

MEMORANDUM

November 20, 2020

TO: Board Members

FROM: Grenita Lathan, Ph.D.
Interim Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: **SAT RESULTS: CLASS OF 2020**

CONTACT: Allison Matney, 713-556-6700

The SAT results for the graduating Class of 2020 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.

Key findings include:

- The number of students who took the SAT from the Class of 2020 is 10,603, which is higher than in previous years. Students benefited from having a second SAT school day in October 2019 in addition to the regular SAT school day in the spring.
- The percentage of students tested increased to 93 percent in 2020, up from 88 percent in 2019.
- Overall, HISD students in the Class of 2020 scored lower than other graduating seniors from the state and from the total group of test takers.
- HISD performance for the Class of 2020 was the lowest among the last four classes.
- The decrease in ERW scores for HISD students was smaller while the decrease in mathematics scores for HISD students was larger compared to the state and total group from 2019 to 2020.
- The percentage of HISD students that met both benchmarks decreased for the Class of 2020.

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.

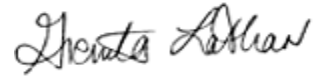
The district continues to implement initiatives to encourage students to use Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy, which offers free, personalized practice, based on a student's PSAT performance. College Board research indicates that students who use Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy for at least 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 as AP courses. The heart of the pilot is a “Khan District Dashboard” for school and district leadership to monitor student and teacher registration and student usage. A number of schools have been selected for the pilot that will provide live-time reporting of Khan Academy usage data and provide teachers and campus-based staff with ongoing professional development on incorporating the tool in their school day learning activities. The district expects to expand the pilot to more schools in the 2021-2022 school year and increase performance on College Board assessments and AP exams.

The Department of Innovation and Postsecondary Programming will also continue to support non-pilot campuses across the district with implementing 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 hosting a series of Saturday Academies throughout the year open to all students to receive instruction from lead teachers to prepare for the SAT, AP, and IB exams. These academies also serve as professional development opportunities for novice teachers who observe student sessions and receive resources and guidance from lead teachers. Our department also provides ELA, Social Studies, and Math content specialists to lead teacher trainings and support teachers with incorporating SAT skills and content into classroom learning activities with TEKS alignment.

Registration changes by the College Board aided the district to strategically increase participation in the school day SAT administration compared to the past. Starting in 2018, the district was able to bulk register students for the SAT, which eliminated the barrier of a student having to pre-register online in advance to test on the day of the administration.

The 2019–2020 school year included some unique first-time events that affected participation and scores. In 2019, for the first time, the Department of Innovation and Postsecondary Programming offered the Fall SAT school day exam to seniors who had not yet met the College Readiness benchmarks for math and reading or had not taken the SAT before. 5,173 seniors from the class of 2020 participated in this administration. Previously, HISD has only offered the SAT school day in the Spring to all Juniors. In the Spring and Summer of 2020, the Covid pandemic forced the cancellation of all SAT Saturday exams, and students from the Class of 2020 did not have opportunity to sit for the exam in an effort to boost scores and benchmark attainment for college admission and scholarship opportunities.

Should you have any further questions, please contact Allison Matney 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
Montra Rogers
Jharrett Bryantt



RESEARCH

Educational Program Report

SAT RESULTS: CLASS OF 2020



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SAT Results: Class of 2020

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 2020 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, the participation rate for the Class of 2017 includes both the new and previous versions of the SAT. All students from the Class of 2018 and after took the new version.

Highlights

- The number of students who took the SAT from the Class of 2020 is 10,603, which is higher than in previous years. Students benefited from having a second SAT school day in October 2019 in addition to the regular SAT school day in the spring.
- The percentage of students tested increased to 93 percent in 2020, up from 88 percent in 2019.
- Overall, HISD students in the Class of 2020 scored lower than other graduating seniors from the state and from the total group of test takers.
- HISD performance for the Class of 2020 was the lowest among the last four classes.
- The decrease in ERW scores for HISD students was smaller while the decrease in mathematics scores for HISD students was larger compared to the state and total group from 2019 to 2020.
- The percentage of HISD students that met both college readiness benchmarks decreased for the Class of 2020.

