

MEMORANDUM

February 4, 2022

TO: Board Members

FROM: Millard L. House II
Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: **SAT RESULTS: CLASS OF 2021**

CONTACT: Allison Matney, Ed.D., 713-556-6700

The SAT results for the graduating Class of 2021 have been released by the College Board and are provided in this report. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the district's SAT School Day was canceled in Spring 2020, which contributed to a decrease in SAT participation. An SAT School Day was offered in October 2020, but participation was low due to concerns related to the pandemic and colleges suspending their SAT requirements. Therefore, caution should be taken when comparing performance results of the Class of 2021 to previous years.

Key findings include:

- The number of students who took the SAT from the Class of 2021 is 7,189. This represents 61 percent of the entire senior class, a decrease of more than 30 percentage points from the Class of 2020.
- After a decrease in average scores from the Class of 2020, the average composite score for the Class of 2021 increased to 960, closing the score gap to the state by more than 20 points from 2020 to 2021.
- Students from the district scored lower on average than students from the state and from the total group in both ERW and mathematics in 2021. While scores for students from the state decreased from 2020 to 2021, scores increased for students in the district and the total group.
- A lower percentage of students from the district met the college-ready benchmark than students from the state and from the total group in both ERW and mathematics in 2021, but the percentage increased for the district from 2020 to 2021.

Administrative Response

Innovation and Postsecondary Programming

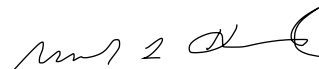
The district is committed to providing access and opportunities for students, centrally funding the PSAT for all students in grades 8–11, and the School Day SAT for 11th grade students. The purpose of offering the full suite of assessments is to provide students an opportunity to take a grade-level SAT that establishes a college-ready baseline in eighth grade, and then in grades 9–11, students will have the opportunity to improve their skills in reading, writing, and math to demonstrate college and career readiness.

The school day SAT ensures that all students in the district have access to an assessment that is required by many colleges and universities for admission. The Department of Innovation and Postsecondary Programming offers several additional supports to schools and students to build upon the successes of previous years.

The district continues to implement initiatives to encourage students to use Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy, which offers free, personalized practice, based on a student's PSAT performance. College Board research indicates that students who use Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy for at least 20 hours see, on average, a 115-point score increase. Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy remains at the forefront of the district's initiative to prepare students for PSAT and SAT exams. In 2019–2020, the district established a pilot program with Khan Academy geared towards increasing usage of the tool for SAT practice, as well AP courses. The "Khan District Dashboard" was created for school and district leadership to monitor student and teacher registration and student usage. The Khan District Dashboard's live-time reporting of Khan Academy progress data will be key to teachers and campus-based incorporating the tool in their school day learning activities. In 2021-2022, The district expanded the Khan Academy District Dashboard to all high schools to prioritize SAT skill gains and address Covid learning loss especially in Math and Science. HISD will also continue to support Khan Academy, providing incentive programs for students and schools to use the tool, such as the "Khanathlon" and "Khan Ambassadors"— current students who have successfully used the tool— to promote Khan Academy to their peers.

Additionally, the district is working on a cross-functional curriculum project between College Readiness and Secondary Academics to realign current curriculum and build new curriculum that incorporates the TEKS covered on the SAT into High School and English and Math classes. In the 2021-2022 school year, the curriculum efforts will prioritize Algebra 2 and English 3 and will build backwards down into Middle School math and English courses in following years. This strategic curriculum project goal is to increase alignment with SAT skills in math and English to get students prepared to hit the TSI benchmarks on Math and Reading during the School Day SAT in the 11th grade.

Should you have any further questions, please contact Allison Matney in Research and Accountability at (713) 556-6700.



MLH

Attachment

cc: Superintendent's Direct Reports
Assistant Superintendents
School Support Officers
High School Principals
Connie Smith
David Johnston

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



RESEARCH

Educational Program Report

**SAT RESULTS
CLASS OF 2021**



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SAT Results: Class of 2021

Executive Summary

Program Description

The SAT is a college admissions exam that assesses student reasoning based on knowledge and skills developed in high school coursework. Colleges and universities use SAT scores to influence admissions decisions, recruit students, and predict performance in college courses. The SAT results for the graduating Class of 2021 have been released by the College Board and are provided in this report. In March 2016, the College Board administered the first redesigned SAT exam that included two sections: Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (ERW) and Mathematics. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the district's SAT School Day in Spring 2020 was canceled, which likely lowered the SAT participation rate for students in the Class of 2021.

Highlights

- The number of students who took the SAT from the Class of 2021 is 7,189. This represents 61 percent of the entire senior class, a decrease of more than 30 percentage points from the Class of 2020.
- After a decrease in average scores from the Class of 2020, the average composite score for the Class of 2021 increased to 960, closing the score gap to the state by more than 20 points from 2020 to 2021.
- Students from the district scored lower on average than students from the state and from the total group in both ERW and mathematics in 2021. While scores for students from the state decreased from 2020 to 2021, scores increased for students in the district and the total group.
- A lower percentage of students from the district met the college-ready benchmark than students from the state and from the total group in both ERW and mathematics in 2021, but the percentage increased for the district from 2020 to 2021.

