

MEMORANDUM

December 19, 2012

TO: Board Members

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

SUBJECT: **ACT TEST RESULTS: CLASS OF 2012**

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

The results for the class of 2012 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 2012.

The number of Houston Independent School District (HISD) graduating seniors in 2012 with ACT test results was 2,123, a decrease of 569 students from the 2,692 students tested in 2011. **Table 1** provides a two-year comparison of average ACT scores for HISD students and each student group for the graduating class of 2012 compared to 2011. Scores on the test range from 1 to 36.

Table 1: Two Year Comparison of ACT Composite Results for the Graduating Classes of 2011 and 2012

Student Group	2011			2012			2011-2012 Diff		
	N	%	Avg	N	%	Avg	N	%	Avg
All Students	2,692	100	19.6	2,123	100	20.5	-569	0	0.9
African American	880	33	17.2	649	31	17.8	-231	-2	0.6
American Indian	5	0	19.8	3	0	*	-2	0	*
White	392	15	25.2	329	15	25.8	-63	0	0.6
Hispanic	1,067	40	18.1	865	41	19.2	-202	1	1.1
Asian	191	7	26.0	171	8	26.0	-20	1	0.0
Pacific Islander	2	0	*	1	0	*	-1	0	*
2 or more	48	2	21.5	39	2	22.9	-9	0	1.4
No response	107	4	21.6	66	3	22.8	-41	-1	1.2

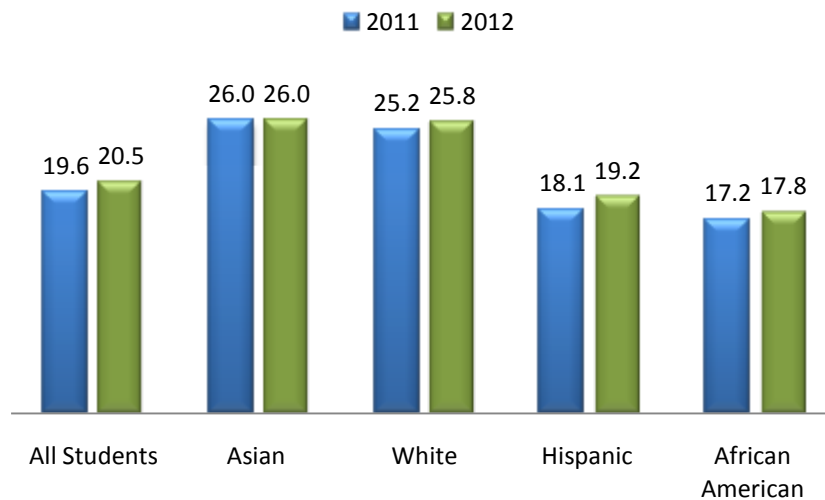
*Fewer than 5 tested.

Overall

- A total of 2,123 graduating seniors from the class of 2012 took the ACT. This represents a 21 percentage-point decrease in the number of students who took the exam the previous year.
- The overall average composite ACT score for the class of 2012 was 20.5, an increase of 0.9 points from the class of 2011. Each student group out-performed their counterparts from the previous year, except Asian students who maintained the same average ACT Composite score.
- Of the largest student groups, Hispanic students made the most gains by improving their average ACT Composite scores by 1.1 points, and African American and White students improved by 0.6 points.

Figure 1 shows the two-year comparison of ACT composite results by student group and for all students for the classes of 2011 and 2012.

Figure 1: Two-Year Comparison of ACT Composite Results for the Graduating Classes of 2011 and 2012.



HISD, Texas, and Nation

The ACT is a national college admissions exam that 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 ACT test scores required for students to have a high probability of success in credit-bearing college courses. **Tables 2 and 3** show 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.