Introduction

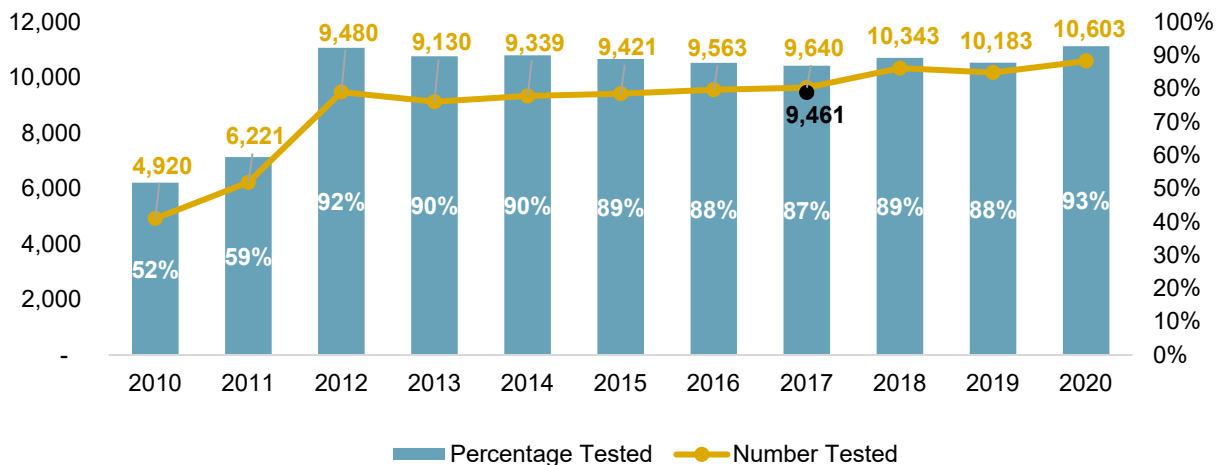
The SAT is a college admissions exam that assesses student reasoning based on knowledge and skills developed in high school coursework. Colleges and universities use SAT scores to influence admissions decisions, recruit students, and predict performance in college courses. The SAT results for the graduating Class of 2020 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. **Figure 1** illustrates district-wide SAT participation since 2010.

Figure 1. HISD SAT Exam Participation, Classes of 2010–2020

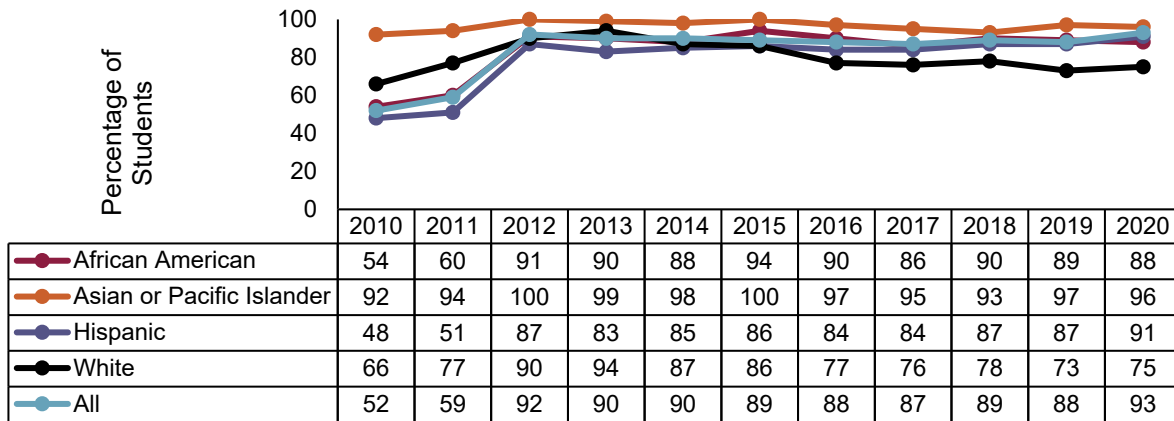


Sources: SAT Suite of Assessments Report: Houston Independent School District, 2010–2020; PEIMS, 2009–2019
 Note: Student participation for 2017 includes those who took both versions of the SAT, as shown with the colors blue and yellow. The number of new version testers in 2017 is shown in black.

- The number of students from the Class of 2020 who took the SAT is 10,603 (Figure 1), which is higher than in previous years.
- The Class of 2020 had 93 percent of its seniors take the SAT, which is also the highest compared to previous years (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 2010–2020



Sources: SAT Suite of Assessments Report: Houston Independent School District, 2010–2020; PEIMS, 2009–2019
 Note: Participation for 2017 includes those who took both versions of the SAT.

