

College Readiness Summary, 2020–2021

Austin Independent School District (AISD)

Purpose

This report provides an overview of the district’s college readiness outcomes for seniors in the 2020 and 2021 graduation cohorts.

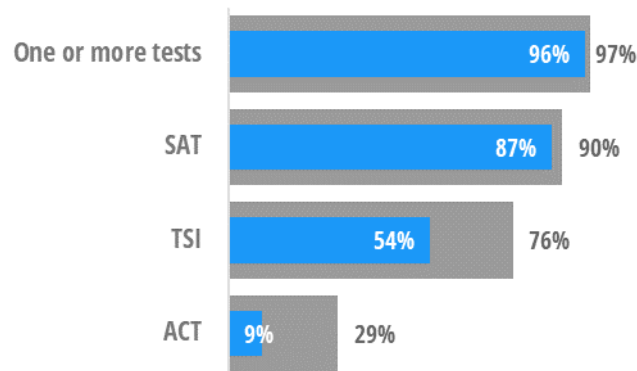
Background

College readiness refers to the knowledge and skills a high school graduate needs to achieve successful college and career outcomes. Students and educators use multiple assessments to assess college readiness. These assessments include the ACT, SAT, and Texas Success Initiative (TSI) exams. If students meet college readiness benchmarks on these assessments, they are likely to succeed in the credit-bearing courses needed for a college degree or program certificate, without the need for remedial coursework.

How many seniors took a college admissions test?

Overall, 96% of Austin Independent School District (AISD) seniors took one or more college admissions tests in the 2020–2021 school year, a slight decrease from the prior year (Figure 1). All seniors at LASA and Ann Richards took one or more college admissions tests in 2019–2020 and 2020–2021 (Figure 2). The percentage of seniors taking one or more college admissions tests at Eastside, Anderson, and LBJ increased from 2019–2020 to 2020–2021. Although test participation was optional, district staff identified students who had not taken a college readiness test or did not meet college readiness standards on a test, and provided necessary academic and/or procedural supports throughout the school year.

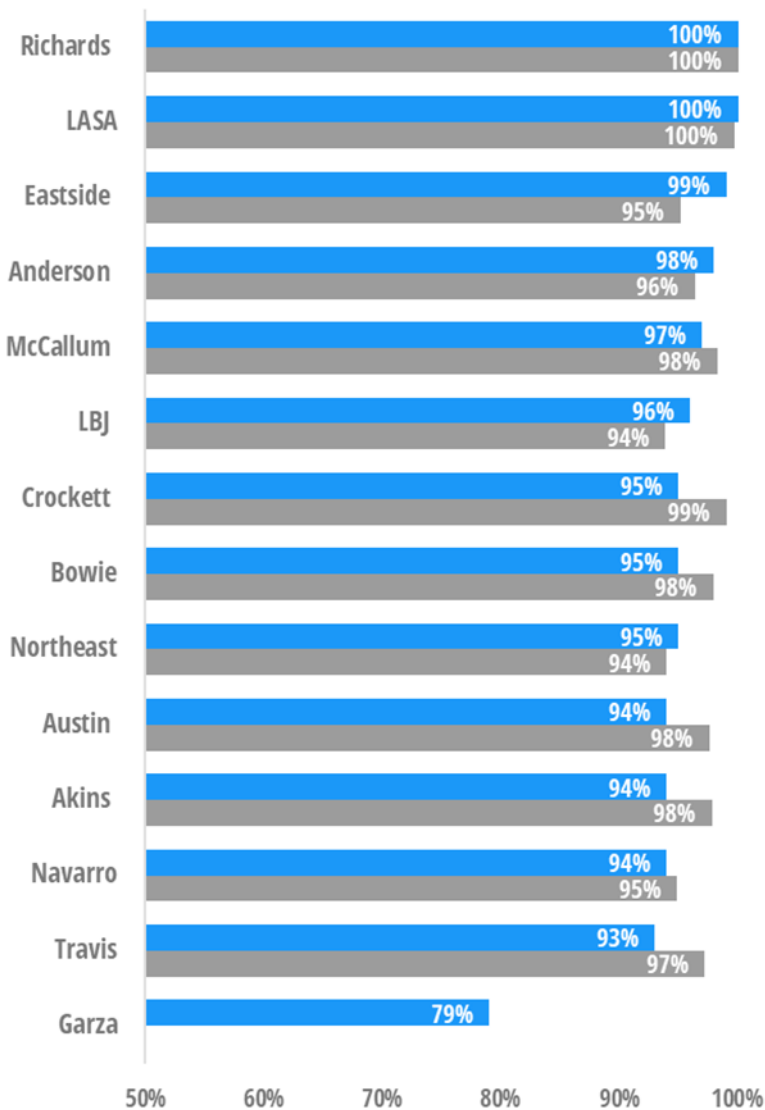
Figure 1.
ACT, SAT, and TSI test taking decreased in 2020–2021, compared with the 2019–2020 school year, and most AISD seniors took the SAT.



