

MEMORANDUM

December 7, 2018

TO: Board Members

FROM: Grenita Lathan
Interim Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: **SAT RESULTS: CLASS OF 2018**

CONTACT: Carla Stevens, (713) 556-6700

The SAT results for the graduating Class of 2018 have been released by the College Board and are provided in this report. The SAT exam was redesigned in March 2016 and consists of two subjects: Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (ERW) and Mathematics. While some students from the Class of 2017 took the old version of the SAT, the vast majority took the new version. Any performance comparisons to Class of 2017 only include the results from the new version. All students from the Class of 2018 took the revised version.

Key findings include:

- The number of students who took the SAT from the Class of 2018 is 10,343. This number of testers is higher than the number of all testers from the Class of 2017 (9,640), and is the highest number to date.
- The percentage of students tested has begun to rise; the first time since a steady decline started in 2013. The Class of 2018 participation was 89 percent, up from 87 percent for the Class of 2017.
- Overall, HISD students in the Class of 2018 scored lower than other graduating seniors from the state and from the total group of test takers. However, compared to the state and total group point growth, the district's Class of 2018 had a higher scaled score increase in the areas of Composite and ERW, helping close the gaps between the district, state, and total group scores.
- For the Class of 2018, HISD students belonging to the Asian and White groups scored higher on average than their counterparts across the state and the total group.
- The percentage of HISD students who met both benchmarks and those who only met the mathematics remained unchanged from the Class of 2017 to Class of 2018. The percentage of students who met the ERW benchmark increased by three percentage points.

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 PSAT 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 & 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 &

Postsecondary Programming offers several additional supports to schools and students to build upon the successes of previous years.

From 2017 to 2018, the Class of 2018 saw an increase of 15 points (composite) on the SAT. We anticipate that the Class of 2019 will see increases in their scores due to a districtwide push 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. Students spent over 1,000,000 minutes using Official SAT Practice at Khan Academy in 2017-2018, up from 800,000 minutes in 2016-2017, to prepare for PSAT and SAT exams.

The Department of Innovation & Postsecondary Programming will continue to support campuses with implementing Khan Academy on their campuses, provide incentive programs for students and schools to use the tool, such as the "Khanathlon," and deploy a group of Khan Ambassadors— current students who have successfully used the tool— to promote Khan Academy to their peers. Additionally, the district is increasing its levels of support for students who attend virtual schools, working closely with administration to make the exam accessible for students even if they do not reside near a testing site during the school day administration.

Recent changes by the College Board aided the district to strategically increase participation in the school day SAT administration. In 2018, the district was able to bulk register students for the SAT, which eliminated the barrier of a student having to pre-register in advance to test on the day of the administration. From 2017 to 2018, the number of SAT test-takers increased from 9,640 to 10,343.

College Readiness:

This past year, the College Readiness Department created two new teams, consisting of 13 advisors and two managers:

- *A middle school college and career advising team* to deliver presentations that are grade appropriate, focus on choosing an endorsement for high school, the importance of academics, and career options.
- *A grades 9-11 college and career advising team* to deliver college awareness and academic preparedness presentations that are grade appropriate. In addition, they work with a caseload of students; take students on local and regional college visits; and actively work with campuses to ensure students have linked their Khan Academy test prep accounts with their College Board accounts.

The above activities and conversations contain significant elements focused on increasing student success on the SAT as well as developing an awareness about the importance of the test regarding college options and meeting Texas Success Initiative (TSI) standards.

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

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Attachment

cc: Superintendent's Direct Reports
Area Superintendents
School Support Officers
High School Principals
Annie Wolfe



RESEARCH

Educational Program Report

SAT RESULTS: CLASS OF 2018

HISD

Research and Accountability

ANALYZING DATA, MEASURING PERFORMANCE.



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SAT Results: Class of 2018

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 2018 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. Because comparing the redesigned exam with prior versions is problematic, performance data are only included for the Class of 2017 on the redesigned exam. However, participation rates for Class of 2017 includes both the new and previous versions of the SAT. All students from the Class of 2018 took the new version.

