

MEMORANDUM

November 17, 2014

TO: Board Members

FROM: Terry B. Grier, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: **ACT TEST RESULTS: CLASS OF 2014**

CONTACT: Carla Stevens, Research and Accountability, 713-556-6700

The results for the class of 2014 on the ACT test have been released. Colleges use the data to help them plan their curricula and place students in the appropriate courses of study. The ACT is a national college-admission exam and assesses both the general educational level of high school students and their readiness for college-level work.

The ACT exam consists of four subject areas and a composite score. Those four subjects include: English, mathematics, reading, and science. In addition to subject scores, ACT has created College Readiness Benchmarks that are the minimum scores needed on an ACT subject-area test to indicate a 50 percent chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75 percent chance of obtaining a C or higher in the corresponding credit-bearing college courses, which include English Composition, Algebra, Social Science and Biology. These scores were empirically derived based on the actual performance of students in college. Scores on the test range from 1 to 36 and the College Readiness Benchmark Scores for the classes of 2013 and 2014 are:

- English 18
- Mathematics 22
- Reading 22
- Science 23

The results of the ACT test are provided below for the class of 2014.

Findings:

- ACT participation in 2014 decreased by 31 (1.5 percent) for all students, increased by 39 (4.6 percent) for Hispanic students but declined by 97 (16.1 percent) for African American students while the White students showed a decline of 14 (4.2 percent) compared to 2013.
- The composite score was unchanged for White students but declined for all students, African American, Asian, and Hispanic students in 2014 compared to 2013.
- ACT participation in HISD for graduating seniors continued to decline from 27 percent (2011) to 20 percent (2013) and 19 percent (2014) while participation in the state increased from 36 percent (2011) to 40 percent (2014). In the nation, ACT participation increased from 49 percent (2011) to a new record of 57 percent (2014) which exceeded the participation in SAT for the first time, thereby marking an historic event.
- Twenty-five percent of the HISD students in the class of 2014 met the college readiness benchmark compared to 26 percent in 2013.
- The ACT composite scores of the ethnic groups in HISD exceeded the scores of their peer groups in the nation ranging from 0.1 to 3.5 points in 2014. Caution is advised, however, in interpreting the results due to the significantly lower participation in HISD relative to the nation.
- The ACT composite scores at the campus level ranged from 13.8 (Kashmere HS and Wheatley HS) to 28.5 (Carnegie HS) and the median of 36 schools stood at 17.7 in 2014.

- The ACT composite scores in 2014 improved at 18 campuses while 13 campuses showed a decline compared to 2013.

Table 1 provides a two-year comparison of the number of students tested and average ACT composite results for all HISD students and each student group for the graduating class of 2014 compared to 2013.

Table 1: Two Year Comparison of ACT Composite Results for the Graduating Classes of 2013 and 2014									
Student Group	2013			2014			2013-2014 Difference		
	N	Percent	Avg	N	Percent	Avg	N	Percent	Avg
All Students	2,010	100	20.5	1979	100	20.4	-31	0	-0.1
African American	601	30	17.7	504	25	17.2	-97	-5	-0.5
American Indian	4	0	*	2	0	*	-2	0	*
White	331	16	25.8	317	16	25.8	-14	0	0.0
Hispanic	839	42	19.2	878	44	18.9	39	2	-0.3
Asian	129	6	26.3	150	8	26.1	21	2	-0.2
Pacific Islander	6	0	25.2	1	0	*	-5	0	*
2 or more	42	2	23.9	47	2	24.1	5	0	0.2
No response	58	3	23.1	80	4	23.1	22	1	0.0

*Fewer than 5 tested.

Figure 1 shows the three-year comparison of ACT composite results by student group and for all students for the classes of 2012, 2013, and 2014.

Figure 1: Three-Year Comparison of Average ACT Composite Results for the Graduating Classes of 2012, 2013 and 2014.