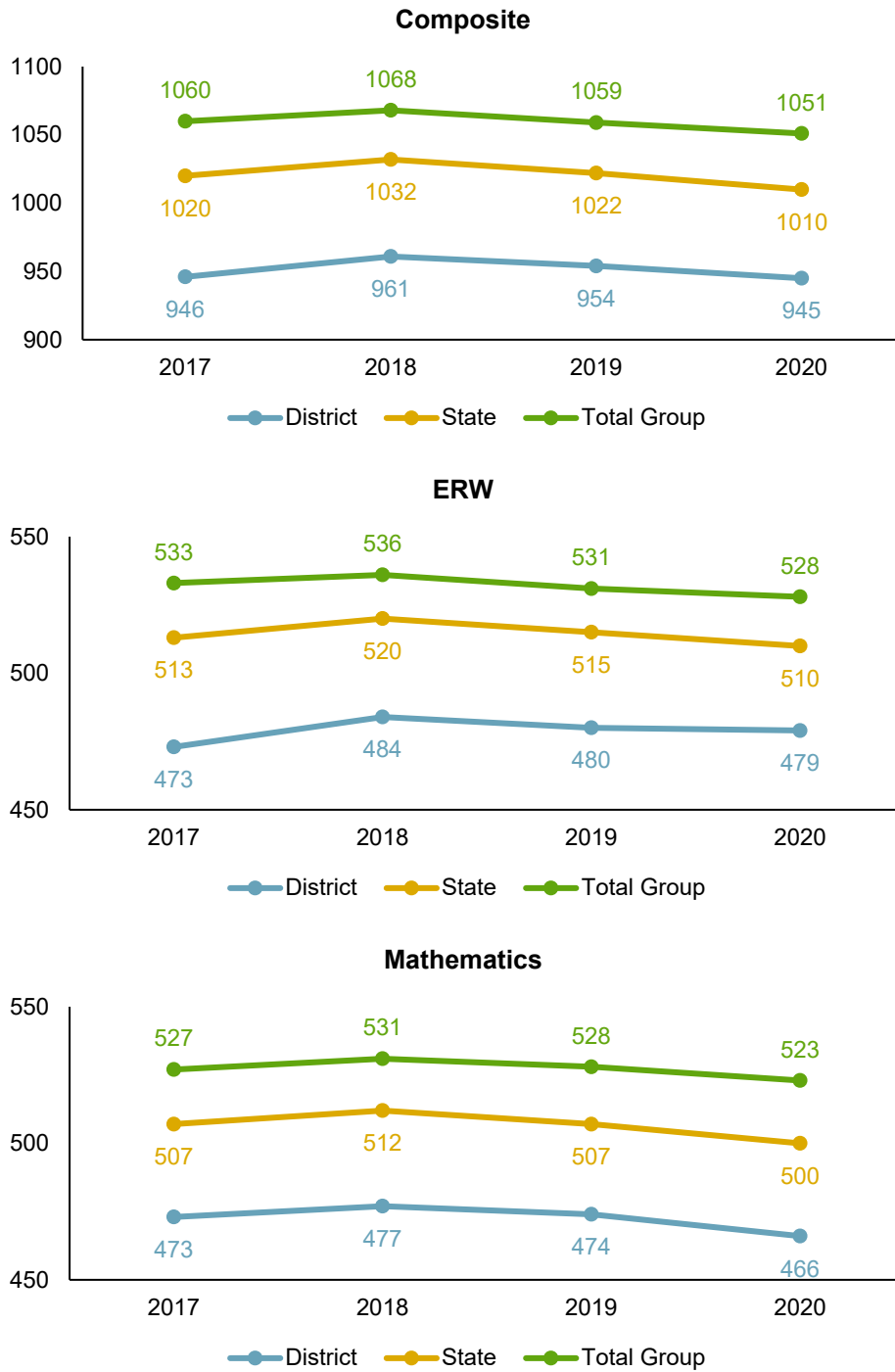
- From the Class of 2012 to 2020, the percentage tested dropped for all race/ethnicity groups shown except for the Hispanic group, which increased its participation rate to 91 percent (Figure 2).
- The race/ethnicity with the largest participation decline from 2012 is the White group, dropping 15 percentage 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 Class of 2020. 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 mathematics.
- The decrease in ERW scores for HISD students was smaller while the decrease in mathematics scores for HISD students was larger compared to the state and total group from 2019 to 2020.

Figure 3. Average SAT Scores of District, State, and Total Group Students, Classes of 2017–2020



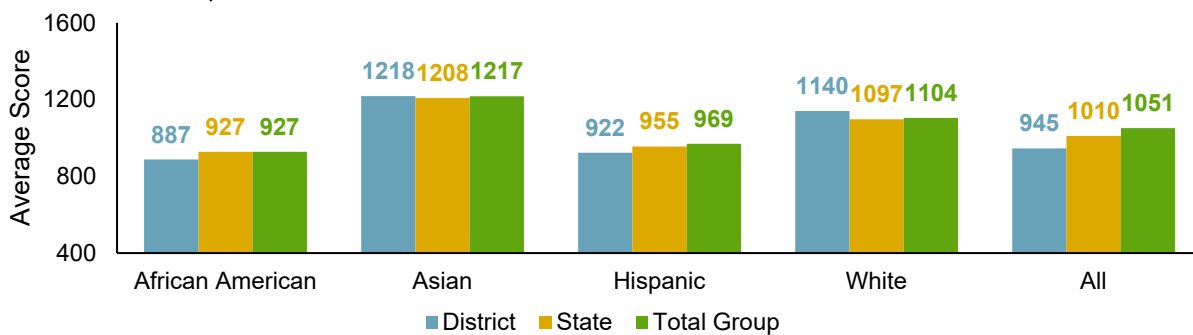
Sources: SAT Suite of Assessments Report: Houston Independent School District, 2017–2020; SAT Suite of Assessments Report: State, 2017–2020; SAT Suite of Assessments Report: Total Group, 2017–2020

Note: Total group includes international test takers.

Figure 4 shows the average composite score by student group for the Class of 2020 for the district, state, and total group.