Highlights

- The number of students who took the SAT from the Class of 2018 is 10,343. This number of testers is higher than the number of all testers from the Class of 2017 (9,640), and is the highest number to date.
- The percentage of students tested has begun to rise; the first time since a steady decline started in 2013. The Class of 2018 participation was 89 percent, up from 87 percent for the Class of 2017.
- Overall, HISD students in the Class of 2018 scored lower than other graduating seniors from the state and from the total group of test takers.
- Compared to the state and total group point growth, the district's Class of 2018 had a higher scaled score increase in the areas of Composite and ERW, helping close the gaps between the district, state, and total group scores.
- For the Class of 2018, HISD students belonging to the Asian and White groups scored higher on average than their counterparts across the state and the total group.
- The percentage of HISD students who met both benchmarks and those who only met the mathematics remained unchanged from the Class of 2017 to Class of 2018. The percentage of students who met the ERW benchmark increased by three percentage points.

Introduction

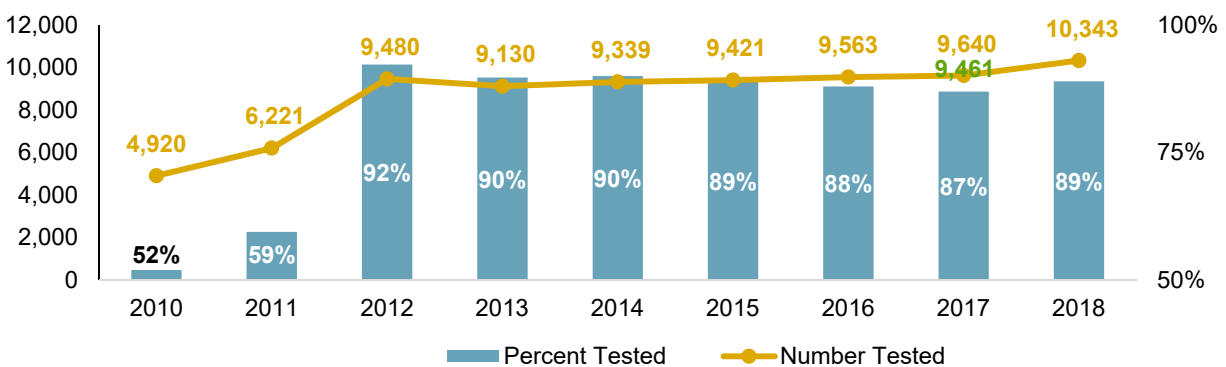
The SAT is a college admissions exam that assesses student reasoning based on knowledge and skills developed in high school coursework. Colleges and universities use SAT scores to influence admissions decisions, recruit students, and predict performance in college courses. The SAT results for the graduating Class of 2018 have been released by the College Board and are provided in this report. In March 2016¹, the College Board administered the first redesigned SAT exam that included two sections: Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (ERW) and math. 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 provides 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. **Figure 1** illustrates district-wide SAT participation since 2010.

Figure 1. HISD SAT Exam Participation, Classes of 2010–2018



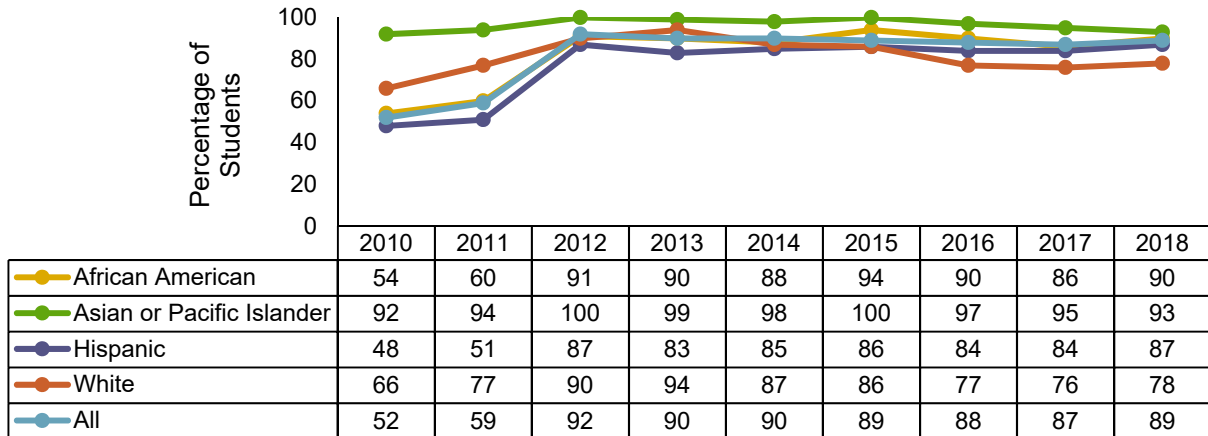
Sources: SAT Suite of Assessments Report: Houston Independent School District (2017, 2018); PEIMS, 2010–2018
 Note: Student participation for 2017 includes those who took both versions of the SAT, as shown with the colors blue and yellow. The number of new version testers in 2017 is shown in green.

