

MEMORANDUM

November 25, 2013

TO: Board Members

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

SUBJECT: **ACT TEST RESULTS: CLASS OF 2013**

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

The results for the class of 2013 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% chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75% 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, updated for 2013, are:

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

The number of Houston Independent School District (HISD) graduating seniors in 2013 with ACT test results was 2,010, a decrease of 113 students from the 2,123 students tested in 2012. The results of the ACT test are provided below for the class of 2013.

Findings:

- Average ACT composite results for All Students in HISD remained unchanged from 2012 to 2013 at 20.5, compared to an increase of 0.1 points in Texas (20.8 to 20.9) and a decline of 0.2 points in the nation (21.1 to 20.9).
- The participation rate of HISD graduates decreased by one percentage point, from 21% to 20%, while the participation rate at the state decreased by two percentage points, from 39% to 37%, and increased 2 percentage points at the national level, from 52% to 54%.
- Seven HISD campuses have composite score averages which are higher than the district, state and national averages (see **Figure 4**):
 - Bellaire HS
 - Carnegie HS
 - Challenge HS
 - DeBakey HS
 - HS for Performing and Visual Arts
 - Lamar HS
 - Westside HS

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 2013 compared to 2012.

Table 1: Two Year Comparison of ACT Composite Results for the Graduating Classes of 2012 and 2013									
Student Group	2012			2013			2012-2013 Difference		
	N	%	Avg	N	%	Avg	N	%	Avg
All Students	2,123	100	20.5	2,010	100	20.5	-113	0	0.0
African American	649	31	17.8	601	30	17.7	-48	-1	-0.1
American Indian	3	0	*	4	0	*	1	0	*
White	329	15	25.8	331	16	25.8	2	1	0.0
Hispanic	865	41	19.2	839	42	19.2	-26	1	0.0
Asian	171	8	26.0	129	6	26.3	-42	-2	0.3
Pacific Islander	1	0	*	6	0	25.2	5	0	*
2 or more	39	2	22.9	42	2	23.9	3	0	1.0
No response	66	3	22.8	58	3	23.1	-8	0	0.3

*Fewer than 5 tested.

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

Figure 1: Two-Year Comparison of ACT Composite Results for the Graduating Classes of 2012 and 2013.

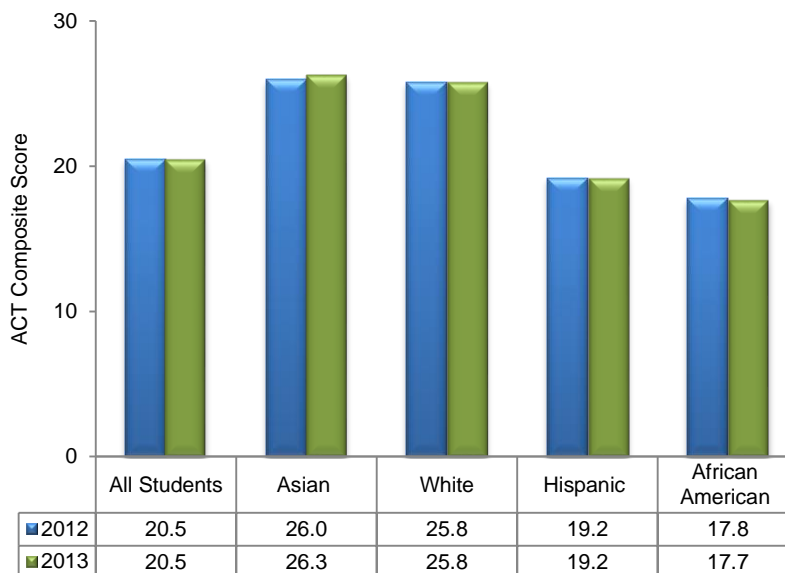


Figure 1 indicates the following:

- The ACT composite scores increased for Asian students, remained unchanged for White and Hispanic students, and declined for African American students from 2012 to 2013.
- The gap in ACT composite scores between White and Hispanic students in 2013 was 6.8 points, unchanged from 2012, and the gap between White and African American students increased from 8.0 points in 2012 to 8.1 points in 2013.