Introduction

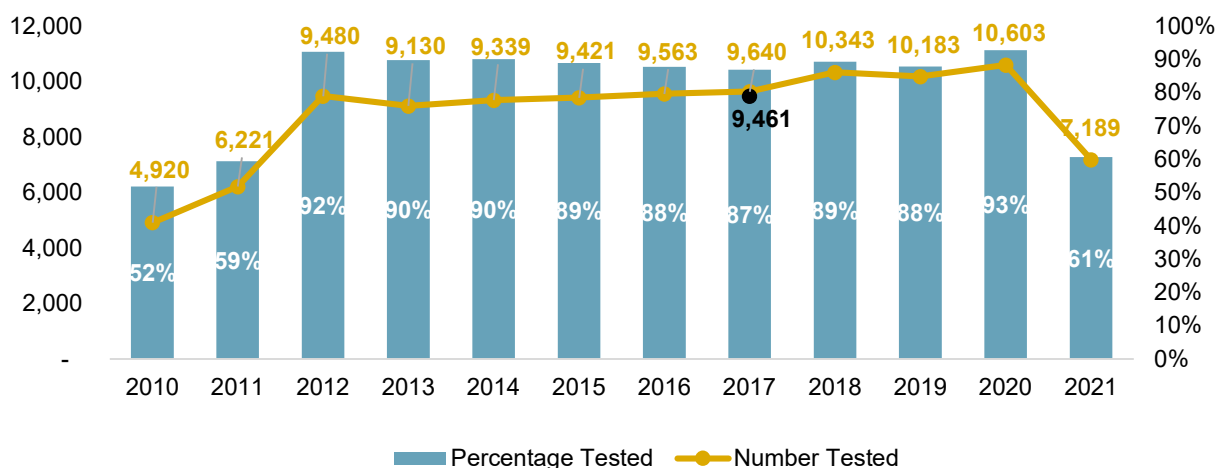
The SAT is a college admissions exam that assesses student reasoning based on knowledge and skills developed in high school coursework. Colleges and universities use SAT scores to influence admissions decisions, recruit students, and predict performance in college courses. The SAT results for the graduating Class of 2021 have been released by the College Board and are provided in this report. In March 2016, the College Board administered the first redesigned SAT exam that included two sections: Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (ERW) and mathematics. Each subject is scored on a scale that ranges from a minimum of 200 to a maximum of 800. The highest composite score a student can earn is 1600. Students are included in the graduating class of the year they reported intending to graduate when taking the SAT, regardless of when they took the SAT test. This report includes students' latest (i.e., most recent) test score, not necessarily their highest score. Comparisons are made to the state and "total group" which includes all national and international testers.

Results

SAT Participation

Beginning in spring 2011, Houston ISD provided an opportunity for students to take the SAT during a school day at their home campus, at no cost to the student. This increased SAT participation rates across the district by reducing the financial, logistical, and emotional burden on students and their families. During the 2019–2020 school year, a second SAT School Day was offered in October 2019 in addition to the regular SAT school day in the spring. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the district's SAT School Day in Spring 2020 was canceled, which likely lowered the SAT participation rate for students in the Class of 2021. An SAT School Day was held in October 2020, but participation was relatively low due to caution related to the pandemic and due to colleges suspending SAT requirements. **Figure 1** illustrates district-wide SAT participation since 2010.

Figure 1. HISD SAT Exam Participation, Classes of 2010–2021



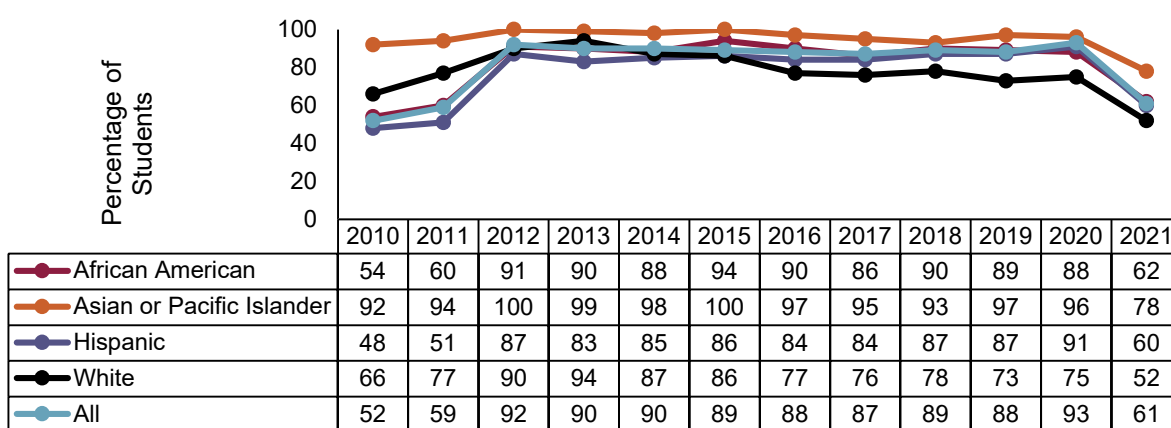
Sources: SAT Suite of Assessments Report: Houston Independent School District, 2010–2021; PEIMS Fall Snapshot, 2009–2020

Note: Student participation for 2017 includes those who took both versions of the SAT, as shown with the colors blue and yellow. The number of new version testers in 2017 is shown in black.

- Adding a second SAT School Day during the 2019–2020 school year helped increase the number and percentage of students from the Class of 2020 who took the SAT, 10,603 and 93 percent respectively (Figure 1).
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the district's SAT School Day in Spring 2020 was canceled, which likely contributed to the decrease in the number and percentage of students from the Class of 2021 who took the SAT, 7,189 and 61 percent respectively (Figure 1).

Figure 2 shows the HISD SAT participation rate by student group. Participation rates for each group were determined by dividing the number of students within the group who took the SAT by the number of seniors within the group.