Table 2: Four-Year Trends Average ACT Scores (English, Mathematics, and Reading) and the Differences between Years

Year	Number Tested	English			Mathematics			Reading		
		HISD	TX	Nation	HISD	TX	Nation	HISD	TX	Nation
2009	1,895	19.1	19.9	20.6	20.2	21.3	21.0	19.8	20.9	21.4
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	19.8	20.6	21.4	21.4	21.1	20.3	20.8	21.3

By Year Diff	Number Tested	English			Mathematics			Reading		
		HISD	TX	Nation	HISD	TX	Nation	HISD	TX	Nation
09-10	554	-1.6	-0.2	-0.1	-0.6	0.1	0.0	-1.2	-0.1	-0.1
10-11	243	0.9	-0.1	0.1	0.9	0.1	0.1	0.8	-0.1	0.0
11-12	-569	1.0	0.2	0.0	0.9	-0.1	0.0	0.9	0.1	0.0

Table 3: Four-Year Trends Average ACT Scores (Science and Composite) with the Percent of Students Meeting College Readiness Benchmarks and Differences between Years

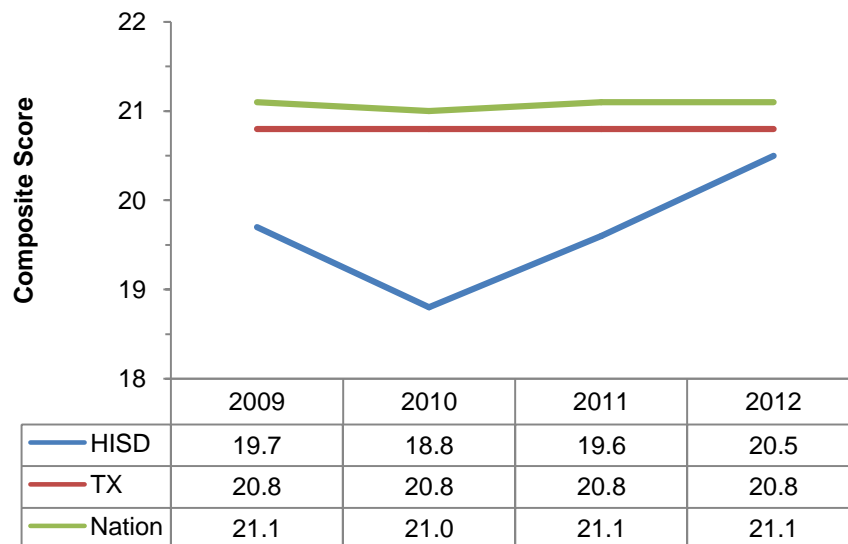
Year	Science			Composite			College Readiness Benchmark		
	HISD	TX	Nation	HISD	TX	Nation	HISD	TX	Nation
2009	19.3	20.6	20.9	19.7	20.8	21.1	18%	22%	23%
2010	18.9	20.9	20.9	18.8	20.8	21.0	16%	24%	24%
2011	19.6	20.8	20.9	19.6	20.8	21.1	20%	24%	25%
2012	20.3	20.8	20.9	20.5	20.8	21.1	25%	24%	25%

By Year Diff	Science			Composite			College Readiness Benchmark		
	HISD	TX	Nation	HISD	TX	Nation	HISD	TX	Nation
09-10	-0.4	0.3	0.0	-0.9	0.0	-0.1	-2.0%	2.0%	1.0%
10-11	0.7	-0.1	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.1	4.0%	0.0%	1.0%
11-12	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%

- From 2011 to 2012, HISD has shown an increase in each of the four subjects of the ACT. The largest increase of 1.0 points was in English, while mathematics, reading, and composite scores increased by 0.9 points, and science increased by 0.7 points.
- While the average ACT scores in HISD have increased in 2012 over 2011, the nation failed to make any gains in any of the subjects or the composite.
- HISD showed the greatest gain by increasing the percent of students meeting the College Readiness Benchmarks in all four subjects by five percentage points from 20 percent in 2011 to 25 percent in 2012. During this time, the nation's and the state's rates remained flat.