- Overall, the HISD African American and Hispanic student groups in the Class of 2020 scored lower composite scores than 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 2020, the HISD African American student group had the largest difference between district and 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. Average SAT Composite Score by Race/Ethnicity of District, State, and Total Group Students, Class of 2020

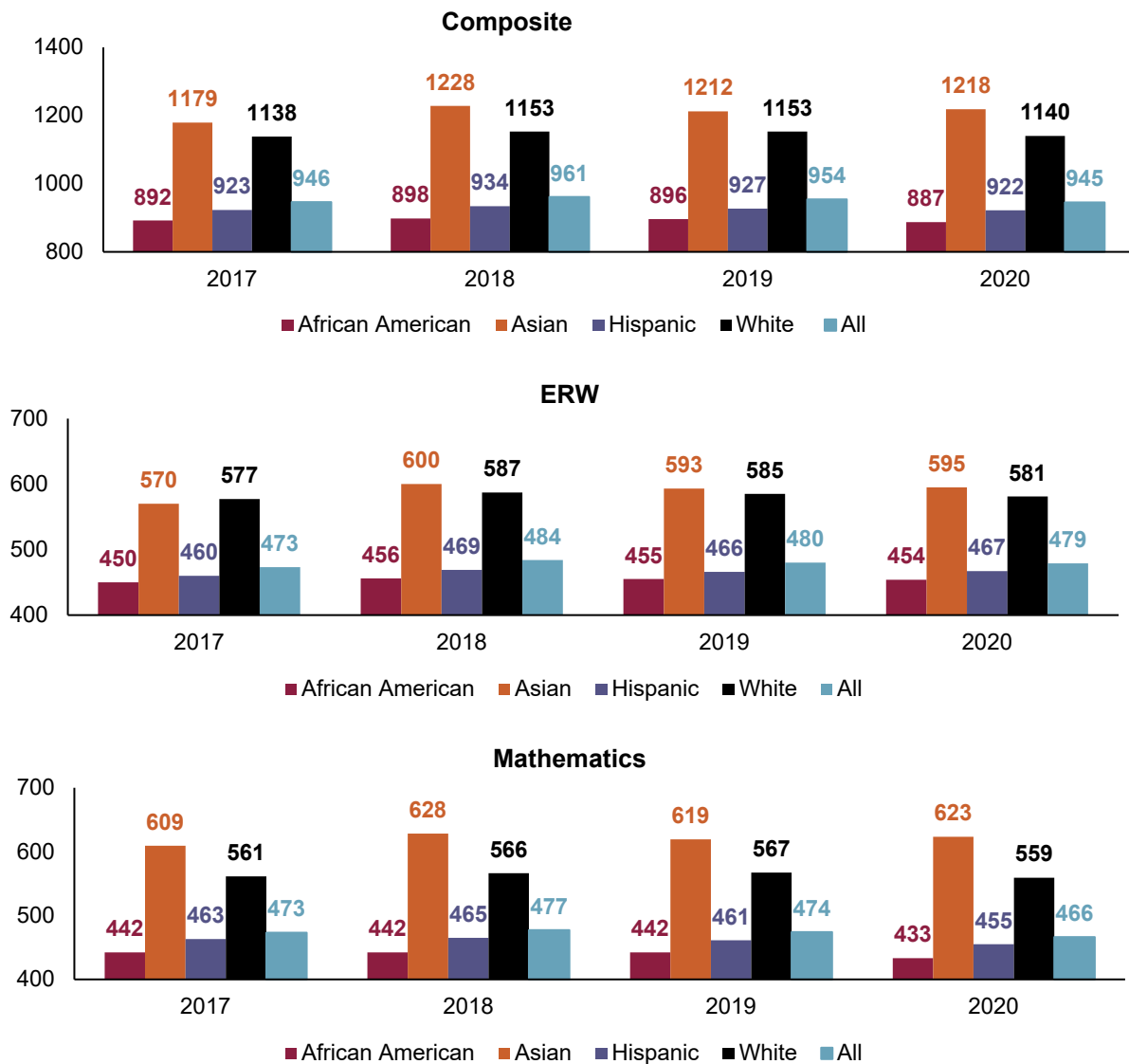


Sources: SAT Suite of Assessments Report: Houston Independent School District, 2017–2020; SAT Suite of Assessments Report: State, 2017–2020; SAT Suite of Assessments Report: Total Group, 2017–2020
 Note: Total group includes international test takers.

Figure 5 (p. 6) shows the average SAT scores by subject and student race/ethnicity group for HISD's Classes of 2017–2020.

- Except for the Asian student group, students from the Class of 2020 had lower Composite scores compared to the Classes of 2018 and 2019.
- From 2019 to 2020, the average ERW score for Hispanic students increased by one point. While the average ERW scores decreased for both African American and White students, the scores for African American students decreased by a smaller amount.