Figure 2. HISD SAT Participation Rate by Race/Ethnicity, Classes of 2010–2021



Sources: SAT Suite of Assessments Report: Houston Independent School District, 2010–2020; SAT data file, 2021; PEIMS Fall Snapshot, 2009–2020

Notes: Participation for 2017 includes those who took both versions of the SAT. Ethnicities from 2010–2020 are self-reported while ethnicities for 2021 are from the Student Information System.

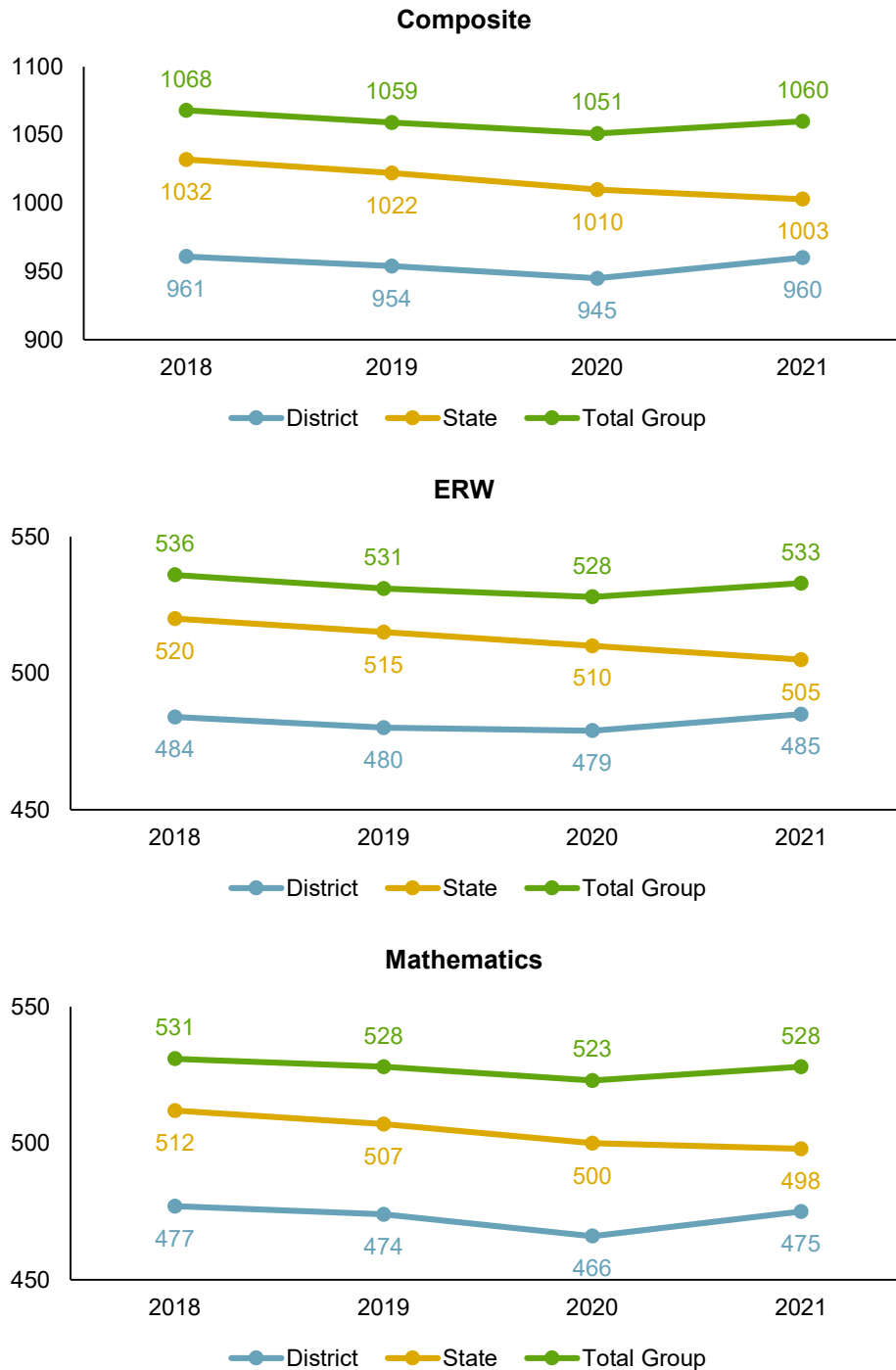
- From the Classes of 2012 to 2020, the percentage tested dropped for all race/ethnicity groups shown except for the Hispanic group, which increased its participation rate to 91 percent (Figure 2).
- From the Class of 2020 to the Class of 2021, the percentage tested decreased across all race/ethnicity groups, with the largest decrease from the Hispanic group (31 percentage points) (Figure 2).

SAT Performance

Figure 3 (p. 4) shows the average score by subject for the district's, state's, and total group's Classes of 2018–2021.

- Average SAT scores among HISD graduation classes are lower than those of students in Texas and the total group in both ERW and mathematics.
- Although the number of students tested decreased from the Class of 2020 to the Class of 2021 from the district, the average scores increased while decreasing the gaps to the state and total group. The results may be more reflective of the type of students that took the SAT from the Class of 2021 and not necessarily the impact of programmatic changes in the district.