Figure 2 shows the four-year trends of ACT composite results for HISD, Texas, and the nation for the graduating classes of 2009 through 2012.

Figure 2: Four-Year Trends of ACT Composite Results



Student Group Comparison of HISD, Texas, and Nation

Tables 4 and 5 provide the 2012 average ACT scores by ethnicity for the graduating classes of 2011 and 2012 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.

Table 4: 2012 Average ACT Scores, College Readiness Benchmark Results, and Differences between Student Groups from HISD and Texas

Student Group	English			Mathematics			Reading		
	HISD	TX	Diff	HISD	TX	Diff	HISD	TX	Diff
All Students	19.4	19.6	-0.2	21.4	21.4	0.0	20.3	20.8	-0.5
African American	16.6	16.1	0.5	18.6	18.3	0.3	17.6	17.4	0.2
American Indian	*	20.2	*	*	21.7	*	*	21.4	*
White	25.5	22.4	3.1	26.0	23.4	2.6	26.1	23.2	2.9
Hispanic	17.7	17.0	0.7	20.2	19.5	0.7	18.9	18.5	0.4
Asian	24.6	23.7	0.9	28.0	26.7	1.3	25.5	24.2	1.3
Pacific Islander	*	19.7	*	*	21.9	*	*	20.8	*
2 or more	22.5	21.3	1.2	22.8	22.4	0.4	23.0	22.4	0.6
No response	22.8	21.1	1.7	23.8	22.4	1.4	22.3	22.1	0.2
Females	19.5	19.9	-0.4	20.9	20.9	0.0	20.3	20.8	-0.5
Males	19.3	19.3	0.0	22.1	22.0	0.1	20.5	20.7	-0.2

Student Group	Science			Composite			College Readiness Benchmark		
	HISD	TX	Diff	HISD	TX	Diff	HISD	TX	Diff
All Students	20.3	20.8	-0.5	20.5	20.8	-0.3	25%	24%	1%
African American	17.8	17.8	0.0	17.8	17.5	0.3	10%	7%	3%
American Indian	*	21.2	*	*	21.3	*	*	25%	*
White	25.0	22.8	2.2	25.8	23.1	2.7	58%	37%	21%
Hispanic	19.3	18.9	0.4	19.2	18.6	0.6	15%	11%	4%
Asian	25.2	24.3	0.9	26.0	24.9	1.1	57%	51%	6%
Pacific Islander	*	20.8	*	*	21.0	*	*	23%	*
2 or more	22.9	21.9	1.0	22.9	22.1	0.8	41%	31%	10%
No response	21.9	21.7	0.2	22.8	21.9	0.9	44%	N/A	N/A
Females	19.9	20.3	-0.4	20.3	20.6	-0.3	22%	21%	1%
Males	21.0	21.3	-0.3	20.8	21.0	-0.2	29%	28%	1%

*Fewer than 5 tested. N/A Not Available.

- HISD African American, White, Hispanic, and Asian students outperformed or performed equally as well as their counterparts in the state for each subject.
- HISD African American, White, Hispanic, and Asian students outperformed their counterparts in the state on the percent meeting the College Readiness Benchmark.

Table 5: 2012 Average ACT Scores, College Readiness Benchmark Results, and Differences between Student Groups from HISD and the Nation