Figure 5. HISD Average SAT Scores by Subject and Race/Ethnicity, Classes of 2017–2020



Sources: SAT Suite of Assessments Report: Houston Independent School District, 2017–2020

SAT College Readiness Benchmarks

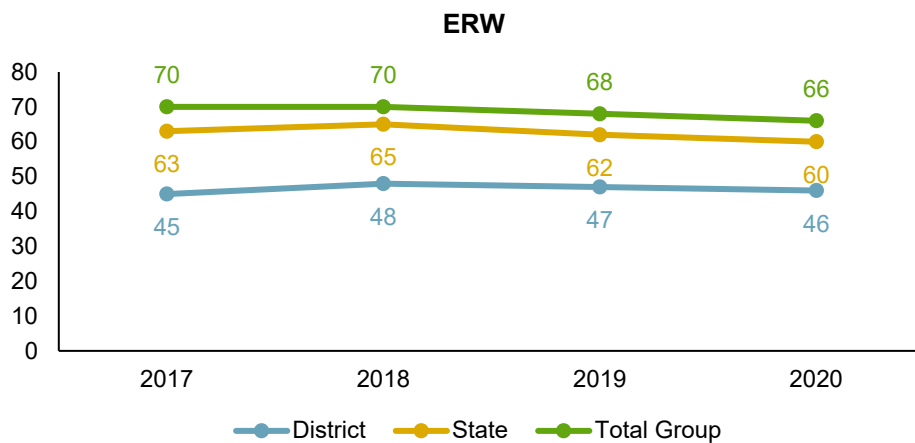
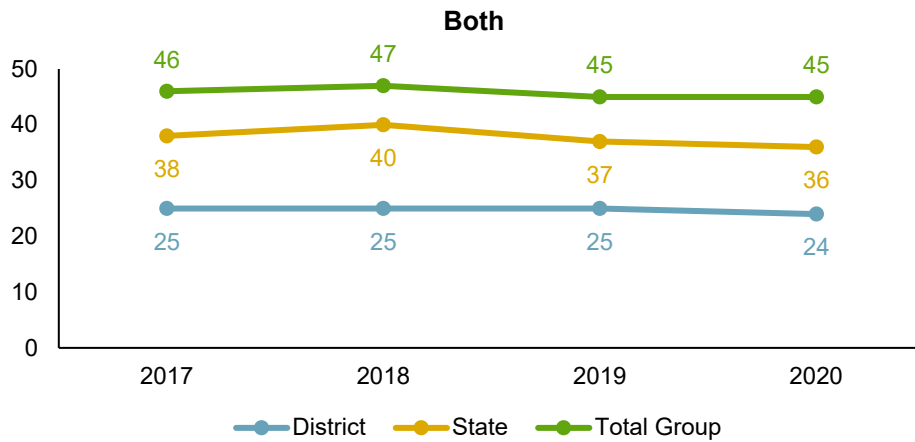
The College Board sets benchmark scores to predict students’ chance of success in college. According to the College Board, the SAT Math benchmark is associated with a 75 percent chance of earning at least a C in first-semester, college-level courses in algebra, statistics, precalculus, or calculus. The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

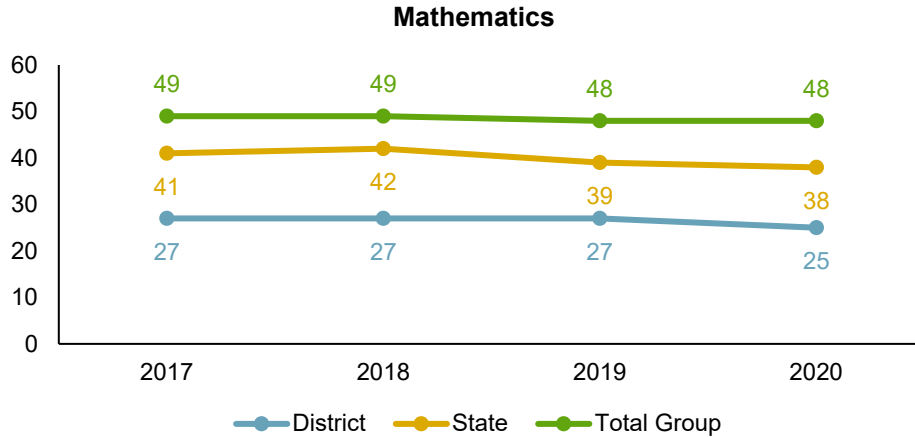
Figure 6 (pp. 7–8) shows the percentage of students in the Classes of 2017–2020, from the district, state, and total group, who met college-ready benchmarks in ERW, mathematics, and both.

- The percentage of HISD students that met both benchmarks and those that met the ERW benchmark decreased by one percentage point while the percentage that met the mathematics benchmark decreased by two percentage points from 2019 to 2020.

- Similar to HISD, the percentage of students from the state meeting the benchmarks decreased from 2019 to 2020 while the percentage of students from the total group meeting the mathematics and both benchmarks remained the same.
- A higher percentage of HISD students met the ERW benchmark than the mathematics benchmark for the past four years, similar to the students from the state and total group.