Figure 3. Average SAT Scores of District, State, and Total Group Students, Classes of 2018–2021



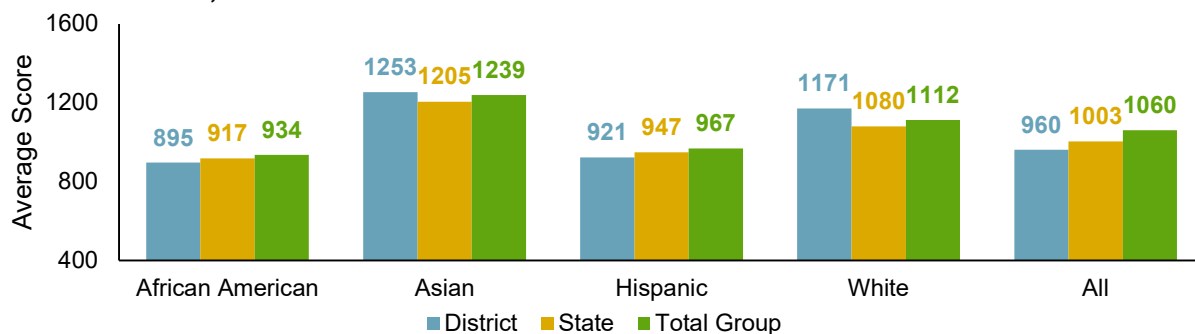
Sources: SAT Suite of Assessments Report: Houston Independent School District, 2018–2021; SAT Suite of Assessments Report: State, 2018–2021; SAT Suite of Assessments Report: Total Group, 2018–2021

Note: Total group includes international test takers.

Figure 4 shows the average composite score by student group for the Class of 2021 for the district, state, and total group.

- Overall, the African American and Hispanic students from the district in the Class of 2021 scored lower composite scores compared to their peers from the state and total group. Students from the district's Asian and White student groups exceeded state and total group average performance.
- Comparing state and total group to the district's Class of 2021, the district's African American student group lags the state by 22 points and the total group by 39 points, and the district's Hispanic student group lags the state by 26 points and the total group by 46 points.

Figure 4. Average SAT Composite Score by Race/Ethnicity of District, State, and Total Group Students, Class of 2021

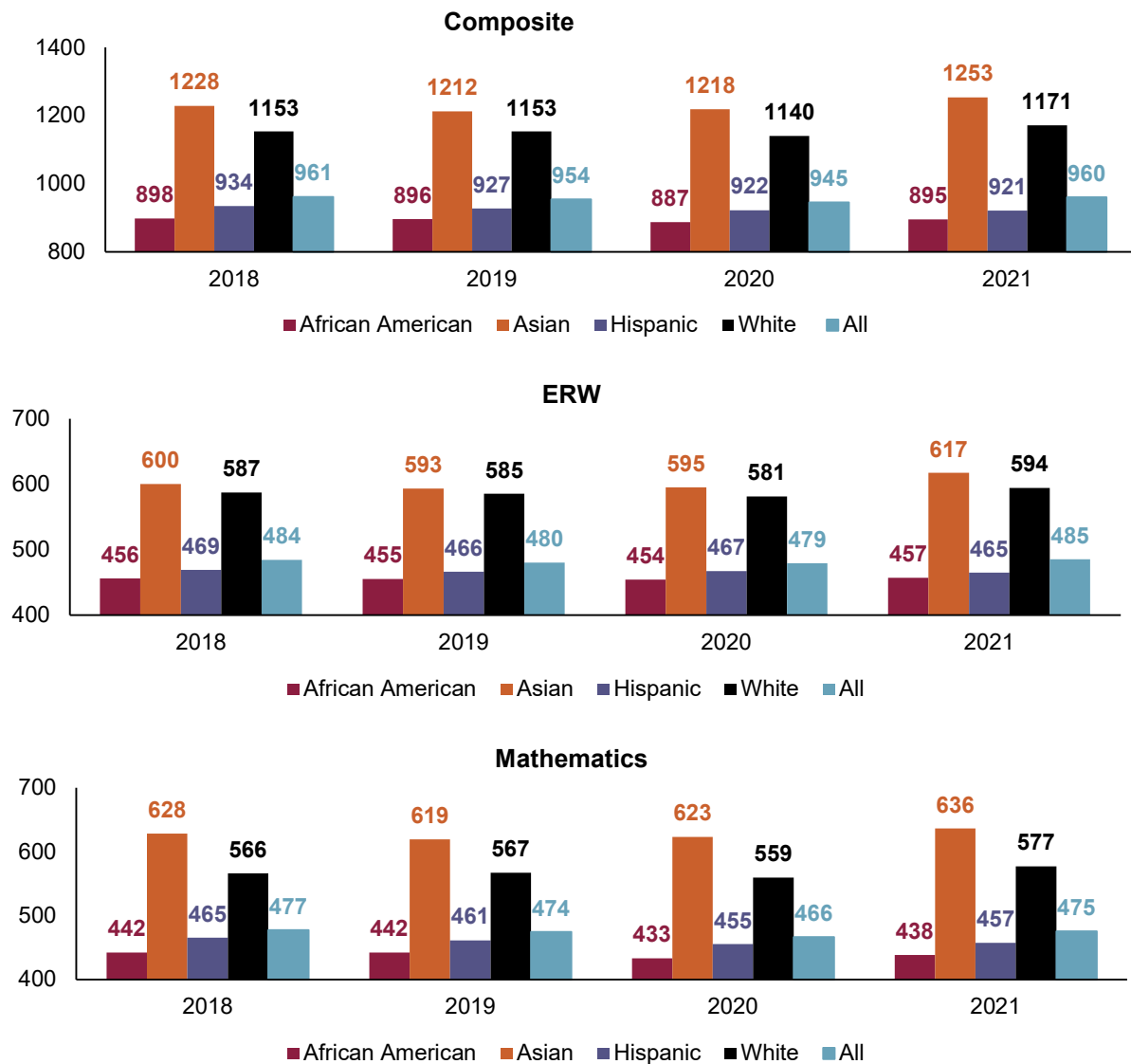


Sources: SAT data file, 2021; SAT Suite of Assessments Report: State, 2021; SAT Suite of Assessments Report: Total Group, 2021

Note: Total group includes international test takers. Ethnicities from the state and total group are self-reported while the ethnicities from the district are from the Student Information System.