Source. District student enrollment and ACT, SAT, and TSI test records, 2019–2020 and 2020–2021
Note. Summary includes seniors in the 2020 and 2021 graduation cohorts who were actively enrolled at the end of the 2020 ($n = 4,388$) and 2021 ($n = 4,371$) school years.

Figure 2

Most AISD seniors enrolled in each high school in 2020–2021 and 2019–2020 took at least one college admissions test.



Source. District student enrollment and ACT, SAT, and TSI test records, 2019–2020 and 2020–2021

Note. Summary includes seniors in the 2020 and 2021 graduation cohorts who were actively enrolled at the end of the 2020 ($n = 4,388$) and 2021 ($n = 4,371$) school years.

How many AISD seniors were academically ready for college?

The percentages of AISD seniors meeting college readiness standards increased from 2016–2017 to 2018–2019, stayed steady in 2019–2020, and decreased slightly in 2020–2021. Due to the global pandemic, the 2020–2021 school year started virtually, with many students choosing to remain virtual for the entire school year. This school year was also disrupted by the winter storm in February 2021. The percentage of seniors meeting college readiness standards in both English language arts [ELA] / reading and math was 52% at the end of the 2020–2021 school year (Figure 3). The percentages of seniors who met college readiness standards decreased for each racial / ethnic group in 2020–2021, compared with the prior year (Figure 4). Decreases in the percentages of seniors who met college readiness standards also were observed across almost all campuses (Figure 5).

College Readiness Criteria

To be considered college ready, a student must have met college readiness criteria on the SAT, ACT, and/or TSI test. The criteria for each are:

ELA

SAT: ≥ 480 on the evidence-based reading and writing portion of the assessment

or

ACT: ≥ 19 on English and ≥ 23 composite

or

TSI before 1/11/2021: ≥ 351 on reading and ≥ 340 on writing with ≥ 4 on essay OR < 340 on writing with ≥ 5 on essay and an adult basic education (ABE) ≥ 4

TSI on or after 1/11/2021: ≥ 945 on English language arts and reading (ELAR) and ≥ 5 on essay OR < 945 on ELAR with ≥ 5 on essay and ELAR diagnostic ≥ 5

Math

SAT: ≥ 503 on the math portion of the assessment

or

ACT: ≥ 19 on math and ≥ 23 composite

or

TSI before 1/11/2021: ≥ 350 on the math assessment

TSI on or after 1/11/2021: ≥ 950 on the math assessment OR < 950 with math diagnostic = 6

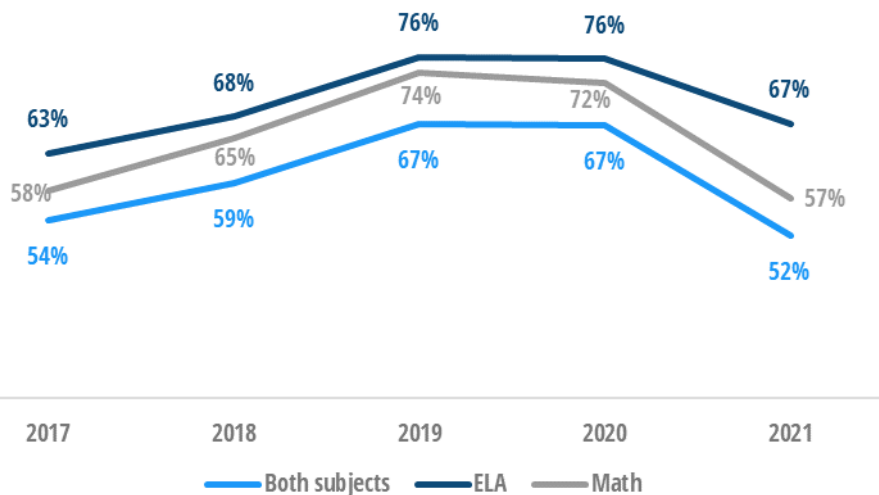
For more information on these assessments, please refer to the following sites.