Figure 6. Percentage of District, State, and Total Group Students Meeting College-Ready Benchmarks, Classes of 2017–2020



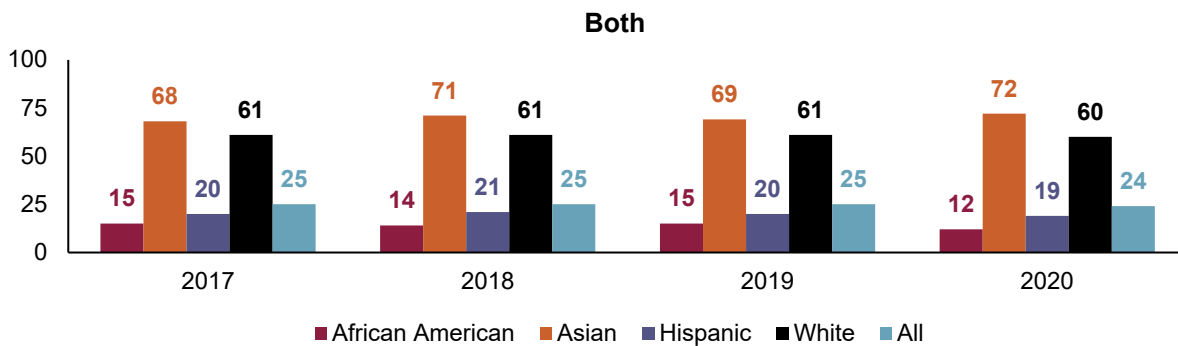


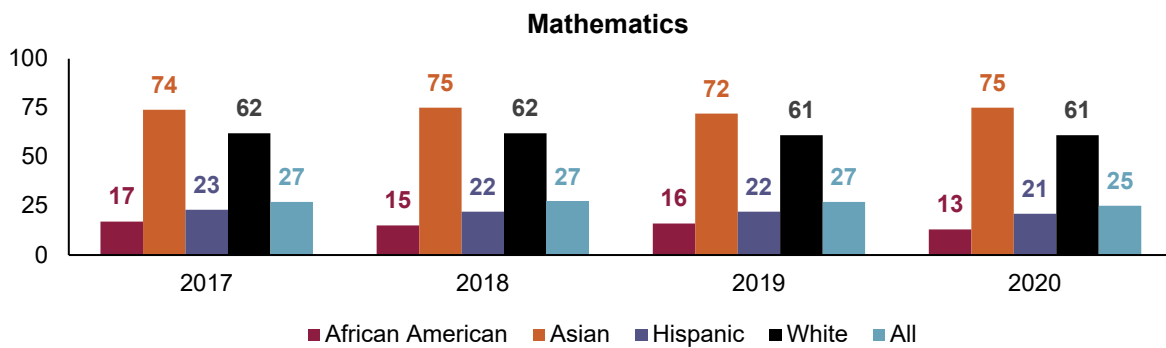
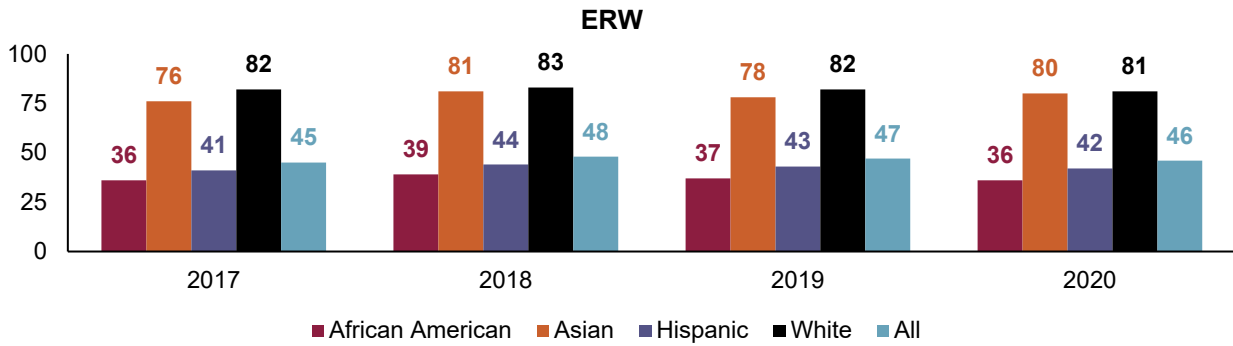
Sources: SAT Suite of Assessments Report: Houston Independent School District, 2017–2020; SAT Suite of Assessments Report: State, 2017–2020; SAT Suite of Assessments Report: Total Group, 2017–2020
 Note: The benchmark scores of the redesigned SAT exam cannot be compared to the benchmark scores from prior years.

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 2017–2020.

- Students from the African American, Hispanic, and White groups decreased their percentages meeting the ERW and both benchmarks while the percentage of students increased from the Asian group from 2019 to 2020.
- Asian and White students increased or maintained their percentages meeting the mathematics benchmark while the percentage of African American and Hispanic students meeting the mathematics benchmark decreased from 2019 to 2020.