Figure 5 (p. 6) shows the average SAT scores by subject and student race/ethnicity group for HISD's Classes of 2018–2021.

- Although the number and percentage of students tested from the Class of 2020 to the Class of 2021 decreased, the average scores increased across all race/ethnicity groups except for the Hispanic group.
- Average increases in subject-level scores from the Class of 2020 to the Class of 2021 ranged from three points in ERW from African American students to 22 points in ERW from Asian students. However, direct comparisons from the Class of 2020 to the Class of 2021 should not be made due to the participation rate from the Class of 2021.

Figure 5. HISD Average SAT Scores by Subject and Race/Ethnicity, Classes of 2018–2021

Sources: SAT Suite of Assessments Report: Houston Independent School District, 2018–2020; SAT data file, 2021
 Note: Ethnicities from 2018–2020 are self-reported while ethnicities for 2021 are from the Student Information System.

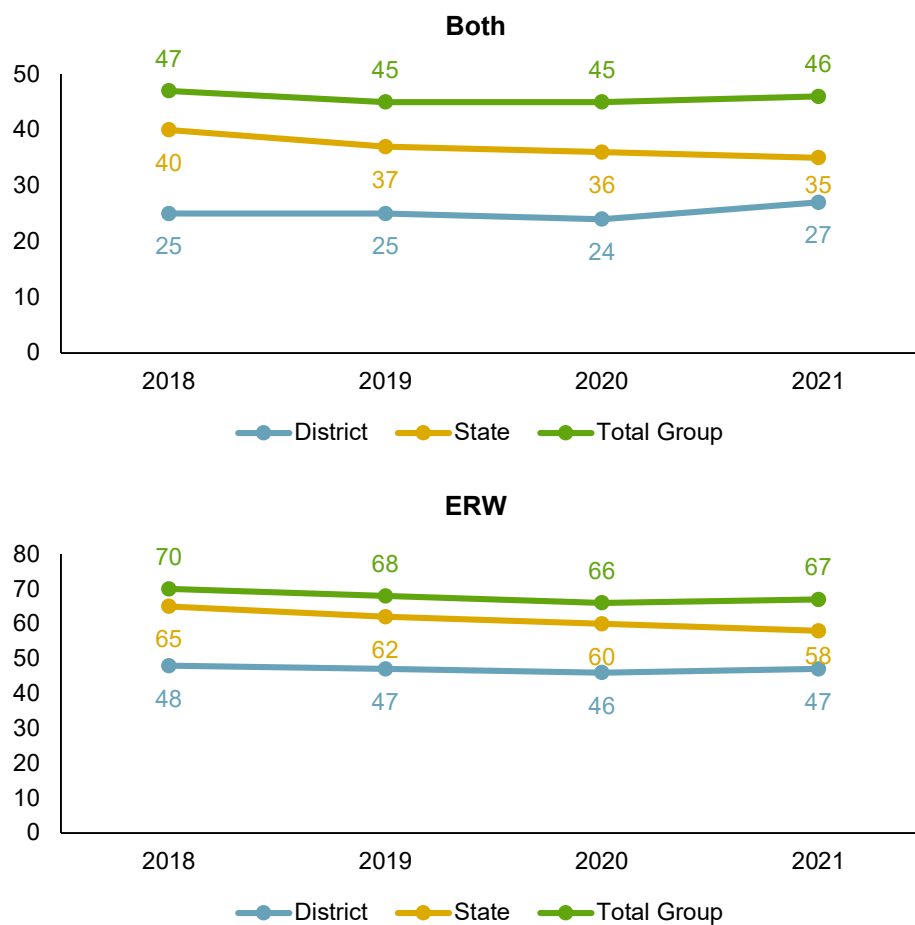
SAT College Readiness Benchmarks

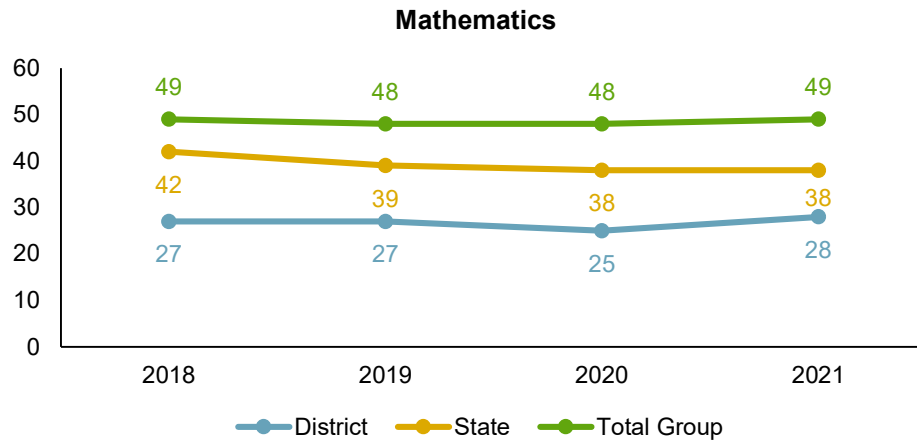
The College Board sets benchmark scores to predict students' chance of success in college. According to the College Board, meeting the SAT Math benchmark is associated with a 75 percent chance of earning at least a C in first-semester, college-level courses in algebra, statistics, precalculus, or calculus. Meeting the SAT ERW benchmark is associated with a 75 percent chance of earning at least a C in first-semester, college-level courses in history, literature, social science, or writing.

