

REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Office of Superintendent of Schools
Board of Education Meeting of July 16, 2009

SUBJECT: BOARD MONITORING SYSTEM–GOAL 1 SECTION F: INCREASE AVERAGE SCALE SCORES ON THE TEXAS ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS (TAKS)

At the March 2007 meeting, the Board of Education implemented a revised Board Monitoring System in order to efficiently maintain and measure Houston Independent School District (HISD) goals and core values. The monitoring system was designed to give district administrators clear direction on how to meet the Board's expectations in these crucial areas.

Board Policy AF(LOCAL) requires that *“the administration shall report to the Board of Education on each goal and core value using the specific method and timing set out.”*

In reference to the district's **Goal 1: Increase Student Achievement**, the attached report provides information regarding **section F: Increase Average Scale Scores on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS)**. The policy states that, *“(t)he administration will provide the Board with a report that reflects the average scale scores for grades 3-11 on all subtests on the TAKS for the current year and the previous year for both the district and state. Additionally, the change in average scale scores by grade and subject will be graphically shown for the district and state. This report shall be presented to the Board each year at the June Board meeting.”*

The attached reports provide the information requested for the 2008–2009 school year.



Board Monitoring System: Indicator F

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose

The Houston Independent School District (HISD) exists to strengthen the social and economic foundation of Houston by assuring its youth the highest-quality elementary and secondary education available anywhere. In fulfilling this goal, HISD's Board of Education has designed a program to systematically monitor the district's goals and core values. The Board Monitoring System will report on each goal and core value on a routine basis. The goal currently under review is TO INCREASE THE AVERAGE SCALE SCORES ON THE TEXAS ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS (TAKS) (Goal 1, Section F).

Findings

Average English TAKS Scale Scores

- From 2008 to 2009, the average scale scores of HISD students who took the English-language version of the TAKS test improved in all grades tested on math, writing, social studies, and science. Also, average scale scores improved for students in seven out of nine grades on the reading/English language arts test (see **Table 1**).
- The average scale scores for HISD students in reading/English language arts improved at a higher rate compared to the state in seven of the nine grades tested from 2008 to 2009. Specifically, HISD eighth-graders gained 34 points, on average, while their state counterparts declined by 17 points (see **Figure 1**).
- From 2008 to 2009, average scale scores for HISD students improved on the TAKS math test at a higher rate than the state in eight of the nine grades tested. HISD fourth-graders increased their average scale score by 53 points, on average, while the state increased by 41 points (see **Figure 2**).
- On the 2009 TAKS writing test, the average scale scores of HISD fourth-graders increased by 43 points from 2008, and the scores of HISD seventh-graders increased by 36 points. Statewide, the average scale scores for fourth-graders increased by 36 points and seventh-graders increased by 30 points (see **Figure 3**).
- From 2008 to 2009, average scale scores for HISD students improved on the TAKS social studies test in all three grades tested. HISD eighth-graders increased their average scale score by 14 points over 2008, district tenth-graders improved their scores by 20 points, and HISD eleventh-graders increased their scores by 27 points (see **Figure 4**).

