2012-2013 PSAT Results

L. Shane Hall, Ph.D.  
EA13-520-4.1

At-a-Glance

About one-fourth of Dallas Independent School District 10th graders and one-third of 11th graders met PSAT benchmarks for being on track to college readiness. High school students across the district’s five divisions took the PSAT in the fall of 2012 to prepare for the SAT college admissions test, which many of them will take as high school seniors.

Description and Context

The PSAT, developed by College Board, provides a standardized view of student skills in reading, mathematics, and writing. The PSAT reports on the same college readiness skills as the SAT. PSAT questions are intended to be reliable preparation for the types of questions students encounter on the SAT. Scale scores in each subject on the PSAT range from 20 to 80. The scale is comparable to the SAT scale of 200 to 800. In addition, College Board sets college readiness benchmarks in the three subjects tested on the PSAT. These benchmarks represent the scores students should meet or exceed to be considered on track for college readiness. Benchmark scores are shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Math</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Composite</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Higher percentage of 10th grade students in 2012 met benchmarks on the PSAT than grade 10 students in 2011. However, the cut scores used by College Board in 2011 were higher than those for 2012 and were associated with the likelihood of meeting the grade 11 PSAT benchmark. In 2011, only 8 percent of students in grade 10 met the composite benchmark of 145. Fewer than 10 percent met reading and writing benchmarks in 2011, and only 17 percent met the mathematics benchmark. In grade 11, 16 percent met the composite PSAT benchmark of 152 in 2011; 27 percent met the benchmark in mathematics, and 17 percent met the reading and writing benchmarks.

Grade 10 Results

In the fall of 2012, 8,416 students in grade 10 took the PSAT. Figures 1 and 2 display the percentage of 10th grade students who met or exceeded College Board’s benchmarks in reading and mathematics, respectively, across the five district divisions. Overall, 24 percent of grade 10 students met or exceeded the reading benchmarks, while 25 percent met or exceeded the mathematics benchmarks. Division 4, which includes many magnet schools, had the highest percentage of students meeting benchmarks in both subjects. Division 1 had the lowest proportion of students meeting the reading benchmark, and Division 5 had the lowest proportion meeting the mathematics benchmark.
Grade 11 Results

In Grade 11, 4,006 students took the PSAT in Fall 2012. Figures 5-8 display the results. In reading, 28 percent of students met or exceeded college readiness benchmarks; mathematics, 33 percent; writing, 33 percent; and composite, 23 percent.
Figure 6. Percentage of Grade 11 students meeting PSAT mathematics benchmarks, by division.

Figure 7. Percentage of Grade 11 students meeting PSAT mathematics benchmarks, by division.

Figure 8. Percentage of Grade 11 students meeting PSAT composite benchmarks, by division.

For more information, contact Shane Hall at 972-925-6496 or ShHall@dallasisd.org.