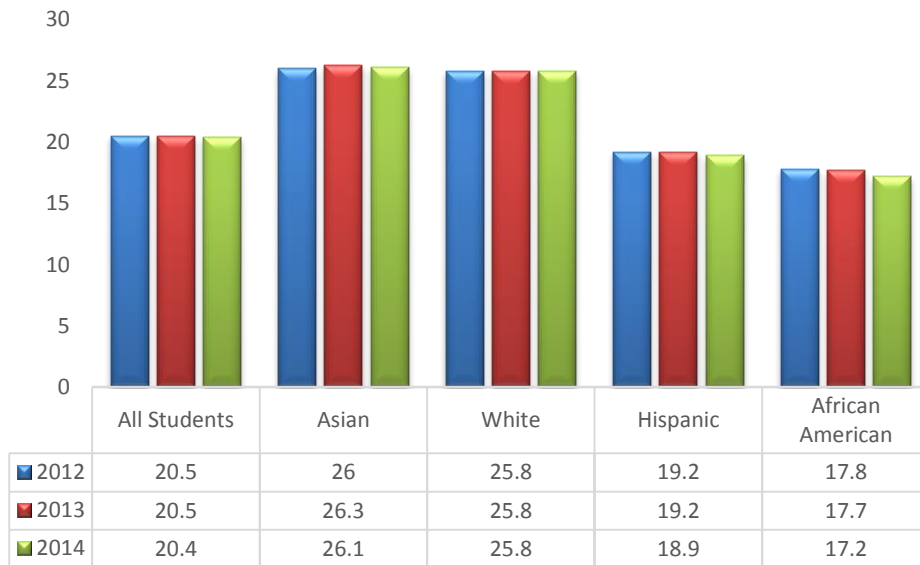


Figure 1 indicates the following for the ACT composite scores from 2012 to 2014:

- The Asian students improved by 0.1 points.
- The score for White students remained unchanged.
- The scores declined by 0.1 points for the all-student group, by 0.3 points for Hispanic students, and 0.6 points for the African American students.

Figure 2 shows the trends in the ACT participation rates for the HISD, Texas, and the Nation for the graduating classes of 2008-2014.

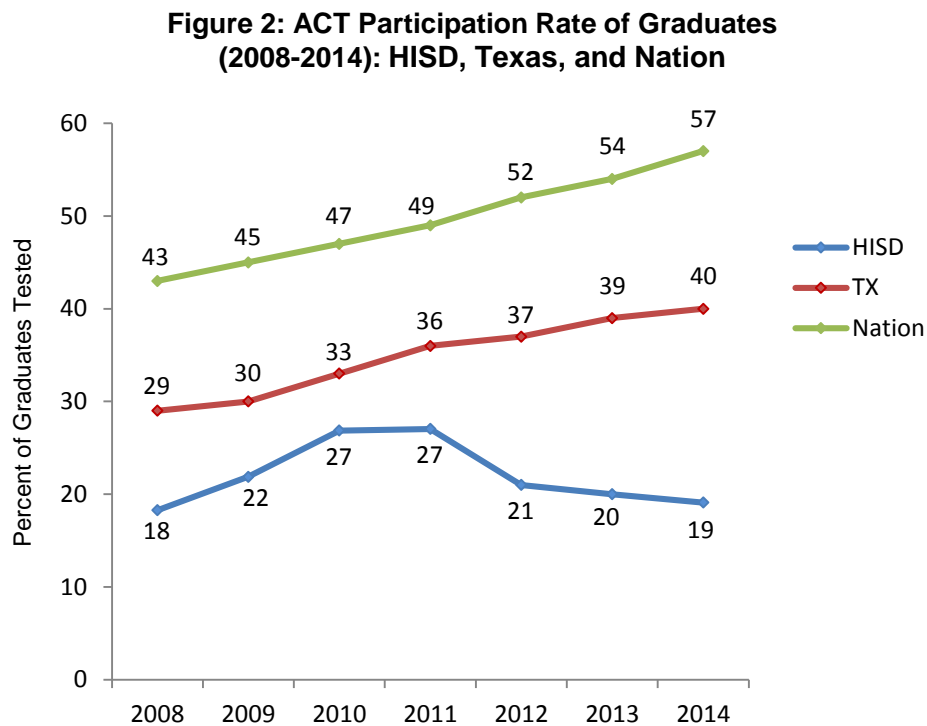


Figure 2 indicates the following:

- The participation in HISD declined from 20 percent (2013) to 19 percent (2014) compared to an increase of 1 percentage point at the state level and a 3 percentage-point increase at the national level.

Figure 3 shows the trends of ACT composite results for HISD, Texas, and the Nation for the graduating classes of 2008 through 2014.