Student Group	English			Mathematics			Reading		
	HISD	Nation	Diff	HISD	Nation	Diff	HISD	Nation	Diff
All Students	19.4	20.5	-1.1	21.4	21.1	0.3	20.3	21.3	-1.0
African American	16.6	16.0	0.6	18.6	17.3	1.3	17.6	17.2	0.4
American Indian	*	17.1	*	*	18.5	*	*	18.7	*
White	25.5	22.1	3.4	26.0	22.1	3.9	26.1	22.7	3.4
Hispanic	17.7	17.7	0.0	20.2	19.4	0.8	18.9	19.0	-0.1
Asian	24.6	22.7	1.9	28.0	25.2	2.8	25.5	22.9	2.6
Pacific Islander	*	18.9	*	*	20.4	*	*	19.8	*
2 or more	22.5	21.0	1.5	22.8	21.1	1.7	23.0	21.8	1.2
No response	22.8	20.7	2.1	23.8	21.3	2.5	22.3	21.5	0.8
Females	19.5	20.9	-1.4	20.9	20.6	0.3	20.2	21.4	-1.2
Males	19.3	20.2	-0.9	22.1	21.7	0.4	20.5	21.2	-0.7

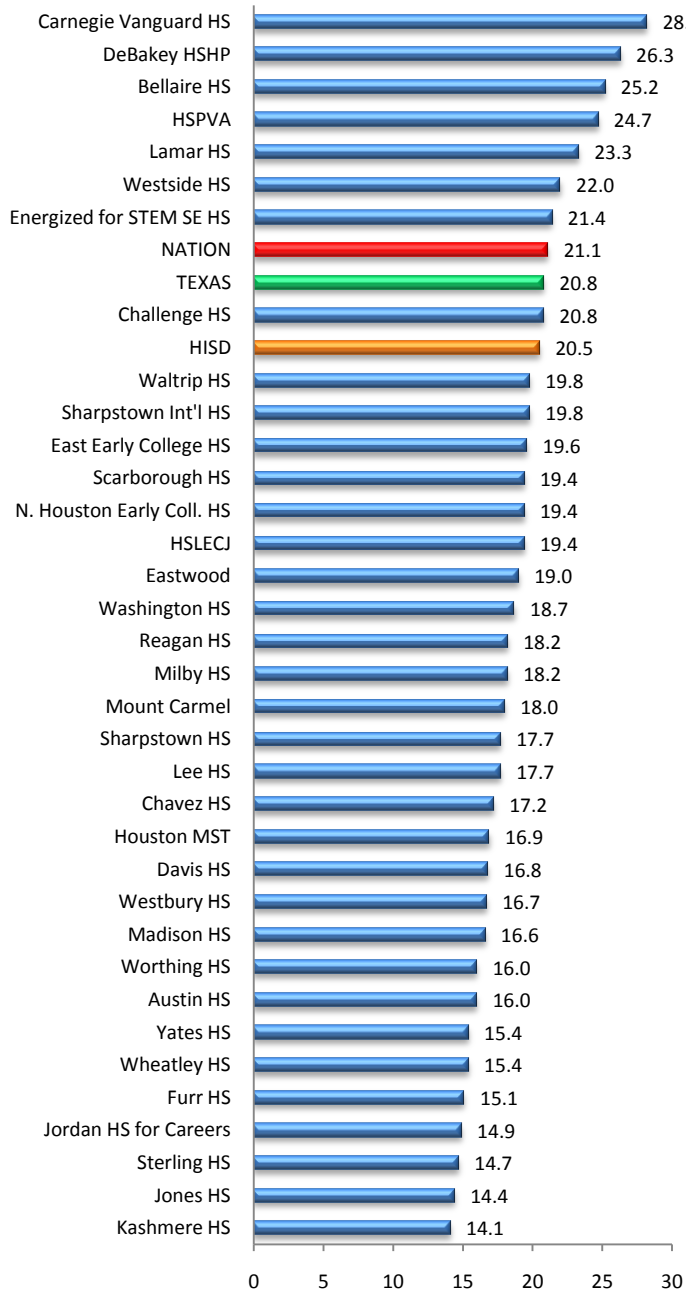
Student Group	Science			Composite			College Readiness Benchmark		
	HISD	Nation	Diff	HISD	Nation	Diff	HISD	Nation	Diff
All Students	20.3	20.9	-0.6	20.5	21.1	-0.6	25%	25%	0%
African American	17.8	17.2	0.6	17.8	17.0	0.8	10%	5%	5%
American Indian	*	18.7	*	*	18.4	*	*	11%	*
White	25.0	22.1	2.9	25.8	22.4	3.4	58%	32%	26%
Hispanic	19.3	18.9	0.4	19.2	18.9	0.3	15%	13%	2%
Asian	25.2	23.2	2.0	26.0	23.6	2.4	57%	42%	15%
Pacific Islander	*	19.7	*	*	19.8	*	*	17%	*
2 or more	22.9	21.2	1.7	22.9	21.4	1.5	41%	N/A	N/A
No response	21.9	20.9	1.0	22.8	21.3	1.5	44%	N/A	N/A
Females	19.9	20.5	-0.6	20.3	21.0	-0.7	22%	22%	0%
Males	21.0	21.4	-0.4	20.8	21.2	-0.4	29%	29%	0%