- The number of students from the Class of 2018 who took the new version of the SAT is 10,343 (Figure 1). This is the highest number of HISD students to take the SAT to date.
- The Class of 2018 had 89 percent of its seniors take the SAT, increasing from 87 percent of students in the Class of 2017, ending a five-year decrease (Figure 1).

¹ While a few students from the Class of 2017 took the old version of the SAT, the vast majority took the new version. Because comparing the redesigned exam with prior versions is problematic, performance data are only included for the Class of 2017 on the redesigned exam. Participation rates for Class of 2017 include both test versions.

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 2010–2018



Sources: SAT Suite of Assessments Report: Houston Independent School District (2017, 2018); PEIMS, 2010–2018
 Note: Participation for 2017 includes those who took both versions of the SAT.

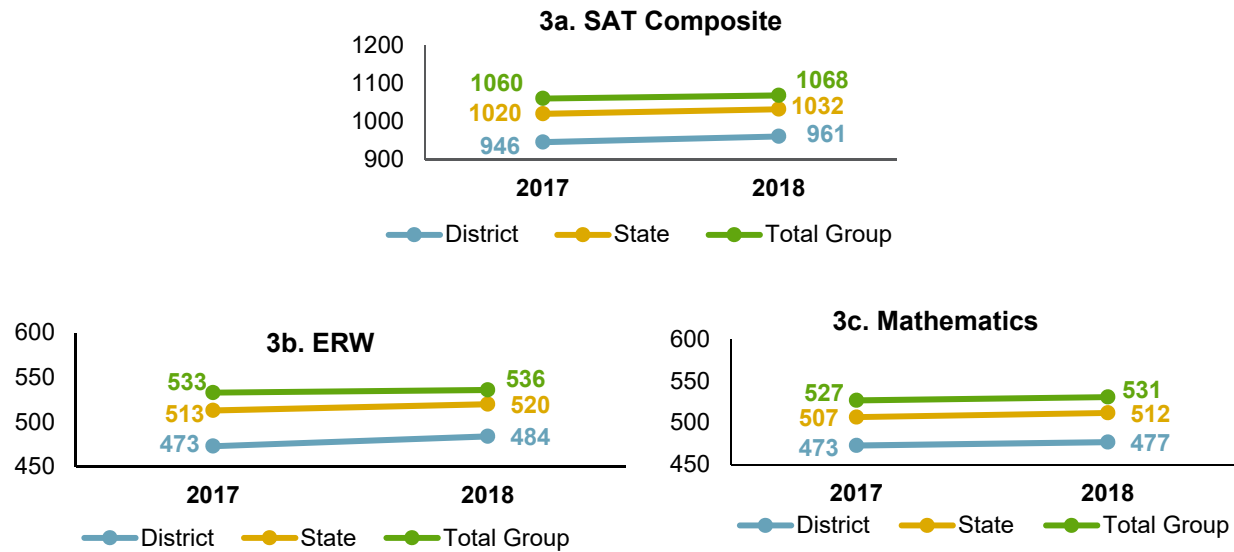
- From the Classes of 2012 to 2018, the percentage tested dropped for all race/ethnicity groups shown except for the Hispanic group which increased its participation to return to a peak of 87 percent (Figure 2).
- The race/ethnicity with the largest participation decline from 2012 is the White group, dropping 13 percentage points (Figure 2).

SAT Performance

Figure 3 (p. 4) shows the average score by subject for the Class of 2018. Since the SAT exam was redesigned in March of 2016, making comparisons to prior years is problematic. Performance results in this report reflect only the students tested on the new version in 2017.

- Average SAT scores among HISD seniors are lower than those of students in Texas and the total group in both ERW and math (Figure 3a).
- Students in the Class of 2018 had higher scaled score growth in the Composite and ERW categories (Figures 3a – 3c, p. 4), decreasing the gap between the district, state, and total groups.