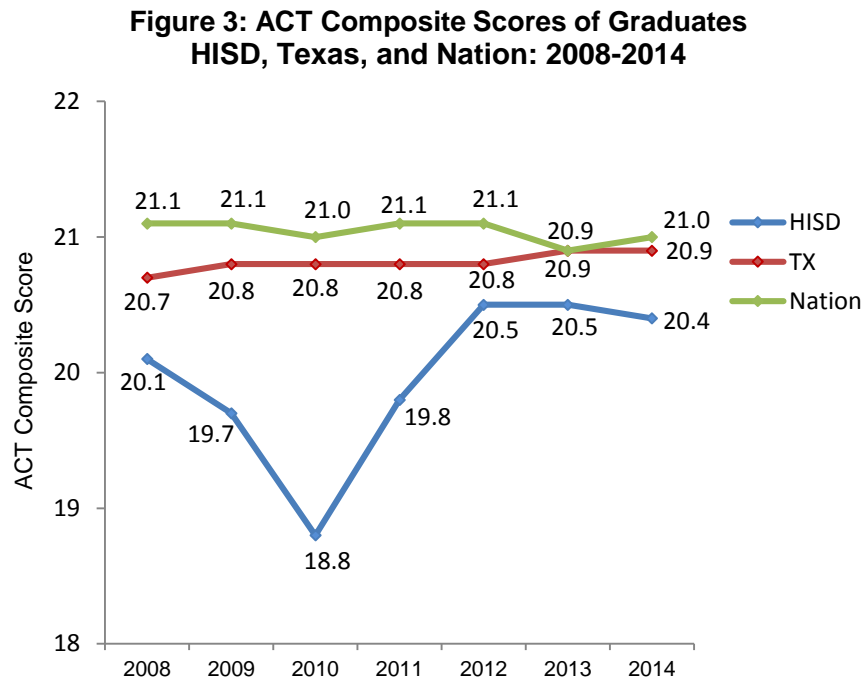


Figure 3 indicates the following:

- The ACT composite score in HISD declined by 0.1 points for the class of 2014 compared to 2013 while the state remained unchanged and the nation showed an increase of 0.1 points.

Figure 4 shows the campus results ranked by the average ACT composite scores for the class of 2014.

Figure 4. HISD ACT Composite Scores by Campus: 2013 and 2014

Ranked by 2014 scores

Campus	2013	2014	Change, 2014-2013
Carnegie HS	28.1	28.5	0.4
DeBakey HS	26.9	27.1	0.2
HSPVA	24.5	25.0	0.5
Bellaire HS	25.0	24.9	-0.1
Texas Connections Acad.	*	22.7	-
Lamar HS	22.5	22.5	0.0
Eastwood	19.8	22.4	2.6
Westside HS	22.6	22.1	-0.5
Challenge HS	22.2	20.9	-1.3
East Early College HS	20.2	20.8	0.6
N. Houston Early College HS	20.8	19.9	-0.9
Houston Acad. for Int'l Stud.	18.8	19.9	1.1
Washington HS	18.7	19.4	0.7
Milby HS	16.6	19.3	2.7
Mount Carmel	17.7	18.8	1.1
Law and Justice HS	18.4	18.6	0.2
Sharpstown HS	17.0	17.8	0.8
Lee HS	16.2	17.7	1.5
Sharpstown International	16.5	17.6	1.1
Reagan HS	19.2	17.5	-1.7
Waltrip HS	19.0	17.5	-1.5
Chavez HS	17.3	17.4	0.1
Madison HS	17.5	16.8	-0.7
Scarborough HS	*	16.6	-
Davis HS	15.7	16.5	0.8
Westbury HS	16.2	16.2	0.0
Austin HS	15.0	15.6	0.6
Jordan HS	17.0	15.4	-1.6
Worthing HS	15.4	15.3	-0.1
Sterling HS	15.1	15.3	0.2
Houston MSTC	16.7	15.1	-1.6
Furr HS	15.6	14.9	-0.7
North Forest HS	-	14.8	-
Yates HS	15.0	14.5	-0.5
Wheatley HS	15.0	13.8	-1.2
Kashmere HS	13.5	13.8	0.3
E-Stem Central	*	*	-
Jones HS	15.5	*	-
HISD	20.5	20.4	-0.1
Texas	20.9	20.9	0.0
Nation	20.9	21.0	0.1

*Masked: n < 5

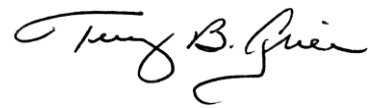
Figure 4 indicates the following:

- Eighteen campuses showed a gain in the ACT composite score ranging from 0.1 points (Chavez HS) to 2.7 points (Milby HS) while 13 campuses showed a decline ranging from 0.1 points (Bellaire HS and Worthing HS) to 1.7 points (Reagan HS) for the class of 2014 compared to the class of 2013.

