

Ready for College Update

Austin Independent School District

Purpose

This report provides an overview of district college readiness outcomes and related changes in the methods for determining student college readiness.

Background

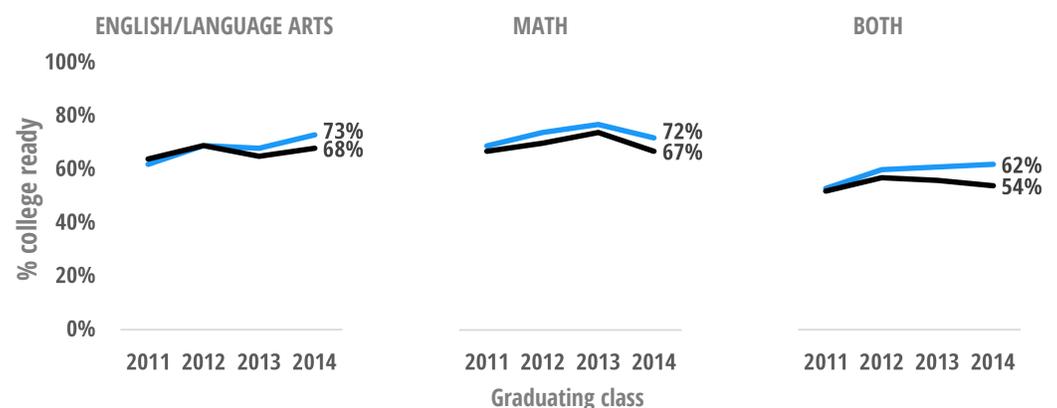
There have been recent changes in state assessments. Currently, there is no longer a state assessment used to determine college readiness, nor has the TEA provided an updated state definition of college readiness. Thus, district staff have been working to define a “ready for college” indicator and to use this measure to provide related support services and increase the likelihood of postsecondary success for all graduates.

AISD’s work is influencing the practices of the regional Direct to College 70 Initiative (DTC70). Many of AISD’s best practices are implemented regionally to ensure graduates enroll in a postsecondary institution in the fall after graduation. A goal of 70% DTC enrollment has been set for the Class of 2016.

College Readiness Prior to 2015

Graduates from Austin Independent School District (AISD) in the Classes of 2011 through 2014 were increasingly more likely than their peers statewide to have been college ready in English language arts (ELA), math, and both subjects (Figure 1).

Figure 1
Recent AISD graduates were more likely than their peers in Texas to have met college readiness criteria in English/language arts, math, and both subjects.



Source. Texas Academic Performance Reports, 2012-13 and 2014-15

Note. Students were considered college ready if they met certain criteria on the TAKS exit-level test, the SAT test, or the ACT test. See sidebar on page 2 for details.

Ready for College Indicators

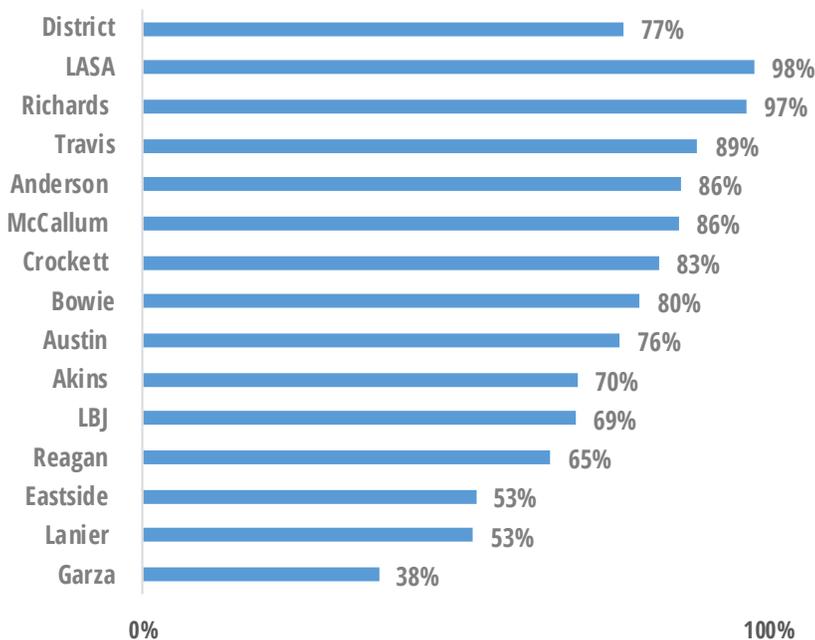
In the 2015-2016 school year, district representatives supporting the regional DTC70 Initiative defined a set of ready for college indicators for monitoring district and regional progress towards ensuring all seniors are college ready. Three items were selected to monitor student and district progress towards college readiness: student participation in college readiness assessments, college readiness outcomes for test-takers, and college readiness outcomes for all enrolled seniors.