Figure 6 (pp. 7–8) shows the percentage of students in the Classes of 2018–2021, from the district, state, and total group, who met college-ready benchmarks in ERW, mathematics, and both.

- The percentage of HISD students that met both benchmarks increased by three percentage points from the Class of 2020 to the Class of 2021 while the percentage of students from the state decreased by one percentage point and the percentage of students from the total group increased by one percentage point.
- From the Class of 2020 to the Class of 2021, the percentage of students from the district meeting the ERW benchmark increased by one percentage point and the percentage of students from the district meeting the mathematics benchmark increased by three percentage points. However, direct comparisons from the Class of 2020 to the Class of 2021 should not be made due to the participation rate from the Class of 2021.

Figure 6. Percentage of District, State, and Total Group Students Meeting College-Ready Benchmarks, Classes of 2018–2021



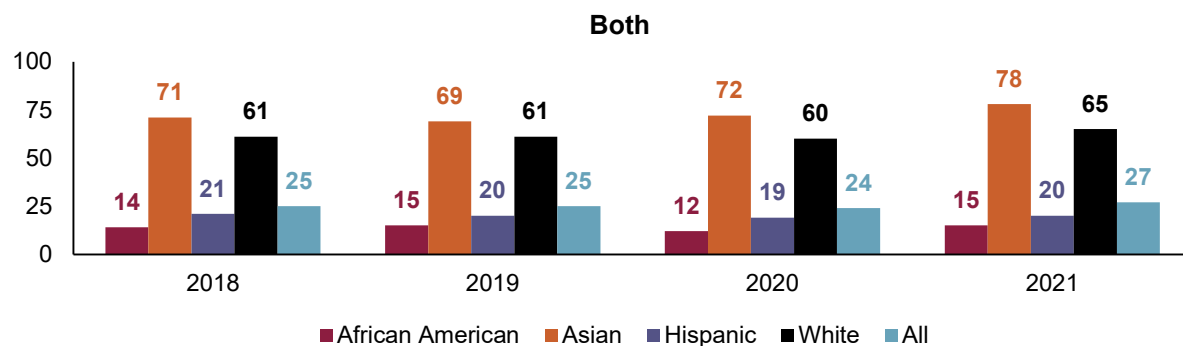


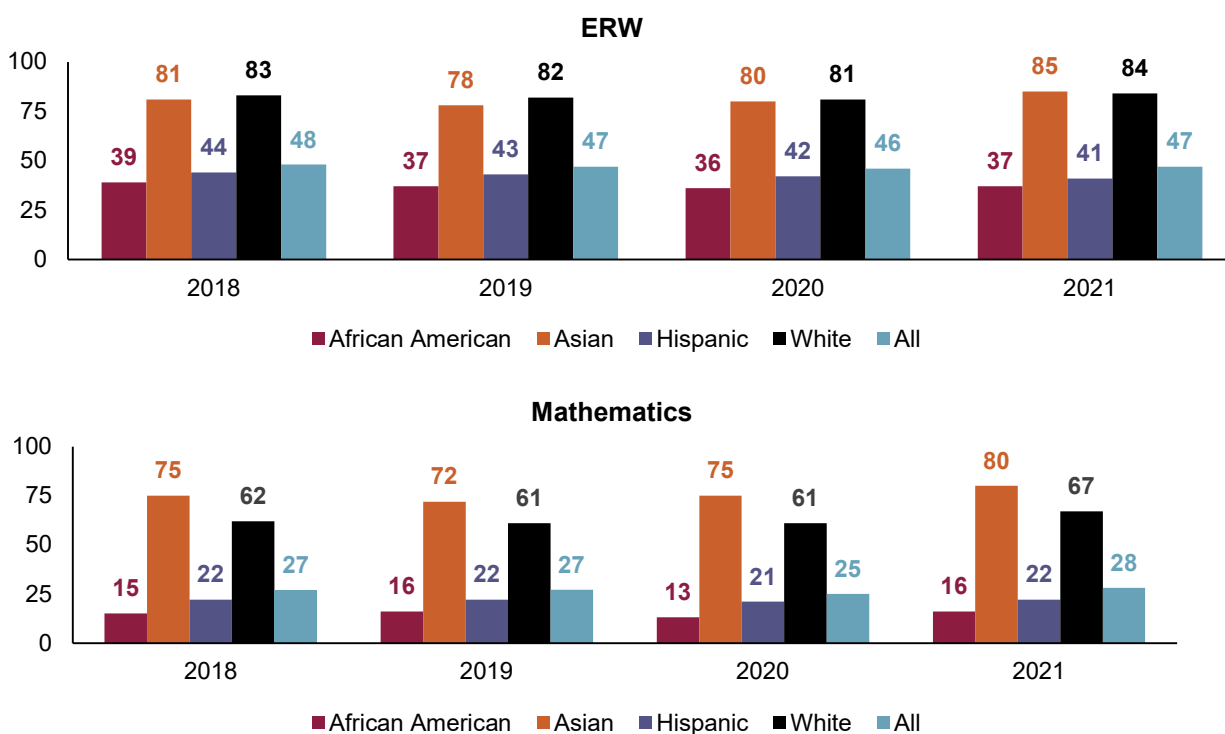
Sources: SAT Suite of Assessments Report: Houston Independent School District, 2018–2021; SAT Suite of Assessments Report: State, 2018–2021; SAT Suite of Assessments Report: Total Group, 2018–2021

Figure 7 (pp. 8–9) shows the percentage of students who met the college-ready benchmarks by subject and student group for HISD’s Classes of 2018–2021.