Appendix A provides **Tables 2-7** with detailed results for the district, state and nation.

Tables 2 through **5** provide the average scores, which range from 1 to 36, by subject for the district, the state, and the nation over the past four years. They also show the percent of students meeting the College Readiness Benchmarks for all four subjects.

Tables 6 and **7** provide the 2014 average ACT scores by ethnicity for the graduating classes of 2013 and 2014 for HISD, Texas, and the Nation, along with the percent meeting all four subjects of the College Readiness Benchmark. The differences between HISD and Texas and between HISD and the Nation are also shown for all students and the various subgroups.



TBG

Attachment

cc: Superintendent's Direct Reports
Chief School Officers
High School Support Officers
Richard Cruz
Secondary Principals

APPENDIX A

Table 2: Four-Year Trends in Average ACT Scores (English, Mathematics, and Reading): 2010-2014

Year	Number Tested HISD	English			Mathematics			Reading		
		HISD	Texas	Nation	HISD	Texas	Nation	HISD	Texas	Nation
2010	2,449	17.5	19.7	20.5	19.6	21.4	21.0	18.6	20.8	21.3
2011	2,692	18.4	19.6	20.6	20.5	21.5	21.1	19.4	20.7	21.3
2012	2,123	19.4	19.6	20.5	21.4	21.4	21.1	20.3	20.8	21.3
2013	2,010	19.2	19.8	20.2	21.4	21.5	20.9	20.4	21.0	21.1
2014	1,979	19.4	19.8	20.3	21.2	21.4	20.9	20.4	21.1	21.3

Table 3: Two-Year Differences in ACT Scores (English, Mathematics, and Reading)

By Year Diff	Number	English			Mathematics			Reading		
		HISD	Texas	Nation	HISD	Texas	Nation	HISD	Texas	Nation
10-11	243	0.9	-0.1	0.1	0.9	0.1	0.1	0.8	-0.1	0.0
11-12	243	1.0	0.0	-0.1	0.9	-0.1	0.0	0.9	0.1	0.0
12-13	-113	-0.2	0.2	-0.3	0.0	0.1	-0.2	0.1	0.2	-0.2
13-14	-31	+0.2	+0.2	-0.2	-0.2	21.4	0.0	0.0	+0.1	+0.2

Table 4: Four-Year Trends in Average ACT Scores (Science and Composite) with the Percent of Students Meeting College Readiness Benchmarks: 2010-2014

Year	Science			Composite			College Readiness Benchmark (all four)		
	HISD	Texas	Nation	HISD	Texas	Nation	HISD	Texas	Nation
2010	18.9	20.9	20.9	18.8	20.8	21.0	16%	24%	24%
2011	19.6	20.8	20.9	19.6	20.8	21.1	20%	24%	25%
2012	20.3	20.8	20.9	20.5	20.8	21.1	25%	24%	25%
2013	20.4	20.9	20.7	20.5	20.9	20.9	26%	26%	26%
2014	20.3	21.0	20.8	20.4	20.9	21.0	25%	26%	26%

Table 5: Two-Year Differences in ACT Scores (Science and Composite) and the Percent of Students Meeting College Readiness Benchmarks

Year	Science			Composite			College Readiness Benchmark (all four) Percentage Points		
	HISD	Texas	Nation	HISD	Texas	Nation	HISD	Texas	Nation
10-11	0.7	-0.1	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.1	4	0	1
11-12	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	5	0	0
12-13	0.1	0.1	-0.2	0.0	0.1	-0.2	1	2	1
13-14	-0.1	+0.1	+0.1	-0.1	0.0	+0.1	-1%	0%	0%