How many seniors have taken a college admissions test?

First, district staff have been monitoring the percentage of seniors who have taken a college admissions test with articulated performance criteria indicating college readiness. Test participation is important because there is no longer a state required test that provides a college readiness benchmark for all students. At this time, students may or may not elect to participate in the ACT, SAT, and TSI tests. This indicator assists district staff to identify non-participants and provide necessary academic and/or procedural supports.

Figure 2

While campus percentages varied widely, most 2016 AISD seniors have taken at least one college admissions test.



Source. District student enrollment and ACT, SAT, and TSI test records as of April 15, 2016

College Readiness Criteria

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

ELA

≥ 2200 scale score on TAKS ELA and 3 or higher on TAKS essay (Prior to 2015)

or

SAT: ≥ 500 on critical reading and ≥ 1070 total

or

ACT: ≥ 19 on English and ≥ 23 composite

or

TSI: ≥ 351 on reading and ≥ 363 on writing and ≥ 4 on essay or ≥ 351 on reading and ≥ 5 on essay (New in 2015)

Math

≥ 2200 scale score on TAKS mathematics (Prior to 2015)

or

SAT: ≥ 500 on math and ≥ 1070 total

or

ACT: ≥ 19 on math and ≥ 23 composite

or

TSI: ≥ 350 on math (New in 2015)

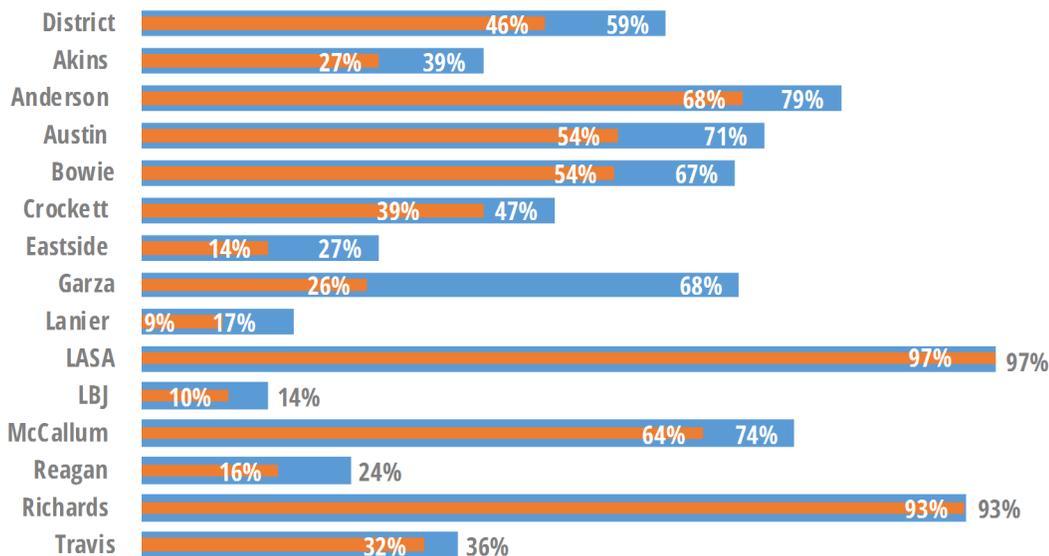
Ready for College Assessment Outcomes

To monitor district progress, college readiness outcomes were calculated using two methodologies. The first method calculated the college readiness of **AISD senior test-takers**. These students are defined as actively enrolled seniors who have taken one or more college admissions tests (e.g., ACT, SAT, and/or TSI). The second method calculated the percentage of **all seniors** who met college readiness criteria regardless of whether the student had a reported test score or not.

What percentage of AISD students were academically ready for college?