- From the Class of 2020 to the Class of 2021, the percentage of students meeting both college readiness benchmarks from all race/ethnicity groups increased.
- Except for the Hispanic student group, the percentage of students meeting both college readiness benchmarks from the Class of 2021 is the highest since 2018.

Figure 7. HISD Percentage of Students Meeting College-Ready Benchmarks by Race/Ethnicity, Classes of 2018–2021





Sources: SAT Suite of Assessments Report: Houston Independent School District, 2018–2020; SAT data file, 2021
 Note: Ethnicities from 2018–2020 are self-reported while ethnicities for 2021 are from the Student Information System.

SAT Participation and Performance by Campus

Table 1 (p. 11) shows the number of students tested, average SAT composite, and the changes from the Classes of 2020 and 2021 by campus. Caution should be taken when making comparisons from the Class of 2020 to the Class of 2021 if the number of students tested from a campus differ drastically between years.

- A total of 45 campuses had students from the Class of 2021 take the SAT. Only six campuses had more students who took the SAT from the Class of 2021 compared to the Class of 2020.
- Campuses with more than 400 students who took the SAT from the Class of 2021 are Bellaire HS (n=484), Lamar HS (n=440), Milby HS (n=412), and Westbury HS (n=419). Eight campuses had fewer than 50 students from the Class of 2021 take the SAT.
- The Class of 2021 had an increase of 15 points in the average composite score compared to the Class of 2020. Of the 45 campuses with students from the Class of 2021 who took the SAT, 23 campuses (51 percent) maintained or improved their composite score from the prior year, and 20 campuses (44 percent) had scores at or above the district average.
- Bellaire HS and North Houston EC HS both tested at least 100 students from the Class of 2021 and showed increases in the average composite score of 56 points.

Table 2 (p. 12) shows the scores for ERW, mathematics, and changes in scores from the Classes of 2020 and 2021.

- Students from the Class of 2021 scored six points higher on average in ERW and nine points higher on average in mathematics compared to the Class of 2020.
- Of the 45 campuses with students from the Class of 2021 who took the SAT, 20 campuses (44 percent) maintained or improved their average ERW score and 27 campuses (60 percent) maintained or improved their average mathematics score from the prior class.
- DeBakey HS, Carnegie HS, and Kinder HSPVA were the top three campuses in both ERW and mathematics performance with average scores in each subject above 600.
- Campuses that tested a similar number of students from both years with subject-level score increases of at least 20 points are Bellaire HS (25 points in ERW and 30 points in mathematics), HAIS HS (29 points in ERW), North Forest HS (27 points in ERW and 29 points in mathematics), and YWCPA (37 points in mathematics).

Table 1. Number Tested, Average SAT Scores by Campus, and Percentage Met Benchmark, Classes of 2020 and 2021

Campus	Number Tested			Average Composite Score			% Met Both ERW and Mathematics Benchmarks		
	2020	2021	Change	2020	2021	Change	2020	2021	Change
Austin HS	310	216	-94	860	849	-11	8	4	-4
Bellaire HS	726	484	-242	1106	1162	56	49	60	11
Carnegie HS	133	147	14	1378	1355	-23	98	97	-1
Challenge EC HS	101	100	-1	1095	1115	20	50	62	12
Chavez HS	640	354	-286	907	904	-3	17	17	0
Community Services	0	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--
DeBakey HS	165	169	4	1350	1312	-38	100	93	-7
East EC HS	129	95	-34	1066	1031	-35	48	32	-16
Eastwood Acad HS	105	95	-10	1095	1078	-17	63	55	-8
Energy Inst HS	171	144	-27	1056	1039	-17	39	38	-1
E-STEM Southeast HS	98	71	-27	862	885	23	8	15	7
Furr HS	220	160	-60	839	832	-7	5	2	-3
Heights HS	530	293	-237	964	987	23	20	26	6
HAIS HS	103	48	-55	1056	1104	48	39	58	19
Houston MSTC HS	619	334	-285	821	825	4	4	5	1
HSLJ	123	58	-65	945	963	18	13	26	13
Jones HS	106	54	-52	892	900	8	11	9	-2
Kashmere HS	157	111	-46	809	805	-4	2	3	1
Kinder HSPVA	187	144	-43	1236	1243	7	81	76	-5
Lamar HS	690	440	-250	1035	1051	16	39	44	5
Leland YMCPA	47	38	-9	1067	1042	-25	45	37	-8
Liberty HS	47	14	-33	791	824	33	0	0	0
Long Acad	42	18	-24	999	1117	118	31	50	19
Madison HS	330	184	-146	822	821	-1	3	3	0
Middle College HS - Fraga	13	24	11	864	870	6	8	8	0
Middle College HS - Gulfon	14	18	4	894	823	-71	21	17	-4
Milby HS	349	412	63	893	868	-25	15	10	-5
Mount Carmel Acad HS	78	80	2	984	943	-41	26	18	-8
North Forest HS	196	90	-106	805	805	0	5	8	3
North Houston EC HS	117	100	-17	1019	1075	56	37	48	11
Northside HS	299	163	-136	889	893	4	11	14	3
Scarborough HS	149	102	-47	869	858	-11	11	5	-6
Sharpstown HS	319	99	-220	833	824	-9	5	4	-1
Sharpstown Intl	134	57	-77	1047	1008	-39	46	33	-13
South EC HS	100	84	-16	951	980	29	24	24	0
Sterling HS	283	249	-34	825	801	-24	6	3	-3
TCAH	206	174	-32	1079	1082	3	45	52	7
Waltrip HS	371	343	-28	916	892	-24	13	12	-1
Washington HS	156	72	-84	845	829	-16	6	10	4
Westbury HS	488	419	-69	858	875	17	8	9	1
Westside HS	617	386	-231	1028	1058	30	40	45	5
Wheatley HS	139	73	-66	815	806	-9	4	1	-3
Wisdom HS	449	241	-208	822	830	8	5	7	2
Worthing HS	159	112	-47	817	796	-21	0	6	6
Yates HS	129	92	-37	817	827	10	5	7	2
YWCPA	45	26	-19	1017	1066	49	24	31	7
HISD Totals	10,603	7,189	-3414	945	960	15	24	27	3