*Fewer than 5 tested. N/A Not Available.

- HISD African American, White, and Asian students outperformed their national counterparts on all subjects of the ACT, and on the percent meeting the College Readiness Benchmark. The percentage of HISD Hispanic students meeting the College Readiness Benchmark was also higher than the percent for Hispanic students across the nation.

Figure 3 shows the campus results ranked by the average ACT composite scores in 2012. Detailed ACT participation and performance results by campus for the classes of 2011 and 2012 are shown in **Appendix A** (see attachment).

Figure 3: HISD High Schools Ranked by the Average 2012 ACT Composite Scores



Tony B. Guier

TBG

Attachment

cc: Superintendent's Direct Reports
 High School Support Officers
 Secondary Principals
 Alan Summers
 Estibaliz Arriaga

Appendix A: ACT Results by Campus, Classes of 2011 and 2012

Campus	2011 ACT Performance Results							2012 ACT Performance Results						
	Total Tested	English	Math	Reading	Science	Composite	Benchmark	Total Tested	English	Math	Reading	Science	Composite	Benchmark
Austin HS	177	12.8	16.9	14.9	15.7	15.2	3%	43	13.5	18.2	15.1	16.7	16	0%
Bellaire HS	307	24.5	25.9	24.7	24.5	25.0	52%	328	24.7	25.8	25.2	24.5	25.2	55%
Carnegie Vanguard HS	61	27.7	27.9	27.9	27.0	27.7	69%	68	27.5	28.2	29	27.5	28.2	76%
Challenge HS	36	20.2	20.2	20.9	19.1	20.3	6%	59	20.6	21.4	20.6	20.1	20.8	19%
Chavez HS	93	14.7	18.2	16.2	17.2	16.7	3%	110	15.7	18.6	16.8	17.3	17.2	5%
CLCHS	6	11.5	14.5	14.5	15.8	14.2	0%	0						
Davis HS	18	15.1	17.7	16.1	16.9	16.6	0%	36	14.7	18.1	16.4	17.3	16.8	3%
DeBakey HSHP	102	27.2	29.6	27.1	26.1	27.6	71%	79	25.4	27.8	25.5	25.7	26.3	68%
East Early College HS	73	18.5	21.2	19.6	19.9	19.8	11%	57	19.1	20.6	19	19.5	19.6	5%
Eastwood	62	18.7	21.2	19.4	19.8	19.9	8%	85	18.2	20.2	18.5	18.5	19	9%
Empowerment	7	14.6	17.7	13.7	15.9	15.7	0%	0						
Energized for STEM SE HS	0							5	20.6	22.6	19.6	21.6	21.4	20%
Furr HS	37	15.4	18.2	17.2	18.1	17.3	5%	17	12.8	16.5	15.1	15.7	15.1	6%
Hope Academy	2	*	*	*	*	*	*	2	*	*	*	*	*	*
Houston Acad for Int'l Stud	7	15.7	17.0	15.6	15.1	16.0	0%	4	*	*	*	*	*	*