SAT: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/pdf/educator-benchmark-brief.pdf>

ACT: <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/college-and-career-readiness/standards.html>

TSI: <https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/sites/default/files/accuplacer-tsi-assessment-interpreting-score-v2.pdf>

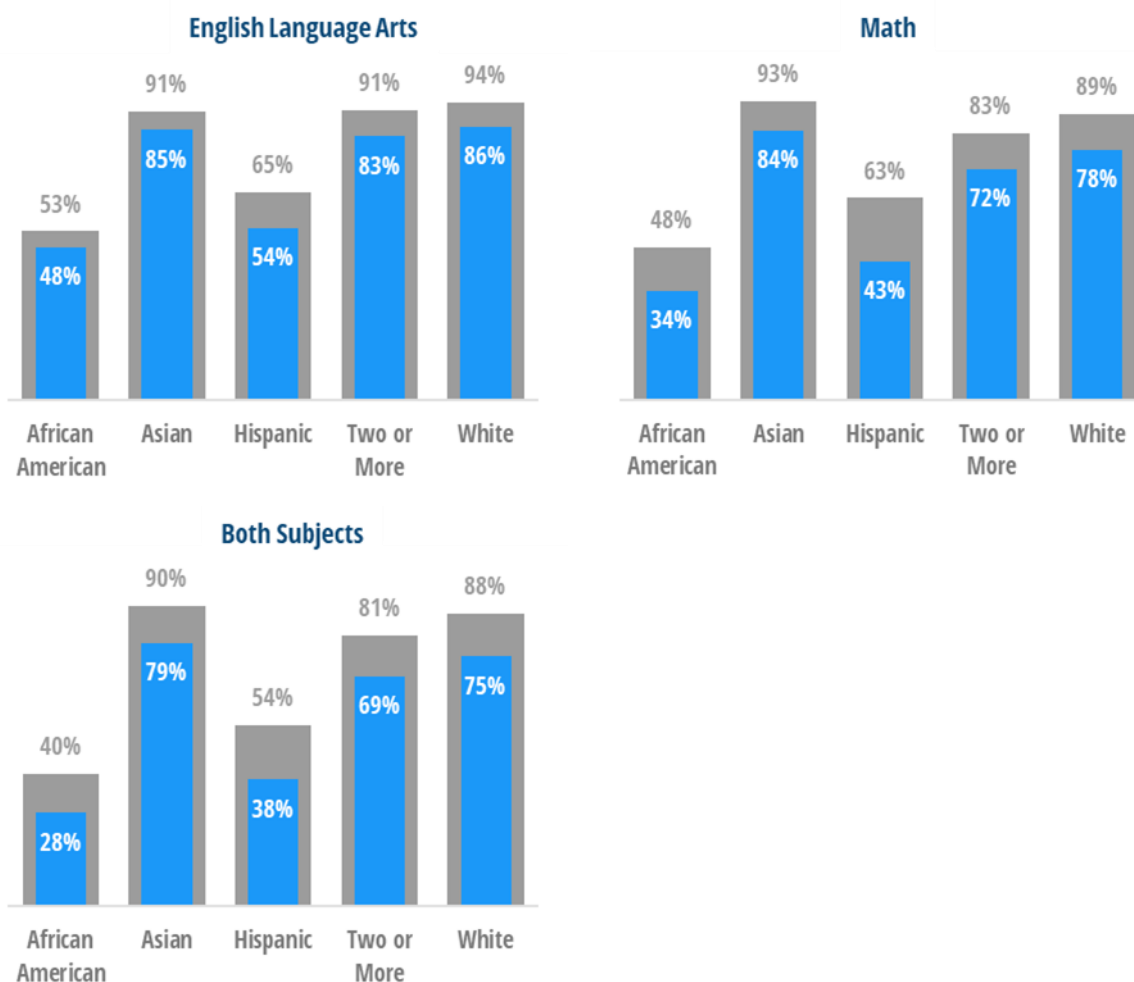
Figure 3.
The percentages of AISD seniors meeting college readiness standards decreased in 2020–2021.



Source. District student enrollment and ACT, SAT, and TSI test records, 2016–2021.

Note. Summary includes seniors from each graduation cohort who were actively enrolled at the end of the school year.