Figure 3. Average SAT Scores of District, State, and Total Group Students, Class of 2018

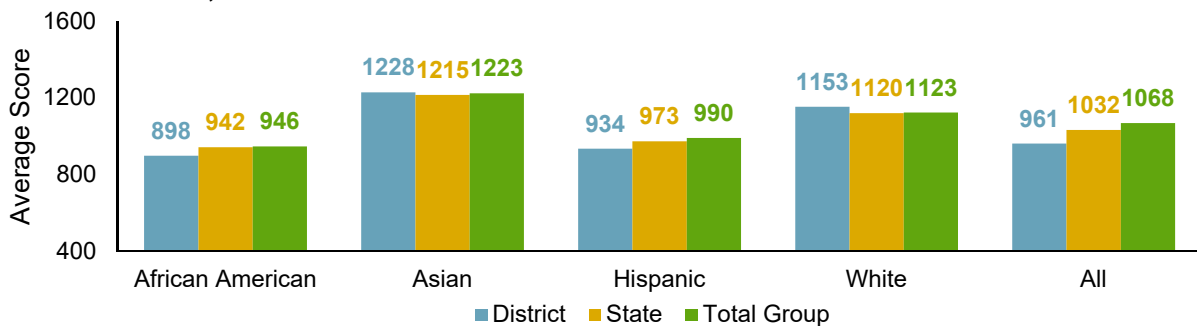


Sources: SAT Suite of Assessments Report: Houston Independent School District (2017, 2018); SAT Suite of Assessments Report: State (2017, 2018); SAT Suite of Assessments Report: Total Group (2017, 2018)
 Note: Total group includes international test takers.

Figure 4 shows the average composite score by student group for the Class of 2018 for the district, state, and total group.

- Overall, the HISD African American and Hispanic student groups in the Class of 2018 scored lower composite scores than other graduating seniors from the state and total group. Students from the Asian and White student groups exceeded state and total group average performance (Figure 4).
- Comparing state and total group to the district's Class of 2018, the HISD African American student group had the largest difference in average state composite scores compared to other student race/ethnicity groups. Hispanic students had the largest performance difference between the district and total group compared to other student race/ethnicity groups (Figure 4).

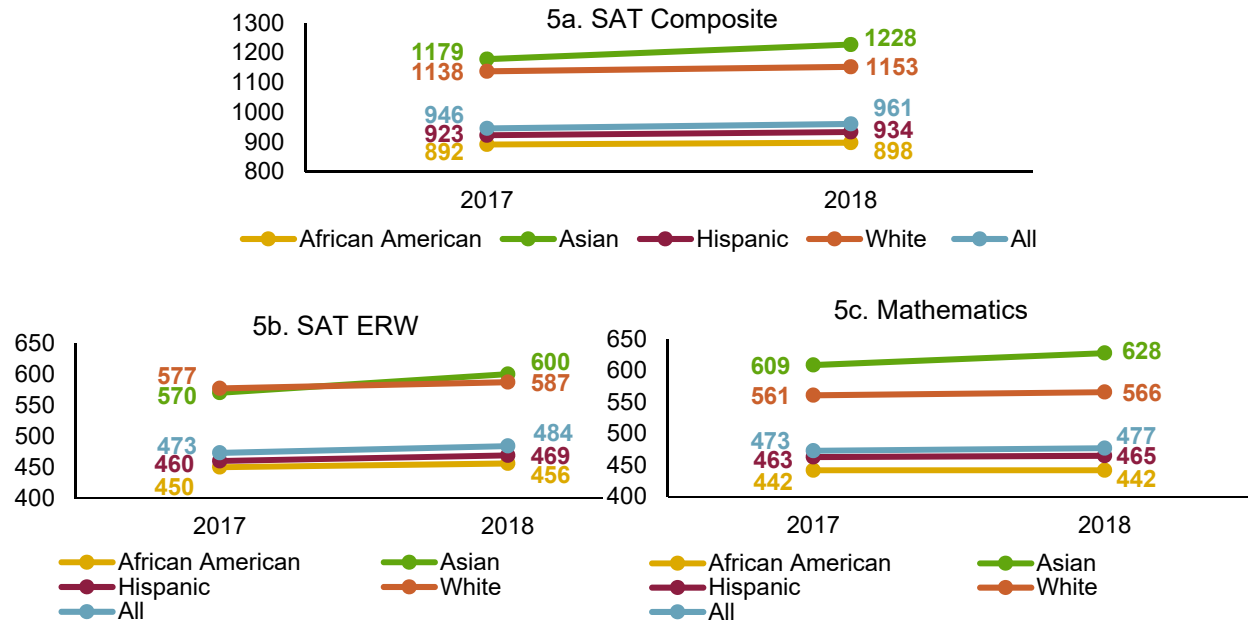
Figure 4. Average SAT Composite Score by Race/Ethnicity of District, State, and Total Group Students, Class of 2018