Figure 2 shows the trends in the ACT participation rates for the HISD, Texas, and the Nation for the graduating classes of 2008-2013.

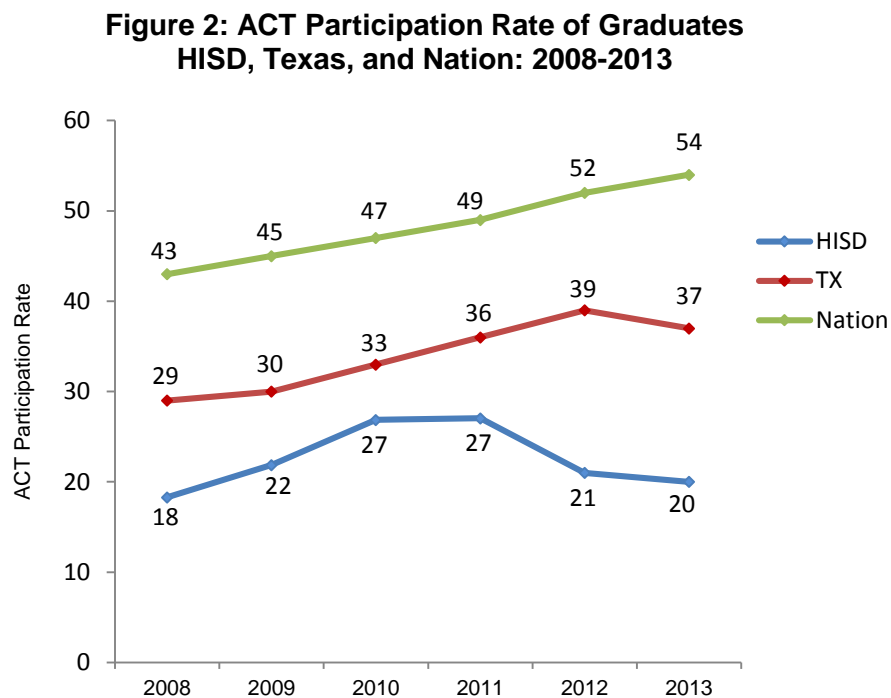


Figure 2 indicates the following:

- The ACT participation rates of HISD graduates increased from 18% in 2008 to 27% in 2011 but then declined to 20% in 2013.
- The ACT participation rates of Texas graduates increased from 29% in 2008 to 39% in 2012 but then declined to 37% in 2013.
- The ACT participation rates of graduates in the nation increased steadily from 43% in 2008 to 54% in 2013.
- The participation gap between the graduates in HISD and the nation increased from 25 percentage points in 2008 to 34 percentage points in 2013.

Figure 3 shows the trends of ACT composite results for HISD, Texas, and the Nation for the graduating classes of 2008 through 2013.