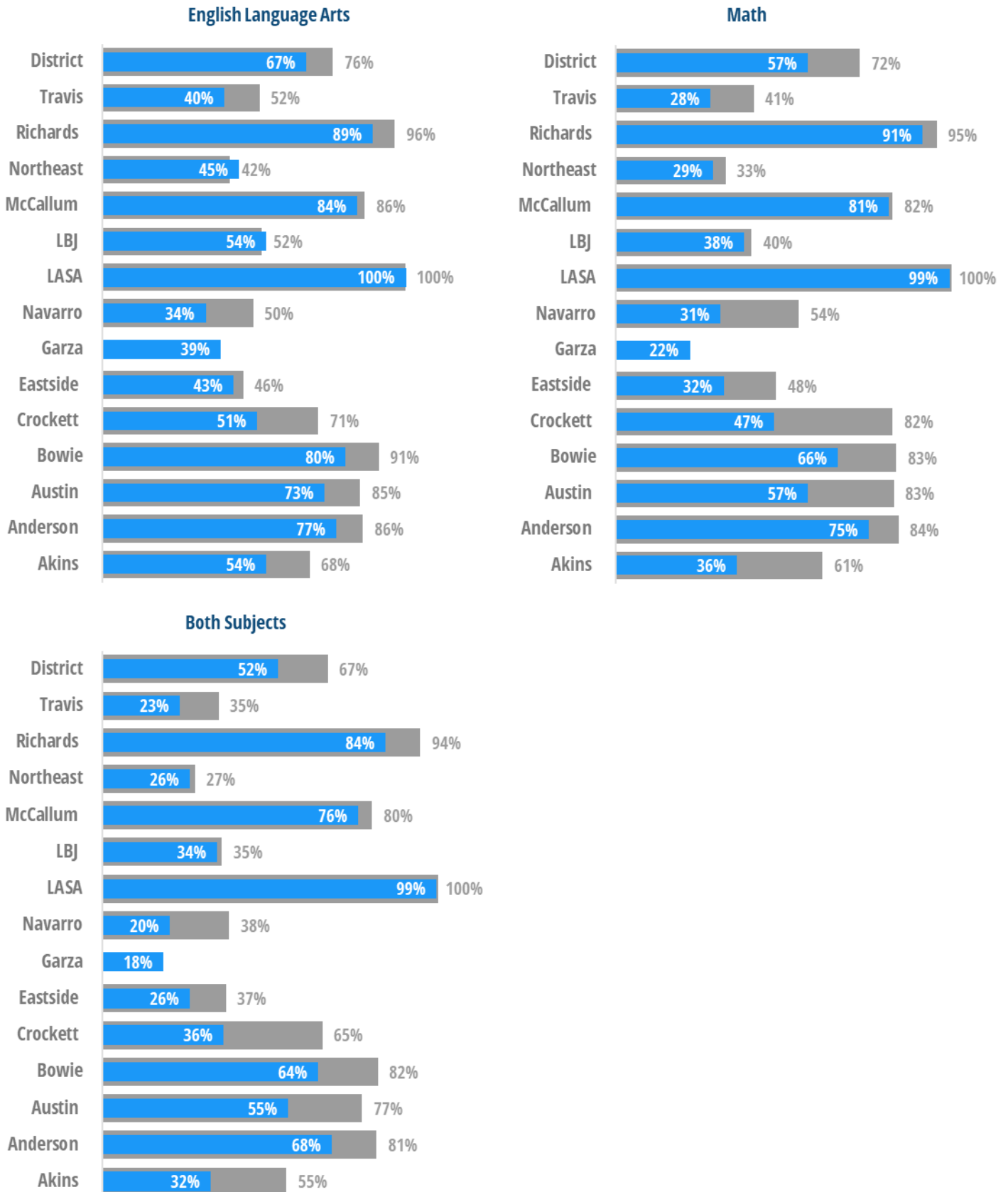
Figure 4.
Percentages of seniors who met college readiness standards decreased for each racial/ethnic group in 2020–2021, compared with seniors in 2019–2020.



Source. District student enrollment and ACT, SAT, and TSI test records, 2019–2020 and 2020–2021

Figure 5.

Almost all campuses experienced a decrease in the percentage of seniors who met college readiness benchmarks in 2020–2021, compared with seniors in 2019–2020.



Source. District student enrollment and ACT, SAT, and TSI test records, 2019–2020 and 2020–2021

Reporting Limitations

The college readiness outcomes presented in this report for 2021 AISD seniors may differ slightly from those presented in other reports. This summary includes seniors in the 2020 and 2021 graduation cohorts who were actively enrolled at the end of the 2020 ($n = 4,388$) and 2021 ($n = 4,371$) school years. A *cohort* is defined as a group of students who began grade 9 in a particular school year and were expected to graduate 4 years later. This summary also only reports on seniors who met college readiness standards in ELA / reading, math, or both subject areas, and specifically, who met the college-ready criteria on the TSI, SAT, and ACT assessments. It does not summarize outcomes on other college readiness measures (e.g., advanced placement [AP] exams), on earning dual-credit course credits, on completing and earning credit for a college-prep course, or on earning an associate's degree. Additionally, the actual graduation status of the seniors (e.g., whether they graduated at the end of the semester) was not confirmed at the time of this report. More information about the college readiness of AISD graduates may be accessed on the [Texas Education Agency's website](#).

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