Sources: SAT data file, 2020 and 2021

*Fewer than 5 students tested

--No students tested

Table 2. Average SAT Subject Scores by Campus, Classes of 2020 and 2021

Campus	Average ERW Score				Average Mathematics Score			
	2020	2021	Change		2020	2021	Change	
Austin HS	427	425		-2	433	424		-9
Bellaire HS	557	582		25	550	580		30
Carnegie HS	682	664		-18	696	691		-5
Challenge EC HS	564	572		8	531	543		12
Chavez HS	456	454		-2	451	450		-1
Community Services	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
DeBakey HS	660	649		-11	690	664		-26
East EC HS	539	521		-18	527	510		-17
Eastwood Acad HS	539	537		-2	556	540		-16
Energy Inst HS	535	526		-9	522	513		-9
E-STEM Southeast HS	436	445		9	426	440		14
Furr HS	430	425		-5	409	408		-1
Heights HS	495	504		9	469	483		14
HAIS HS	541	570		29	515	534		19
Houston MSTC HS	417	417		0	404	409		5
HSLJ	488	502		14	457	462		5
Jones HS	451	452		1	441	448		7
Kashmere HS	419	408		-11	390	397		7
Kinder HSPVA	635	641		6	602	602		0
Lamar HS	528	535		7	506	516		10
Leland YMCPA	535	535		0	533	507		-26
Liberty HS	387	402		15	404	422		18
Long Acad	507	542		35	492	574		82
Madison HS	421	420		-1	401	400		-1
Middle College HS - Fraga	443	442		-1	421	429		8
Middle College HS - Gulfon	444	422		-22	449	401		-48
Milby HS	454	439		-15	439	429		-10
Mount Carmel Acad HS	492	477		-15	492	466		-26
North Forest HS	411	409		-2	394	396		2
North Houston EC HS	513	540		27	506	535		29
Northside HS	446	445		-1	442	448		6
Scarborough HS	444	433		-11	425	425		0
Sharpstown HS	416	405		-11	417	419		2
Sharpstown Intl	524	509		-15	524	499		-25
South EC HS	485	498		13	466	483		17
Sterling HS	417	404		-13	407	396		-11
TCAH	563	560		-3	517	522		5
Waltrip HS	467	453		-14	449	439		-10
Washington HS	432	419		-13	413	410		-3
Westbury HS	439	444		5	419	431		12
Westside HS	517	532		15	511	525		14
Wheatley HS	414	409		-5	400	397		-3
Wisdom HS	415	415		0	407	414		7
Worthing HS	422	400		-22	395	395		0
Yates HS	418	420		2	399	407		8
YWCPA	528	541		13	488	525		37
HISD	479	485		6	466	475		9

Sources: SAT data file, 2020 and 2021

*Fewer than 5 students tested

--No students tested

Conclusion

Offering a second SAT school day to students during the 2019–2020 school year seemed to help increase the number and percentage of students from the Class of 2020 who took the SAT. Unfortunately, this trend did not continue for the Class of 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent cancellation of the SAT School Day in 2020. While the number of students from the Class of 2021 was only 7,189, their average composite score was 960, which is 15 points higher than the Class of 2020 and six points higher than the Class of 2019. Furthermore, the increase in the district's average scores from 2020 to 2021 decreased the score gap to the state and total group. However, caution should be taken when comparing the performance of the Class of 2021 to previous years due to the low participation rate and the type of students that tested.

While the district's African American and Hispanic students continue to score lower on the SAT compared to their Asian and White peers, the percentage of students meeting both college readiness benchmarks increased across all race/ethnicity groups from the Class of 2020 to the Class of 2021. Average increases in subject-level scores from the district's Class of 2020 to the Class of 2021 ranged from three points in ERW from African American students to 22 points in ERW from Asian students.

While most campuses showed decreases in SAT participation rate from the Class of 2020 to the Class of 2021, 23 campuses (51 percent) maintained or improved their composite score from the prior year, and 20 campuses (44 percent) had scores at or above the district average. A larger percentage of campuses maintained or improved their average ERW score (62 percent) compared to their mathematics score (47 percent).

As students return to in-person instruction and district-wide SAT School Days are administered in both the fall and spring semesters, SAT participation rates are expected to increase for the Class of 2022. The COVID-19 pandemic brought unprecedented strain on campuses, but emphasis on SAT preparation and college readiness should return to the forefront once again.