Sources: SAT Suite of Assessments Report: Houston Independent School District (2017, 2018); SAT Suite of Assessments Report: State (2017, 2018); SAT Suite of Assessments Report: Total Group (2017, 2018)
 Note: Total group includes international test takers.

Figure 5 shows the average SAT scores by subject and student group for HISD’s Class of 2017 and Class of 2018.

Figure 5. HISD Average SAT Scores by Subject and Race/Ethnicity, Classes of 2017–2018



Sources: SAT Suite of Assessments Report: Houston Independent School District (2017, 2018); SAT Suite of Assessments Report: State (2017, 2018); SAT Suite of Assessments Report: Total Group (2017, 2018)

- Students from the race/ethnicities shown increased their average composite score when comparing the Classes of 2017 and 2018 (Figure 5a).
- Class of 2018 students in the Asian group had the largest composite average score growth, with 49 points compared to the Class of 2017 (Figure 5a).

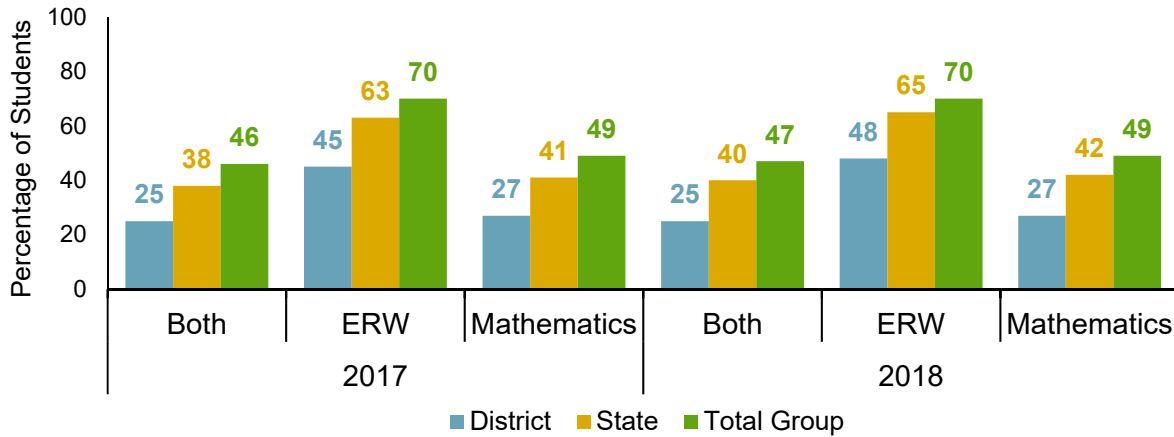
SAT College Readiness Benchmarks

The College Board sets benchmark scores to predict students’ chance of success in college. According to the College Board, 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. 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 (p. 6) shows the percentage of students in the Classes of 2017 and 2018, from the district, state, and total group, who met college-ready benchmarks in ERW, mathematics, and both.

- The percentage of HISD students who met both benchmarks and those who met the mathematics remained unchanged from the Class of 2017 to Class of 2018. The percentage of students who met the ERW benchmark increased by three percentage points.
- A higher percentage of HISD students in the Class of 2018 met the college-ready benchmark in ERW (48 percent) compared to math (27 percent).