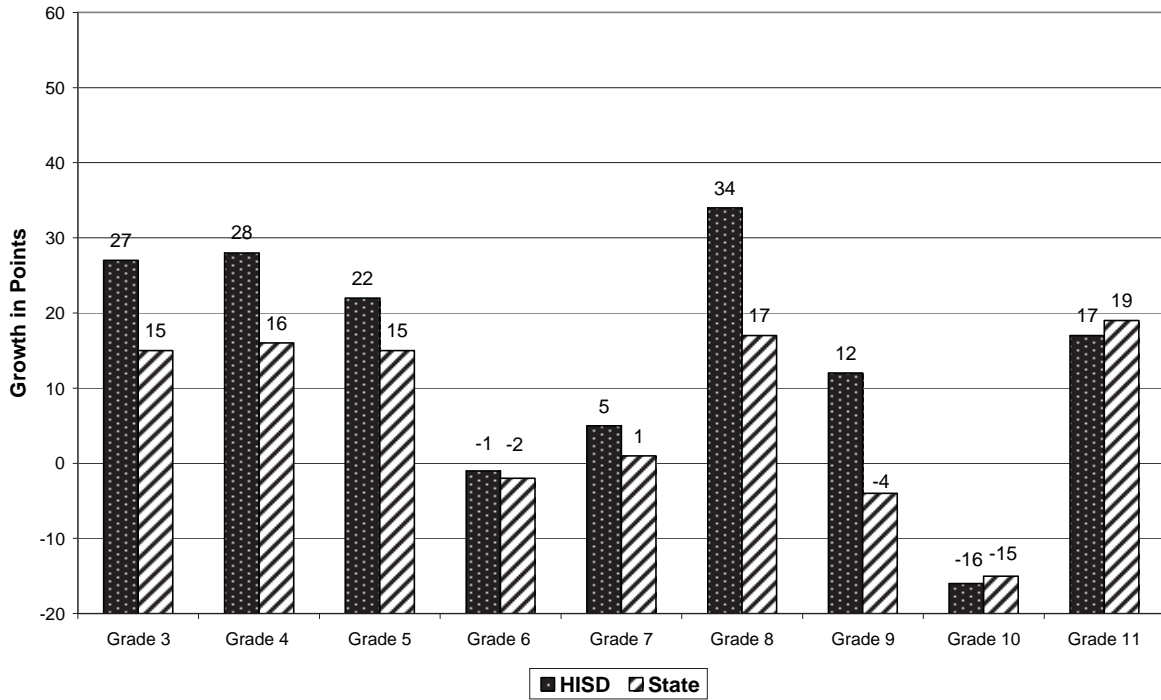
- On the 2009 TAKS science test, the rate of improvement on average scale scores was greater or equal for HISD in three out of four grades tested than for their counterparts in the state. Specifically, HISD fifth-graders increased their average scale score on the TAKS science test by 49 points, while the state improved by 44 points (see **Figure 5**).

**Table 1: State and HISD Average Scale Scores in All English TAKS Subjects,
For All Students: Spring 2008 and 2009**

Grade	Read/ELA		Math		Writing		Social Studies		Science	
	08	09	08	09	08	09	08	09	08	09
3										
HISD	2264	2291	2236	2271						
State	2303	2318	2266	2289						
4										
HISD	2217	2243	2254	2306	2333	2377				
State	2247	2263	2271	2312	2343	2379				
5										
HISD	2216	2238	2291	2326					2261	2310
State	2256	2271	2311	2328					2271	2315
6										
HISD	2292	2291	2226	2251						
State	2350	2348	2289	2295						
7										
HISD	2220	2224	2175	2203	2279	2315				
State	2261	2262	2219	2231	2332	2362				
8										
HISD	2296	2330	2181	2203			2291	2305	2148	2181
State	2351	2368	2231	2241			2328	2349	2199	2227
9										
HISD	2212	2224	2113	2154						
State	2255	2251	2168	2203						
10										
HISD	2237	2221	2149	2152			2262	2282	2120	2125
State	2261	2246	2173	2182			2299	2325	2158	2175
11										
HISD	2263	2280	2237	2255			2333	2360	2198	2223
State	2282	2300	2246	2264			2343	2384	2213	2238

Note: Results from the first administration for third-, fifth-, and eighth-grade reading and fifth- and eighth-grade math are presented.