Figure 3

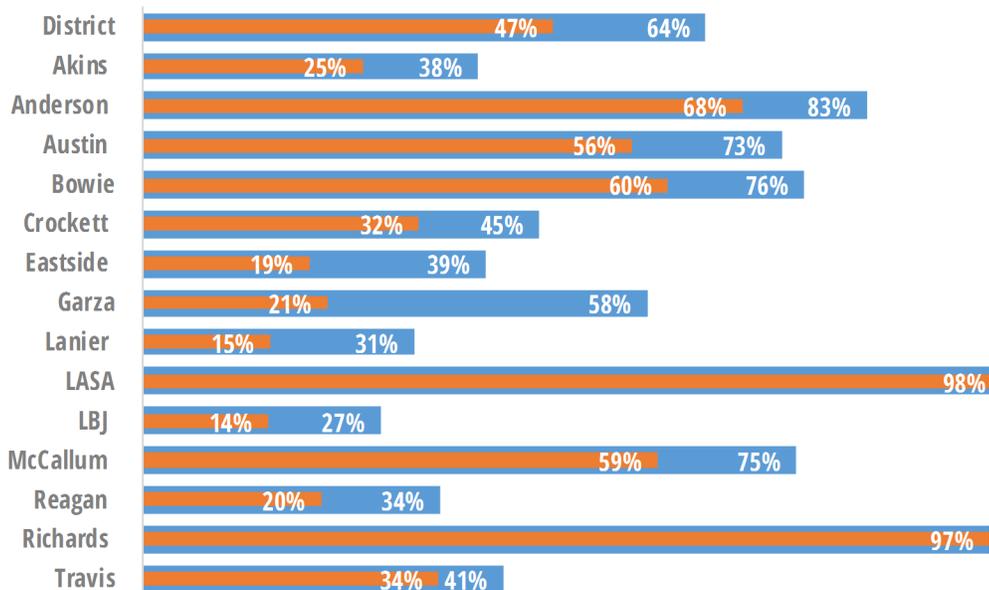
In spring 2016, approximately 59% of **AISD test-taking seniors** met college readiness criteria in ELA, compared with the proportion of **all seniors** confirmed as college ready.



Source. District student enrollment and ACT, SAT, and TSI test records as of April 15, 2016

Figure 4

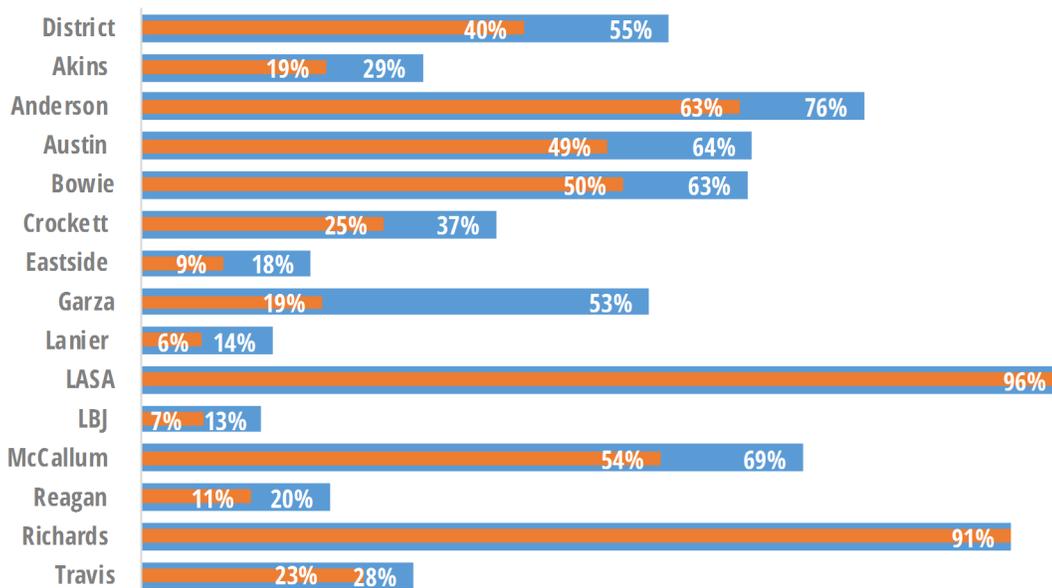
In spring 2016, approximately 64% of **AISD test-taking seniors** met college readiness criteria in math, compared with the proportion of **all seniors** confirmed as college ready.



Source. District student enrollment and ACT, SAT, and TSI test records as of April 15, 2016

Figure 5

In spring 2016, approximately 55% of AISD test-taking seniors met college readiness criteria in both subjects, compared with the proportion of all seniors confirmed as ready for college.



Source. District student enrollment and ACT, SAT, and TSI test records as of April 15, 2016

Reporting Limitations

The college readiness outcomes presented in this report for 2016 AISD senior test-takers should not be compared with results from prior years. The results provided in this report are not complete and are considered preliminary. Students may continue to take the ACT, SAT, and TSI tests through the end of the school year. Additionally, the tests used to determine college readiness have changed, and there is not a direct comparison. Current students did not take the exit-level TAKS tests. The current version of the TSI test is relatively new and was not available for students in 2014.

Caution must be taken when interpreting outcomes for all seniors who met college readiness criteria. The absence of a test score does not indicate whether a student was or was not college ready. Students may be college ready but not have a test record on file (e.g., the student requested their score not be shared with the district or student test data could not be matched to district enrollment records). Students also may not take a college admissions test because they do not think it is necessary for their postsecondary plans (e.g., students earning career certification before graduation, entering the military, or taking a gap year before college enrollment). Reporting college readiness of all seniors simply provides the proportion of the cohort who were confirmed as college ready.

AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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