Figure 7. HISD Percentage of Students Meeting College-Ready Benchmarks by Race/Ethnicity, Classes of 2017–2020





Sources: SAT Suite of Assessments Report: Houston Independent School District, 2017–2020

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 2019 and 2020 by campus.

- A total of 46 campuses had students from the Class of 2020 take the SAT.
- Campuses with more than 500 students who took the SAT were: Bellaire HS (n=726), Chavez HS (n=640), Heights HS (n=530), Houston MSTC HS (n=619), Lamar HS (n=690), and Westside HS (n=617). Seven campuses had fewer than 50 students from the Class of 2020 take the SAT.
- The Class of 2020 had a decrease of 9 points in the composite average scored compared to the Class of 2019. Of the 46 campuses with students from the Class of 2020 who took the SAT, 24 campuses (52 percent) maintained or improved their composite score from the prior year, and 21 campuses (46 percent) had scores at or above the district average.
- Middle College Gulfton had the highest increase in the average composite score with 84 points although they only tested 14 students from the Class of 2020. Energized for STEM Central HS had the second highest increase in their composite score average at 58 points. Energized for STEM West HS, which has since closed, had the largest decrease in composite score average at 103 points although they only tested 10 students in 2020. Challenge ECHS, Middle College Fraga, and N. Houston ECHS all had decreases of 50 points or more in their average composite score from 2019 to 2020.

Table 2 (p. 12) shows the scores for ERW, mathematics, and score changes from the Classes of 2019 and 2020.

- Students in the Class of 2020 scored one point lower on average in ERW and eight points lower on average in mathematics compared to the Class of 2019.
- Of the 46 campuses with students from the Class of 2020 who took the SAT, 29 campuses (63 percent) maintained or improved their ERW average and 19 campuses (41 percent) maintained or improved their mathematics average score from the prior year.
- DeBakey HS, Carnegie HS, and HSPVA were the top three campuses in both ERW and mathematics performance with average scores in each subject above 600.
- Middle College Gulfton had the largest growth in ERW and mathematics with 40 points and 42 points respectively although they only tested 14 students from the Class of 2020. Energized for STEM Southeast HS also increased their average ERW score by 40 points from 2019 to 2020.

Table 1. Number Tested, Average SAT Scores by Campus, and Percentage Met Benchmark, Classes of 2019 and 2020

Campus	Number Tested			Average Composite Score			% Met Both ERW and Mathematics Benchmarks		
	2019	2020	Change	2019	2020	Change	2019	2020	Change
Austin HS	337	310	-27	860	860	0	5	8	3
Bellaire HS	682	726	44	1099	1106	7	49	49	0
Carnegie HS	144	133	-11	1359	1378	19	98	98	0
Challenge EC HS	99	101	2	1147	1095	-52	67	50	-17
Chavez HS	601	640	39	910	907	-3	14	17	3
Community Services	0	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--
DeBakey HS	190	165	-25	1386	1350	-36	99	100	1
East EC HS	122	129	7	1105	1066	-39	61	48	-13
Eastwood Acad HS	100	105	5	1093	1095	2	68	63	-5
Energy Inst HS	187	171	-16	1030	1056	26	33	39	6
E-STEM Southeast HS	43	98	55	804	862	58	2	8	6
E-STEM West HS ₊	47	10	-37	921	818	-103	19	0	-19
Furr HS	192	220	28	862	839	-23	8	5	-3
Heights HS	529	530	1	969	964	-5	22	20	-2
H AIS HS	117	103	-14	1044	1056	12	40	39	-1
Houston MSTC HS	544	619	75	824	821	-3	4	4	0
HSLJ	89	123	34	963	945	-18	9	13	4
Jones HS	108	106	-2	933	892	-41	19	11	-8
Kashmere HS	132	157	25	808	809	1	2	2	0
Kinder HSPVA	176	187	11	1242	1236	-6	77	81	4
Lamar HS	728	690	-38	1044	1035	-9	42	39	-3
Leland YMCPA	45	47	2	1067	1067	0	47	45	-2
Liberty HS	22	47	25	794	791	-3	0	0	0
Long Acad	49	42	-7	965	999	34	18	31	13
Madison HS	330	330	0	835	822	-13	4	3	-1
Middle College HS - Fraga	19	13	-6	931	864	-67	5	8	3
Middle College HS - Gulfton	50	14	-36	810	894	84	6	21	15
Milby HS	265	349	84	877	893	16	10	15	5
Mount Carmel Acad HS	91	78	-13	977	984	7	25	26	1
North Forest HS	163	196	33	802	805	3	3	5	2
North Houston EC HS	113	117	4	1079	1019	-60	52	37	-15
Northside HS	294	299	5	870	889	19	6	11	5
Scarborough HS	142	149	7	851	869	18	10	11	1
Sharpstown HS	293	319	26	823	833	10	4	5	1
Sharpstown Intl	163	134	-29	1023	1047	24	40	46	6
South EC HS	63	100	37	990	951	-39	22	24	2
Sterling HS	209	283	74	822	825	3	7	6	-1
TCAH	240	206	-34	1051	1079	28	38	45	7
Waltrip HS	339	371	32	905	916	11	14	13	-1
Washington HS	142	156	14	835	845	10	4	6	2
Westbury HS	427	488	61	860	858	-2	6	8	2
Westside HS	691	617	-74	1044	1028	-16	44	40	-4
Wheatley HS	142	139	-3	807	815	8	3	4	1
Wisdom HS	391	449	58	823	822	-1	6	5	-1
Worthing HS	133	159	26	813	817	4	4	0	-4
Yates HS	144	129	-15	841	817	-24	8	5	-3
YWCPA	35	45	10	1032	1017	-15	23	24	1
HISD Totals	10,183	10,603	420	954	945	-9	25	24	-1