**Figure 1: District & State Growth in Average Scale Score:
English TAKS Reading, 2008-2009**



**Figure 2: District & State Growth in Average Scale Score:
English TAKS Math, 2008-2009**

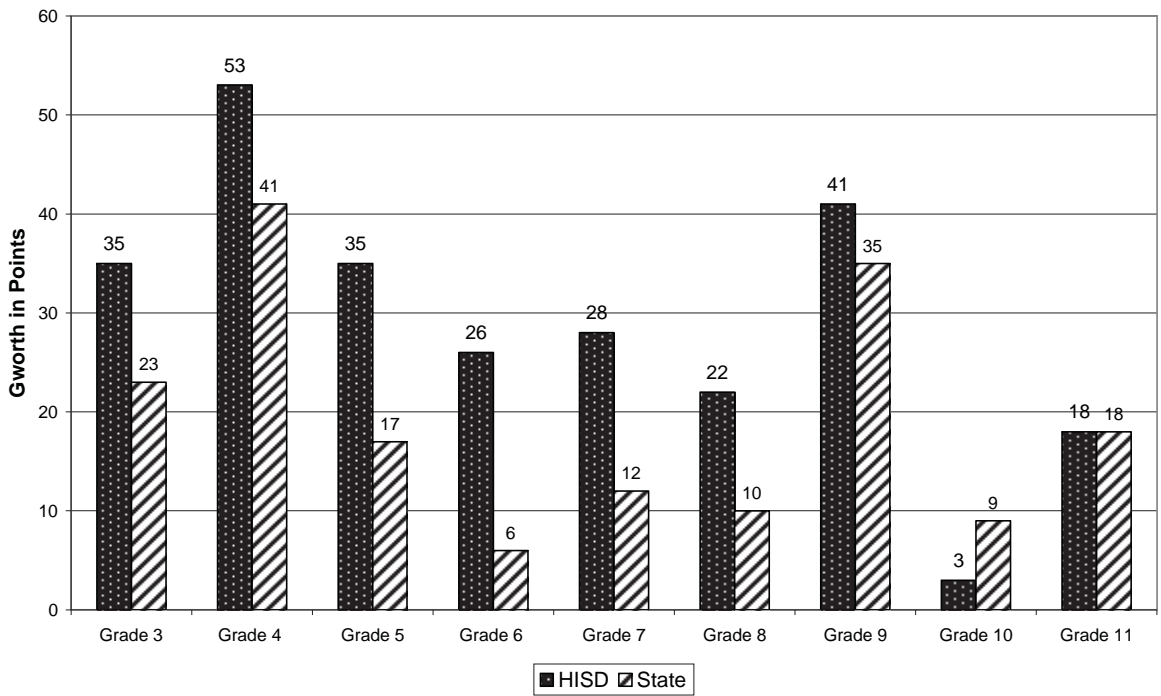


Figure 3: District & State Growth in Average Scale Score:
English TAKS Writing, 2008-2009

