

MEMORANDUM

August 18, 2010

TO: Board Members

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

SUBJECT: **ACT TEST RESULTS: CLASS OF 2010**

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

The results for the class of 2010 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 results of the ACT test are provided below for the class of 2010.

The number of Houston Independent School District (HISD) graduating seniors in 2010 with ACT test results was 2,449, an increase of 568 students from the 1,880 students tested in 2009. **Table 1** provides a comparison of average ACT scores for HISD students with state and national students for the graduating class of 2010 compared to 2009. Scores on the test range from 1 to 36.

Table 1: ACT Average Scores of HISD Students Compared to Texas and National Students, Graduating Class of 2009 and 2010

	<u>English</u>		<u>Math</u>		<u>Reading</u>		<u>Science</u>		<u>Composite</u>	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
HISD	19.1	17.5	20.3	19.6	19.8	18.6	19.3	18.9	19.7	18.8
Texas	19.9	19.7	21.3	21.4	20.9	20.8	20.6	20.9	20.8	20.8
National	20.6	20.5	21.0	21.0	21.4	21.3	20.9	20.9	21.1	21.0

HISD, Texas, and Nation

- The average ACT scores for both Texas and the nation remained relatively constant from 2009 to 2010. Average scores for HISD decreased over the same time period for all subjects and the composite score; thus, performance gaps between the district and both the state and nation on the ACT increased from 2009 to 2010.
- The average English ACT score for HISD decreased from 19.1 in 2009 to 17.5 in 2010. The district’s average English score was 2.2 points below the Texas average and 3.0 points below the national average.

- The average mathematics ACT score for HISD decreased from 20.3 in 2009 to 19.6 in 2010. The district's average mathematics score was 1.8 points below the Texas average and 1.4 points below the national average.
- The average reading ACT score for HISD decreased from 19.8 in 2009 to 18.6 in 2010. The district's average reading score was 2.2 points below the Texas average and 2.7 points below the national average.
- The average science ACT score for HISD decreased from 19.3 in 2009 to 18.9 in 2010. The district's average science score was 2.0 points below both the Texas and national averages.
- The average ACT composite score for HISD decreased from 19.7 in 2009 to 18.8 in 2010. The district's average composite score was 2.0 points below the Texas average and 2.2 points below the national average.

Table 2 provides the district-level ACT scores by ethnicity for the graduating classes of 2009 and 2010.

	English		Mathematics		Reading		Science		Composite	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
African Am.	16.4	15.4	17.7	17.4	17.2	16.6	17.2	17.3	17.2	16.8
Asian Am.	24.6	23.7	27.5	27.3	24.3	24.4	24.1	24.6	25.3	25.1
Hispanic	17.8	15.4	19.3	18.5	18.9	16.9	18.4	17.5	18.7	17.2
White	24.9	25.0	24.6	24.9	25.2	25.4	23.4	24.2	24.6	25.0

- The average English ACT scores for White students increased, slightly, from 24.9 in 2009 to 25.0 in 2010. Average English ACT scores for African American, Asian and Hispanic students decreased over the same time period by 1.0, 0.9 and 2.4 points, respectively.
- White students experienced an increase of 0.3 points in the average mathematics ACT score from 2009 to 2010. Again, African American, Asian and Hispanic students' scores decreased over the same time period by 0.3, 0.2 and 0.8 points, respectively.
- On the ACT reading test, Asian American students' average scores increased, slightly, from 24.3 in 2009 to 24.4 in 2010. White students average scores also increased slightly from 25.2 to 25.4 over the same time period. Both African American and Hispanic students' average scores decreased from 2009 to 2010, by 0.6 points for African American students and 2.0 points for Hispanic students.
- The average science ACT scores for each student group, excluding the Hispanic group, increased from 2009 to 2010. There was an increase of 0.1 points for African American students, 0.5 for Asian students and 0.8 points for White students. Hispanic scores decreased by 0.9 points over the past year.

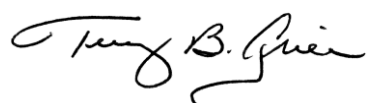
- White students increased their average composite score for 2010 when compared to 2009 by a total of 0.4 points. Each of the remaining groups had decreases in average composite scores including a decrease of 0.4 points for African Americans, 0.2 points for Asian Americans and 1.5 points for Hispanics over the same time period.

Table 3 provides the district-level ACT scores by gender for the graduating classes of 2009 and 2010.

	<u>English</u>		<u>Mathematics</u>		<u>Reading</u>		<u>Science</u>		<u>Composite</u>	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
Female	19.3	17.9	19.9	19.3	19.8	18.8	19.0	18.7	19.6	18.8
Male	18.8	17.0	20.8	20.0	19.9	18.4	19.6	19.2	19.9	18.8

- The average ACT scores for both female and male students decreased from 2009 to 2010 for all subject areas. Decreases ranged from 0.3 points in Science to 1.4 points in English for female students and from 0.4 points in Science to 1.8 points in English for males.
- Female students outperformed their male counterparts in English and Reading on the 2010 ACT, while males outperformed females on the Mathematics and Science tests. Average composite scores, for both males and females for 2010, were 18.8 each.

Table 4 (see attachment), provides participation and average ACT composite scores for each campus with students tested in the classes of 2009 and 2010. A complete report will be released later in the fall. This report will include an analysis of SAT, ACT, PSAT, and advanced placement results.


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Attachment

- cc: Superintendent's Direct Reports
 Chief School Officers
 School Improvement Officers
 Secondary Principals
 Martha Salazar-Zamora
 June Giddings

Table 4: Class of 2009 and 2010 ACT Mean Composite Scores for Campuses Testing

Campus	N Taking		Composite	
	2009	2010	2009	2010
Austin HS	51	314	16.4	13.8
Bellaire HS	256	227	25.0	24.4
Carnegie Vanguard	47	64	24.7	26.5
Challenge HS	22	33	21.8	21.0
Chavez HS	42	56	16.6	16.6
CLC	18	26	14.3	14.3
Davis HS	41	16	16.0	16.1
DeBakey HSHP	56	60	27.2	27.1
Eastwood Academy	38	59	17.0	18.6
Empowerment	6	7	17.0	18.1
Furr High School	48	61	16.6	17.1
HSLECJ	24	19	18.3	19.5
HSPVA	38	39	23.1	24.5
Jones HS	19	23	14.8	15.2
Jordan HS	35	103	15.7	16.1
Kashmere HS	24	11	15.8	16.3
Lamar HS	356	331	21.2	21.5
Leaders' Academy	6	6	16.5	15.5
Lee HS	8	13	17.9	17.7
Madison HS	72	69	16.7	16.2
Milby HS	31	22	17.7	19.8
Mt. Carmel	11	21	19.3	18.0
Reach Charter	*	9		14.1
Reagan HS	60	39	17.8	18.1
Scarborough HS	22	23	16.5	18.2
Sharpstown HS	52	74	17.6	15.3
Sterling HS	62	85	15.3	15.6
Waltrip HS	28	49	19.0	18.5
Washington HS	41	50	17.5	17.6
Westbury HS	73	73	17.7	16.9
Westside HS	157	216	20.9	21.5
Wheatley HS	60	49	16.0	15.4
Worthing HS	26	71	14.8	14.7
Yates HS	48	45	16.1	15.4
HISD	1,880	2,449	19.7	18.8
Texas	82,640	92,615	20.8	20.8
Nation	1,480,469	1,568,835	21.1	21.0