Sources: College Board SAT datafile, 2019 and 2020

*Fewer than 5 students tested

--No students tested

₊Campus is closed

Table 2. Average SAT Subject Scores by Campus, Classes of 2019 and 2020								
Campus	Average ERW Score			Average Mathematics Score				
	2019	2020	Change	2019	2020	Change		
Austin HS	430	427	-3	430	433	3		
Bellaire HS	553	557	4	546	550	4		
Carnegie HS	673	682	9	686	696	10		
Challenge EC HS	590	564	-26	556	531	-25		
Chavez HS	453	456	3	456	451	-5		
Community Services	--	--	--	--	--	--		
DeBakey HS	677	660	-17	709	690	-19		
East EC HS	555	539	-16	550	527	-23		
Eastwood Acad HS	539	539	0	555	556	1		
Energy Inst HS	525	535	10	505	522	17		
E-STEM Southeast HS	396	436	40	408	426	18		
E-STEM West HS+	453	427	-26	468	391	-77		
Furr HS	436	430	-6	426	409	-17		
Heights HS	493	495	2	476	469	-7		
H AIS HS	535	541	6	509	515	6		
Houston MSTC HS	410	417	7	414	404	-10		
HSLJ	500	488	-12	462	457	-5		
Jones HS	465	451	-14	469	441	-28		
Kashmere HS	406	419	13	402	390	-12		
Kinder HSPVA	634	635	1	608	602	-6		
Lamar HS	532	528	-4	512	506	-6		
Leland YMCPA	541	535	-6	526	533	7		
Liberty HS	378	387	9	415	404	-11		
Long Acad	481	507	26	484	492	8		
Madison HS	420	421	1	415	401	-14		
Middle College HS - Fraga	468	443	-25	463	421	-42		
Middle College HS - Gulfton	404	444	40	407	449	42		
Milby HS	437	454	17	439	439	0		
Mount Carmel Acad HS	497	492	-5	479	492	13		
North Forest HS	541	513	-28	538	506	-32		
North Houston EC HS	407	411	4	395	394	-1		
Northside HS	434	446	12	436	442	6		
Scarborough HS	427	444	17	423	425	2		
Sharpstown HS	414	416	2	410	417	7		
Sharpstown Intl	511	524	13	512	524	12		
South EC HS	501	485	-16	488	466	-22		
Sterling HS	417	417	0	405	407	2		
TCAH	547	563	16	504	517	13		
Waltrip HS	454	467	13	451	449	-2		
Washington HS	420	432	12	415	413	-2		
Westbury HS	438	439	1	422	419	-3		
Westside HS	522	517	-5	522	511	-11		
Wheatley HS	403	414	11	405	400	-5		
Wisdom HS	409	415	6	414	407	-7		
Worthing HS	412	422	10	401	395	-6		
Yates HS	425	418	-7	415	399	-16		
YWCPA	547	528	-19	485	488	3		
HISD	480	479	-1	474	466	-8		

Sources: College Board SAT datafile, 2019 and 2020

*Fewer than 5 students tested

--No students tested

+Campus is closed

Conclusion

The number of HISD students from the Class of 2020 who took the new version of the SAT is 10,603, which is higher than in any year before. Offering a second SAT school day to students during the 2019–2020 school year seemed to help increase the test participation rate. While the percentage of Hispanic and White students taking the SAT increased by four and two percentage points respectively from 2019 to 2020, the percentage of African American and Asian or Pacific Islander students decreased by one percentage point each.

While the overall number and percentage of HISD students taking the SAT increased, performance decreased. Furthermore, HISD students continue to score lower than other graduating seniors from the state and from the total group although the decrease in ERW scores for HISD students was smaller compared to the state and total group from 2019 to 2020. Except for the Asian student group, students from the Class of 2020 had lower Composite scores compared to the Classes of 2018 and 2019. From 2019 to 2020, the average ERW score for Hispanic students increased by one point. While the average ERW scores decreased for both African American and White students, the scores for African American students decreased by a smaller amount.

Not only should the number of students taking the SAT continue to increase, performance must increase as well. While the SAT is not the only predictor of college success, the data indicate that more can be done to help students prepare for college.