Figure 6. Percentage of District, State, and Total Group Students Meeting College-Ready Benchmarks, Classes of 2017–2018

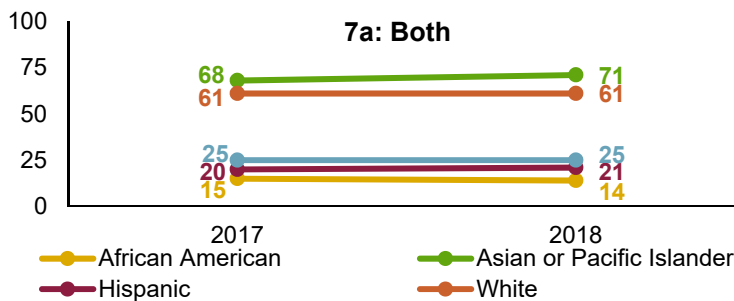


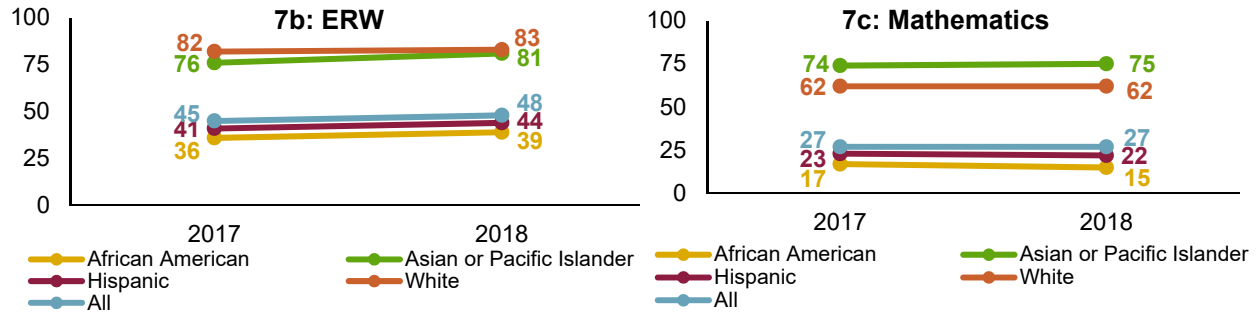
Sources: SAT Suite of Assessments Report: Houston Independent School District (2017, 2018); SAT Suite of Assessments Report: State (2017, 2018); SAT Suite of Assessments Report: Total Group (2017, 2018)
 Note: The benchmark scores of the redesigned SAT exam cannot be compared to the benchmark scores from prior years.

Figure 7 (pp. 6 – 7) shows the percentage of students who met the college-ready benchmarks by subject and student group for HISD’s Class of 2017 and Class of 2018.

- Between the Classes of 2017 and 2018, there was very minor change in the percentage of students who met both ERW and Mathematics benchmarks. The largest change was an increase of three percentage points of students in the Asian or Pacific Islander group (Figure 7a).
- For the Class of 2018, HISD students belonging to the Asian and White groups had a higher percentage of students meeting the college-ready benchmarks in both ERW and math compared to the other student groups (Figures 7b and 7c).
- All student groups showed an increase in meeting the college-ready benchmarks in ERW from the Class of 2017 to the Class of 2018. The same was not true for Mathematics.

Figure 7. HISD Percentage of Students Meeting College-Ready Benchmarks by Race/Ethnicity, Classes of 2017 – 2018





Sources: SAT Suite of Assessments Report: Houston Independent School District (2017, 2018); SAT Suite of Assessments Report: State (2017, 2018); SAT Suite of Assessments Report: Total Group (2017, 2018)

SAT Participation and Performance by Campus

Table 1 (p. 8) shows the number of students tested, average SAT composite, and the changes from Classes of 2017 and 2018 by campus.

- A total of 53 campuses had students take the SAT.
- Campuses with more than 500 students who took the SAT were: Lamar HS (n=808), Bellaire HS (n=733), Westside HS (n=670), Houston MSTC HS (n=577), Heights HS (n=518), and Chavez HS (n=580). Twelve campuses had fewer than 50 Class of 2018 students take the SATs.
- The Class of 2018 had an increase of 15 points in their composite average scored compared to the Class of 2017. Thirty-five campuses (66 percent) improved their composite score from the prior year and 18 campuses (34 percent) had scores above the district average.
- Leland YMCPA had the highest increase in the average composite score with 105 points. Reach HS had the largest decrease in their composite score average, declining 59 points.

Table 2 (p. 9) shows the scores for ERW, mathematics, and score changes from the Classes of 2017 and 2018.

- Students in the Class of 2018 improved the overall HISD ERW average by 11 points to reach 484, and increased the mathematics average score by four points, for a district average of 477.
- Of the 53 campuses with Class of 2018 students participating, 38 campuses improved their ERW average and 30 improved their mathematics average score from the prior year.
- DeBaKey HS, Carnegie Vanguard HS, and HSPVA were the top three campuses in both ERW and mathematics performance.
- Furr HS had the largest growth in ERW with 139 average score point increase. Victory Prep South had the largest mathematics growth with a 66 average score point increase.