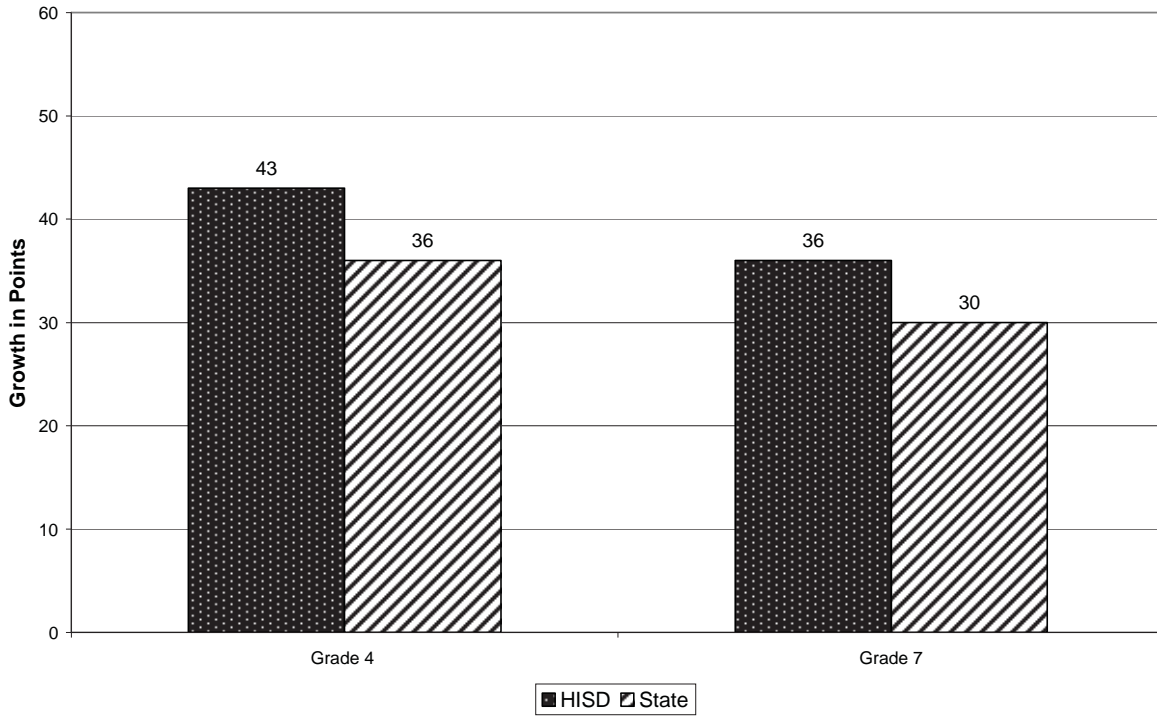
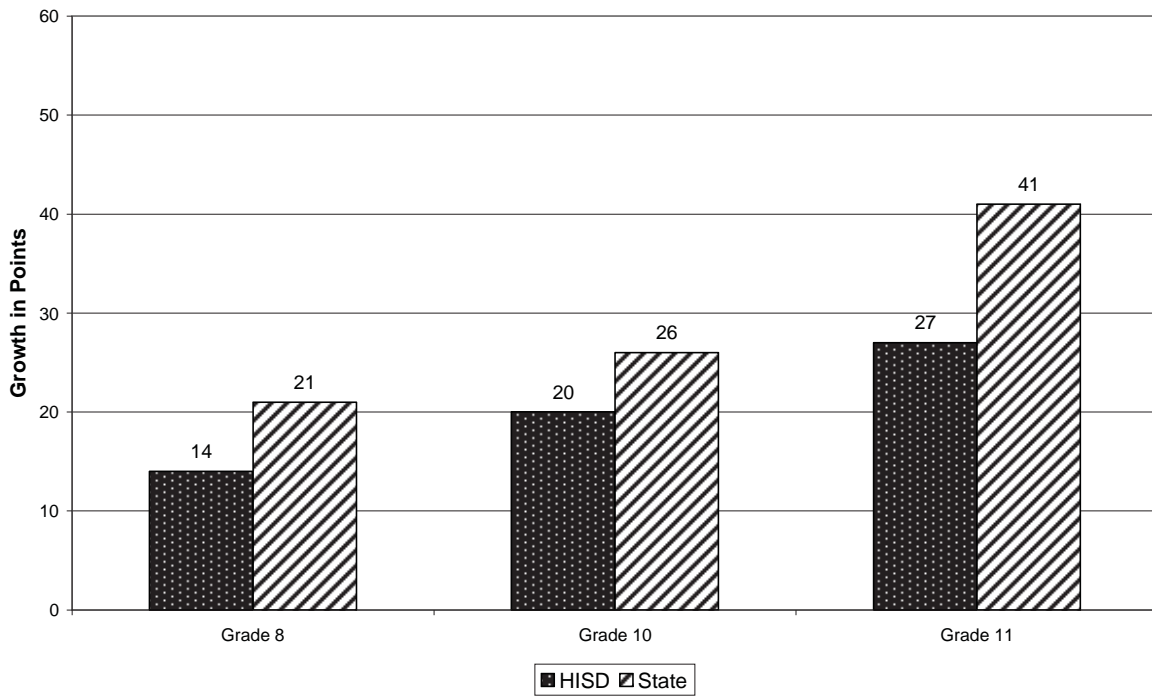


Figure 4: District & State Growth in Average Scale Score:
English TAKS Social Studies, 2008-2009



**Figure 5: District & State Growth in Average Scale Score:
English TAKS Science, 2008-2009**