APPENDIX A

Table 6: 2014 Average ACT Scores, College Readiness Benchmark Results, and Differences between Student Groups in HISD and Texas

Student Group	English			Mathematics			Reading		
	HISD	Texas	Diff	HISD	Texas	Diff	HISD	Texas	Diff
All Students	19.4	19.8	-0.4	21.2	21.4	-0.2	20.4	21.1	-0.7
African American	15.8	16.1	-0.3	17.9	18.3	-0.4	17.3	17.8	-0.5
American Indian	*	20.0	-	*	21.5	-	*	21.6	-
White	25.9	22.7	+3.2	25.6	23.4	+2.2	25.8	23.7	+2.1
Hispanic	17.5	17.2	+0.3	20.1	19.5	+0.6	18.8	18.8	0.0
Asian	25.5	24.1	+1.4	27.4	26.5	+0.9	25.5	24.3	+1.2
Pacific Islander	*	20.3	-	*	22.0	-	*	21.4	-
Two or more	24.3	21.3	+3.0	23.8	22.2	+1.6	25.2	22.6	+2.6
No response	22.1	22.1	0.0	23.2	22.8	+0.4	23.3	23.0	+0.3
Student Group	Science			Composite			Readiness Benchmark		
	HISD	Texas	Diff	HISD	Texas	Diff	HISD	Texas	Diff
All Students	20.3	21.0	-0.7	20.4	20.9	-0.5	25%	26%	-1%
African American	17.3	17.9	-0.6	17.2	17.7	-0.5	10%	8%	+2%
American Indian	*	21.3	-	*	21.2	-	*	26%	-
White	25.2	23.1	+2.1	25.8	23.4	+2.4	56%	41%	+15
Hispanic	18.9	19.0	-0.1	18.9	18.8	+0.1	15%	13%	+2%
Asian	25.5	24.5	+1.0	26.1	25.0	+1.1	60%	52%	+8%
Pacific Islander	*	21.1	-	*	21.3	-	*	26%	-
Two or more	22.6	22.0	+0.6	24.1	22.2	+1.9	40%	34%	+6%
No response	22.9	22.5	+0.4	23.1	22.7	+0.4	43%	-	-

Table 7: 2014 Average ACT Scores, College Readiness Benchmark Results, and Differences between Student Groups in HISD and the Nation

Student Group	English			Mathematics			Reading		
	HISD	Nation	Diff	HISD	Nation	Diff	HISD	Nation	Diff
All Students	19.4	20.3	-0.9	21.2	20.9	+0.3	20.4	21.3	-0.9
African American	15.8	15.8	0.0	17.9	17.2	+0.7	17.3	17.3	0.0
American Indian	*	16.6	-	*	18.1	-	*	18.4	-
White	25.9	22.0	+3.9	25.6	22.0	+3.6	25.8	22.8	+3.0
Hispanic	17.5	17.7	-0.2	20.1	19.2	+0.9	18.8	19.1	-0.3
Asian	25.5	22.8	+2.7	27.4	24.9	+2.5	25.5	22.8	+2.7
Pacific Islander	*	17.5	-	*	19.2	-	*	18.7	-
Two or more	24.3	20.6	+3.7	23.8	20.9	+2.9	25.2	21.7	+3.5
No response	22.1	20.0	+2.1	23.2	20.7	+2.5	23.3	21.1	+2.2
Student Group	Science			Composite			Readiness Benchmark		
	HISD	Nation	Diff	HISD	Nation	Diff	HISD	Nation	Diff
All Students	20.3	20.8	-0.5	20.4	21.0	-0.6	25%	26%	-1%
African American	17.3	17.0	+0.3	17.2	17.0	+0.2	10%	5%	+5%
American Indian	*	18.3	-	*	18.0	-	*	10%	-
White	25.2	22.1	+3.1	25.8	22.3	+3.5	56%	34%	+22%
Hispanic	18.9	18.8	+0.1	18.9	18.8	+0.1	15%	14%	+1%
Asian	25.5	23.2	+2.3	26.1	23.5	+2.6	60%	42%	+18
Pacific Islander	*	18.6	-	*	18.6	-	*	15%	-
Two or more	22.6	21.0	+1.6	24.1	21.2	+2.9	40%	26%	+14
No response	22.9	20.5	+2.4	23.1	20.7	+2.4	43%	-	-