Table 1. Number Tested, Average SAT Scores by Campus, and Percentage Met Benchmark, Classes of 2017 and 2018

Campus	Number Tested			Average Composite Score			% Met Both ERW and Mathematics Benchmarks		
	2017	2018	Change	2017	2018	Change	2017	2018	Change
Austin HS	323	371	48	855	876	21	7	6	-1
AVA	3	1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Beechnut Academy	1	6	5	*	865	*	*	0	*
Bellaire HS	728	733	5	1099	1116	17	54	50	-4
Carnegie HS	128	146	18	1337	1375	38	98	100	2
Challenge ECHS	108	121	13	1104	1119	15	54	57	3
Chavez HS	573	580	7	904	931	27	16	21	5
Community Services	—	1	—	—	*	—	—	*	—
DeBakey HS	148	184	36	1346	1378	32	100	99	-1
East EC HS	109	108	-1	1090	1087	-3	50	55	5
Eastwood Acad	110	108	-2	1087	1099	12	58	66	8
Energy Institute HS	144	147	3	1021	1055	34	33	43	10
E-STEM Central HS	12	23	11	830	876	46	0	0	0
E-STEM West HS	73	81	8	943	934	-9	19	21	2
Furr HS	178	202	24	839	877	38	5	7	2
Heights HS	484	518	34	958	958	0	24	22	-2
Hou Acad. Intl.	91	116	25	986	1072	86	22	54	32
Houston MSTC HS	476	577	101	833	847	14	4	5	1
HS for Law and Justice	86	75	-11	979	955	-24	22	15	-7
HS Perf. Vis. Arts	162	197	35	1247	1239	-8	83	79	-4
Jones HS	7	92	85	937	914	-23	29	14	-15
Jordan HS	157	145	-12	854	849	-5	11	6	-5
Kashmere HS	81	88	7	785	842	57	0	3	3
Lamar HS	677	808	131	1030	1037	7	39	38	-1
Leland YMCPA	11	32	21	998	1103	105	18	56	38
Liberty HS	36	26	-10	804	836	32	6	15	9
Long Acad	52	44	-8	961	972	11	19	23	4
Madison HS	291	280	-11	845	852	7	4	4	0
Mid Coll - Fraga	21	28	7	817	840	23	0	11	11
Mid Coll - Gulfton	23	26	3	798	802	4	0	4	4
Milby HS	357	190	-167	861	852	-9	7	3	-4
Mount Carmel Acad	81	86	5	1012	1019	7	31	31	0
North Forest HS	175	202	27	781	805	24	3	2	-1
N. Houston ECHS	111	110	-1	1040	1069	29	43	48	5
Northside HS	348	295	-53	859	882	23	7	9	2
Reach HS	12	6	-6	876	817	-59	8	0	-8
Scarborough HS	133	174	41	855	866	11	7	7	0
Sharpstown HS	279	349	70	859	870	11	9	10	1
Sharpstown Intl	129	123	-6	967	972	5	24	19	-5
South EC HS	19	50	31	984	958	-26	32	20	-12
Sterling HS	164	193	29	820	818	-2	5	4	-1
Tx Conn. Acad	177	229	52	1095	1079	-16	48	43	-5
Victory Prep North	8	17	9	769	856	87	0	6	6
Victory Prep South	23	58	35	862	822	-40	0	3	3
Waltrip HS	334	360	26	901	916	15	17	16	-1
Washington HS	126	125	-1	863	828	-35	10	6	-4
Westbury HS	368	421	53	857	872	15	7	9	2
Westside HS	664	670	6	1015	1033	18	38	38	0
Wheatley HS	122	139	17	785	807	22	2	1	-1
Wisdom HS	251	352	101	849	826	-23	7	5	-2
Worthing HS	98	148	50	762	850	88	2	4	2
Yates HS	154	136	-18	814	817	3	5	4	-1
YWCPA	35	45	10	1019	1043	24	34	29	-5
HISD Totals	9,461	10,343	881	946	961	15	25	25	0

Sources: College Board 2017 SAT datafile; College Board 2018 SAT datafile

Notes: 2017 data only include those who took the new version of the SAT. The HISD total includes one student who did not have a matched campus in 2018.