**Figure 3: ACT Composite Scores of Graduates
HISD, Texas, and Nation: 2008-2013**

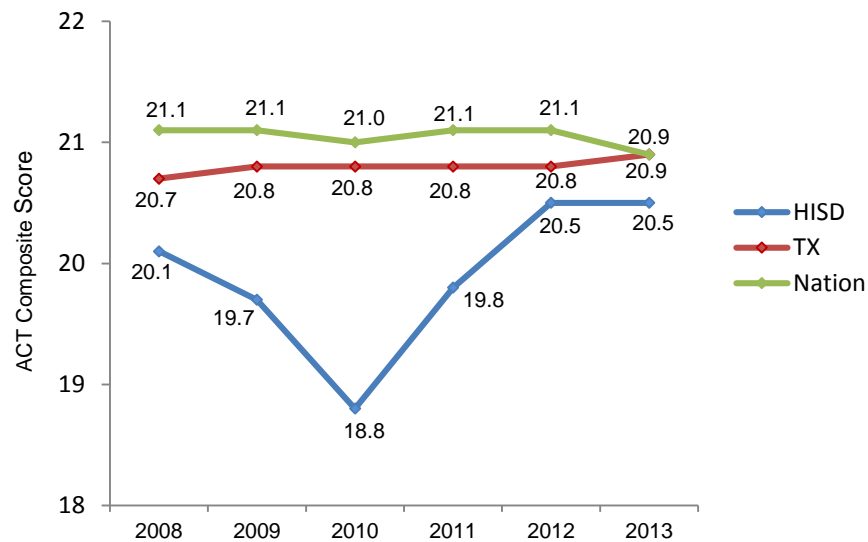


Figure 3 indicates the following:

- The ACT composite scores in HISD declined from 20.1 in 2008 to 18.8 in 2010 as the participation rates increased from 18% to 27% during the same period (see **Figure 2**), and the ACT composite scores increased to 20.5 as the participation rates declined to 20% in 2013.
- The gap in the ACT composite scores between HISD and the nation declined from 1.0 points in 2008 to 0.4 points in 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 2013 average ACT scores by ethnicity for the graduating classes of 2012 and 2013 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.

Figure 4 shows the campus results ranked by the average ACT composite scores in 2013. Detailed ACT participation and performance results by campus for the classes of 2012 and 2013 are shown in **Appendix A**.

Figure 4. HISD ACT Composite Scores by Campus: 2012 and 2013

Ranked by 2013 composite scores

Campus	2012	2013	Change, 2013-2012
Carnegie HS	28.2	28.1	-0.1
DeBakey HS	26.3	26.9	0.6
Bellaire HS	25.2	25.0	-0.2
HSPVA	24.7	24.5	-0.2
Westside HS	22.0	22.6	0.6
Lamar HS	23.3	22.5	-0.8
Challenge HS	20.8	22.2	1.4
N. Houston Early College HS	19.4	20.8	1.4
East Early College HS	19.6	20.2	0.6
Eastwood	19.0	19.8	0.8
Reagan HS	18.2	19.2	1.0
Waltrip HS	19.8	19.0	-0.8
Houston Acad. for Int'l Stud.	*	18.8	
Washington HS	18.7	18.7	0.0
HSLECJ	19.4	18.4	-1.0
Empowerment		18.2	
Mount Carmel	18.0	17.7	-0.3
Madison HS	16.6	17.5	0.9
Chavez HS	17.2	17.3	0.1
Jordan HS	14.9	17.0	2.1
Sharpstown HS	17.7	17.0	-0.7
Houston MSTC	16.9	16.7	-0.2
Milby HS	18.2	16.6	-1.6
Lee HS	17.7	16.2	-1.5
Westbury HS	16.7	16.2	-0.5
Davis HS	16.8	15.7	-1.1
Furr HS	15.1	15.6	0.5
Jones HS	14.4	15.5	1.1
Sterling HS	14.7	15.1	0.4
Austin HS	16.0	15.0	-1.0
Wheatley HS	15.4	15.0	-0.4
Yates HS	15.4	15.0	-0.4
Kashmere HS	14.1	13.5	-0.6
HISD	20.5	20.5	0.0
Texas	20.8	20.9	0.1
Nation	21.1	20.9	-0.2

* Masked: n < 5

Figure 4 indicates the following:

- The ACT composite scores of 31 campuses ranged from 13.5 at Kashmere HS to 28.1 at Carnegie HS, with a median score of 17.7.
- The largest gain in the ACT composite score from 2012 to 2013 was shown at Jordan HS (2.1 points) while the largest decline occurred at Milby HS (-1.6 points).