Houston MST	81	12.9	18.4	15.6	17.0	16.1	2%	35	14.7	18.5	15.9	17.7	16.9	3%
HSLECJ	23	16.9	17.9	18.3	19.3	18.3	13%	15	19	19.5	19.7	18.9	19.4	0%
HSPVA	57	25.2	24.3	24.7	23.3	24.5	42%	42	25.4	24.1	25.6	23.2	24.7	45%
Jones HS	34	13.3	15.7	14.1	15.3	14.8	0%	5	12.4	16.2	12.8	15.8	14.4	0%
Jordan HS for Careers	127	14.9	17.4	16.3	16.8	16.5	2%	64	12.8	16.3	14.6	15.7	14.9	2%
Kashmere HS	43	12.9	15.2	14.4	15.8	14.7	2%	30	12.8	15.6	13.7	13.7	14.1	0%
Lamar HS	330	21.3	21.4	22.0	21.6	21.7	29%	208	23	23.6	23.4	22.8	23.3	41%
Leader's Academy	2	*	*	*	*	*	*	0						
Lee HS	68	15.3	18.7	16.6	17.6	17.2	9%	22	15	20.3	17	17.9	17.7	0%
Madison HS	68	14.6	16.5	16.7	16.6	16.2	1%	43	15	17.3	16.2	17.2	16.6	0%
Milby HS	31	13.9	18.1	16.0	17.2	16.4	0%	99	16.6	19.2	18.1	18.3	18.2	10%
Mount Carmel	20	20.0	19.0	21.1	19.7	20.1	15%	19	16.9	17.7	18.2	18.5	18	5%
N. Houston Early Coll. HS	0							30	17.8	21.2	19.1	19	19.4	7%
REACH Charter HS	2	*	*	*	*	*	*	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Reagan HS	51	15.6	19.6	17.0	17.7	17.6	14%	55	16.7	19.2	17.2	18.9	18.2	2%
Scarborough HS	15	15.9	19.3	15.9	18.5	17.5	7%	12	17.7	19.6	20.4	19.4	19.4	17%
Sharpstown HS	77	15.8	18.6	17.1	16.6	17.2	4%	16	15.5	20.9	15.9	18.1	17.7	0%
Sharpstown Int'l School	18	13.4	18.1	13.7	15.8	15.4	11%	5	18.8	21.2	19.8	18.4	19.8	20%
Sterling HS	56	13.8	16.6	15.0	15.7	15.4	0%	31	13.2	16	14.7	14.9	14.7	0%
Waltrip HS	77	17.2	18.3	18.5	18.6	18.3	4%	41	18.5	19.5	20.1	20.3	19.8	20%
Washington HS	58	16.2	19.4	17.6	18.6	18.1	12%	31	17.1	19.5	18.2	19.9	18.7	16%
Westbury HS	65	15.4	17.9	16.2	16.8	16.8	8%	98	14.9	17.5	17	16.9	16.7	7%
Westside HS	242	20.6	22.2	21.4	21.6	21.6	26%	217	20.8	23.2	21.9	21.6	22	29%
Wheatley HS	46	13.5	16.8	14.8	16.3	15.5	0%	37	13.9	16.6	14.5	15.9	15.4	5%
Worthing HS	65	14.1	16.8	14.9	16.0	15.6	0%	40	15.2	16.1	16.3	15.7	16	0%
Yates HS	48	14.6	16.9	16.1	16.6	16.2	0%	34	14.4	16.3	15.1	15.3	15.4	0%
HISD	2,692	18.4	20.5	19.4	19.6	19.6	20%	2,123	19.4	21.4	20.3	20.3	20.5	25%
Texas	101,569	19.6	21.5	20.7	20.8	20.8	24%	110,180	19.8	21.4	20.8	20.8	20.8	24%
Nation	1,623,112	20.6	21.1	21.3	20.9	21.1	25%	1,666,017	20.6	21.1	21.3	20.9	21.1	25%

*Fewer than 5 tested