* Fewer than 5 students tested

— SATs were not taken during 2017

Table 2. Average SAT Subject Scores by Campus, Classes of 2017 and 2018								
Campus	Average ERW Score			Average Math Score				
	2017	2018	Change	2017	2018	Change		
Austin HS	421	436	15	434	440	6		
AVA	*	*	*	*	*	*		
Beechnut Academy	*	440	*	*	425	*		
Bellaire HS	548	559	11	551	557	6		
Carnegie HS	661	680	19	676	695	19		
Challenge ECHS	560	577	17	544	542	-2		
Chavez HS	446	465	19	457	466	9		
Community Services	—	490	—	—	*	—		
DeBakey HS	658	673	15	688	705	17		
East EC HS	548	544	-4	542	543	1		
Eastwood Acad	532	539	7	555	561	6		
Energy Institute HS	513	537	24	508	518	10		
E-STEM Central HS	413	447	35	418	428	11		
E-STEM West HS	473	472	-1	471	463	-8		
Furr HS	420	441	21	419	435	16		
Heights HS	480	483	3	478	475	-3		
Hou Acad. Intl.	502	549	47	484	523	39		
Houston MSTC HS	416	426	10	416	421	5		
HS for Law and Justice	501	491	-10	478	465	-13		
HS Perf. Vis. Arts	640	636	-4	608	603	-5		
Jones HS	479	459	-20	459	454	-5		
Jordan HS	426	427	1	427	422	-5		
Kashmere HS	392	421	29	393	421	28		
Lamar HS	524	528	4	507	509	2		
Leland YMCPA	493	561	68	505	541	36		
Liberty HS	387	406	19	417	430	13		
Long Acad	468	475	7	493	496	3		
Madison HS	424	430	6	421	422	1		
Mid Coll - Fraga	413	422	9	404	418	14		
Mid Coll - Gulfon	385	404	19	413	398	-15		
Milby HS	429	428	-1	431	423	-8		
Mount Carmel Acad	507	519	12	505	499	-6		
N. Houston ECHS	513	540	27	528	529	1		
North Forest HS	393	407	14	388	399	11		
Northside HS	427	443	16	432	438	6		
Reach HS	456	417	-39	420	400	-20		
Scarborough HS	425	436	11	430	430	0		
Sharpstown HS	427	437	10	432	433	1		
Sharpstown Intl	472	490	18	495	482	-13		
South EC HS	496	489	-7	487	469	-18		
Sterling HS	412	411	-1	408	407	-1		
Tx Conn. Acad	562	559	-3	533	521	-12		
Victory Prep North	396	418	22	373	438	66		
Victory Prep South	440	419	-21	422	403	-19		
Waltrip HS	450	462	12	450	454	4		
Washington HS	424	414	-10	439	414	-25		
Westbury HS	433	440	7	424	432	8		
Westside HS	506	521	15	509	513	4		
Wheatley HS	393	409	16	392	398	6		
Wisdom HS	418	412	-6	432	414	-18		
Worthing HS	383	431	48	379	420	41		
Yates HS	412	416	4	401	400	-1		
YWCPA	513	536	23	506	507	1		
HISD	473	484	11	473	477	4		

Sources: College Board 2017 SAT datafile; College Board 2018 SAT datafile

Notes: 2017 data only include those who took the new version of the SAT. The HISD total includes one student who did not have a matched campus in 2018.

* Fewer than 5 students tested

— SATs were not taken during 2017

Conclusion

The number of HISD students from the Class of 2018 who took the new version of the SAT is 10,343, which is higher than the total number of testers from the Class of 2017 (9,640). Class of 2018 SAT participation rate stopped a five-year decline in the proportion of HISD students taking the exam. Efforts to encourage SAT participation should be continued. Understanding why some high schools are declining in participation is recommended.

Overall, HISD students from the Class of 2018 scored lower than other graduating seniors from the state and from the total group, although HISD students belonging to the Asian and White groups scored higher on average compared to their counterparts from the state and total group. Overall, only 25 percent of HISD students tested from the Class of 2018 met both the ERW and math college-ready benchmarks, the same as the Class of 2017. All student groups showed an increase in meeting the college-ready benchmarks in ERW from the Class of 2017 to the Class of 2018. While the SAT is not the only predictor of college success, this data indicates that much more can be done to help students prepare for college.