Terry B. Guier

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 Average ACT Scores (English, Mathematics, and Reading)

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

Table 3: Four-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

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

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%

Table 5: Four-Year Differences in ACT Scores (Science and Composite) with 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

APPENDIX A

Table 6 2013 Average ACT Scores, College Readiness Benchmark Results, and Differences between Student Groups from HISD and Texas									
Student Group	English			Mathematics			Reading		
	HISD	Texas	Diff	HISD	Texas	Diff	HISD	Texas	Diff
All Students	19.2	19.8	0.6	21.4	21.5	0.1	20.4	20.4	0
African American	16.5	16.1	-0.4	18.6	18.3	-0.3	17.6	17.6	0
American Indian	*	19.8	*	*	21.2	*	*	16.0	*
White	25.3	22.6	-2.7	25.9	23.4	-2.5	25.4	26.3	0.9
Hispanic	17.6	17.1	-0.5	20.4	19.6	-0.8	19.0	19.0	0
Asian	24.9	23.9	-1	28.3	26.6	-1.7	25.4	25.4	0
Pacific Islander	24.0	20.1	-3.9	26.5	22.6	-3.9	24.7	24.7	0
2 or more	22.7	21.5	-1.2	24.0	22.5	-1.5	24.5	24.5	0
No response	22.7	21.9	-0.8	23.6	23.0	-0.6	23.0	23.0	0
Student Group	Science			Composite			Readiness Benchmark		
	HISD	Texas	Diff	HISD	Texas	Diff	HISD	Texas	Diff
All Students	20.4	20.9	0.5	20.5	20.9	0.4	26	26	0
African American	17.5	17.8	0.3	17.7	17.6	-0.1	10	8	-2
American Indian	*	20.9	*	*	20.9	*	*	26	*
White	25.3	23.0	-2.3	25.8	23.3	-2.5	64	41	-23
Hispanic	19.3	19.1	-0.2	19.2	18.8	-0.4	16	12	-4
Asian	26.0	24.5	-1.5	25.3	25.0	-0.3	62	53	-9
Pacific Islander	24.7	21.6	-3.1	25.2	21.5	-3.7	50	31	-19
2 or more	24.0	22.1	-1.9	23.9	22.3	-1.6	45	35	-10
No response	22.6	22.3	-0.3	23.1	22.7	-0.4	36	36	0

Table 7: 2013 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	19.2	20.2	1	21.4	20.9	-0.5	20.4	21.1	0.7
African American	16.5	15.7	-0.8	18.6	17.2	-1.4	17.6	17.0	-0.6
American Indian	*	16.6	*	*	18.2	*	*	18.3	*
White	25.3	21.8	-3.5	25.9	21.9	-4	25.4	22.6	-2.8
Hispanic	17.6	17.7	0.1	20.4	19.3	-1.1	19.0	18.9	-0.1
Asian	24.9	22.5	-2.4	28.3	25.0	-3.3	25.4	22.9	-2.5
Pacific Islander	24.0	18.6	-5.4	26.5	20.1	-6.4	24.7	19.5	-5.2
2 or more	22.7	20.6	-2.1	24.0	20.9	-3.1	24.5	21.6	-2.9
No response	22.7	20.0	-2.7	23.6	20.8	-2.8	23.0	21.0	-2
Student Group	Science			Composite			Readiness Benchmark		
	HISD	Nation	Diff	HISD	Nation	Diff	HISD	Nation	Diff
All Students	20.4	20.7	0.3	20.5	20.9	0.4	26	26	0
African American	17.5	16.9	-0.6	17.7	16.9	-0.8	10	5	-5
American Indian	*	18.3	*	*	18.0	*	*	10	*
White	25.3	22.0	-3.3	25.8	22.2	-3.6	64	33	-31
Hispanic	19.3	18.8	-0.5	19.2	18.8	-0.4	16	14	-2
Asian	26.0	23.1	-2.9	25.3	23.5	-1.8	62	43	-19
Pacific Islander	24.7	19.5	-5.2	25.2	19.5	-5.7	50	19	-31
2 or more	24.0	20.9	-3.1	23.9	21.1	-2.8	45	26	-19
No response	22.6	20.5	-2.1	23.1	20.7	-2.4	36	35	-1