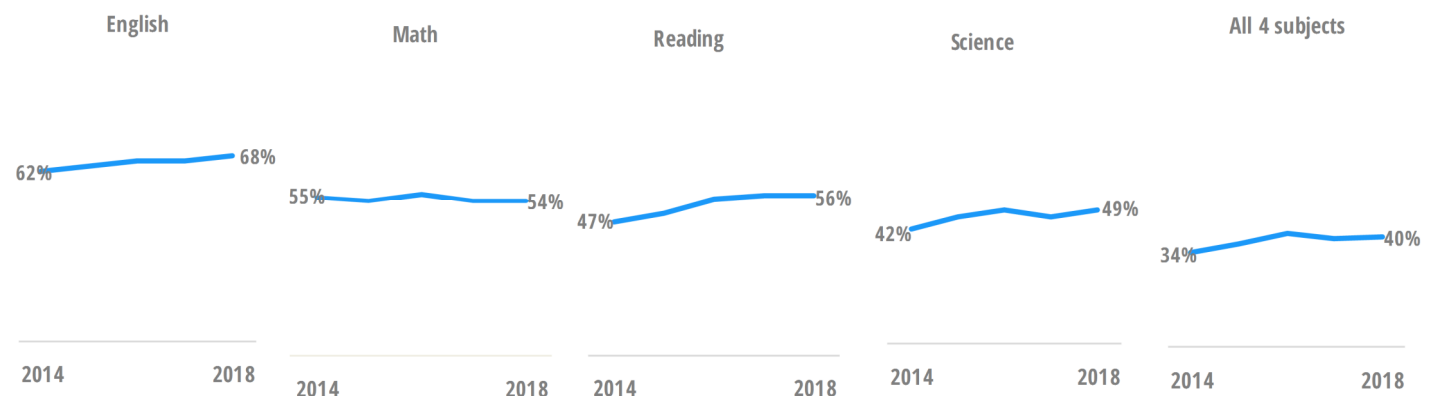


Based on the actual performance of college students, ACT college-readiness benchmark scores indicated a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75% chance of obtaining a C or higher in the corresponding credit-bearing college courses (ACT, 2018). These courses included English composition, algebra, social science, and biology.

Source. ACT District Profile Report, 2018

Figure 7

Over the past 5 five years, the percentage of AISD students who met college readiness benchmarks on the ACT increased in every area but math.



Source. ACT District Profile Report, 2018

## References

ACT. (2018). *Graduating class 2018 district profile report*. Iowa City, IA: ACT.

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