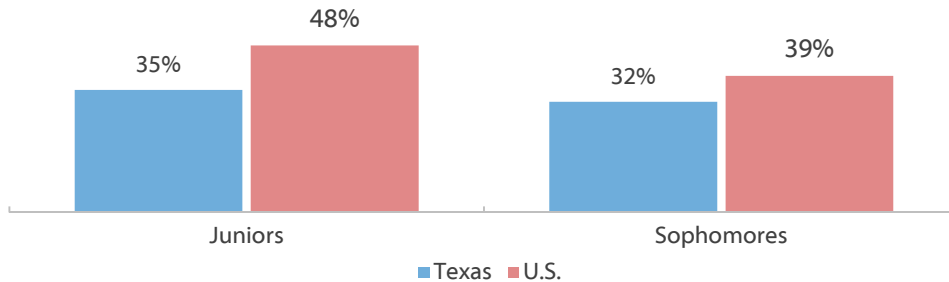


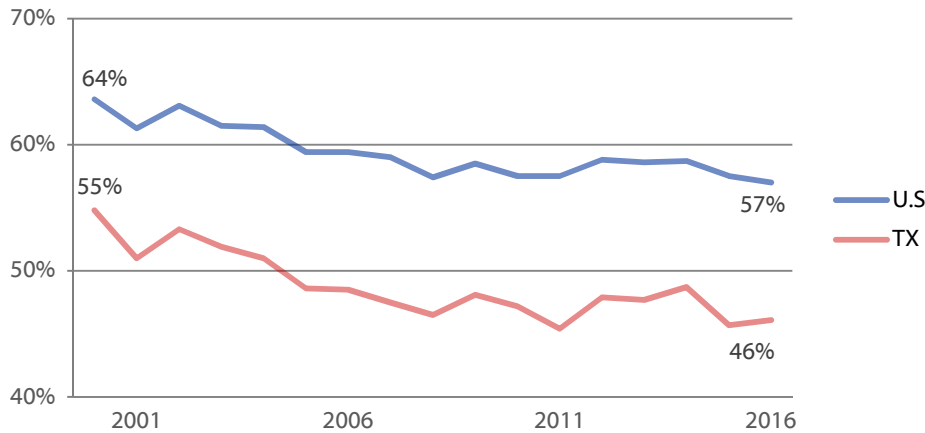
Texas High School Students Lag Behind Students Nationally in College Readiness

PSAT/NMSQT Test Takers Who Are on Track to be College Ready (2014-2015)



The Preliminary SAT (PSAT) and National Merit Scholar Qualifying Test (NMSQT) are taken by high school sophomores and juniors. The tests help the students prepare for the SAT and prompt them to begin planning for college. The College Board has developed college readiness benchmark scores that students should meet or exceed in order to be considered on track for college readiness. Based on this measure, Texas sophomores and juniors lag behind their national peers in college readiness.

Percent of AP Test Takers who Scored at Least a 3 on at Least One AP Test (2000 - 2016)



The Advanced Placement (AP) program offers more than 30 college-level courses and examinations to high school students, though a student can take an exam without having taken the course. These courses satisfy high school diploma requirements, and sufficient scores on the exams can help students gain admission to selective colleges and even earn college credit (at the institution’s discretion). Since 2005, all public higher education institutions in Texas that have freshman level courses have been required to grant credit to incoming students who earn a 3 or higher on an AP exam.

Twenty-seven percent of 2016 public high school 11th- and 12th-graders in Texas took an AP exam in high school, compared to 26 percent for the nation as a whole. Although a slightly higher proportion of Texas graduates took exams, Texas trailed the nation in success rates, with 46 percent of test takers earning at least a 3 on an AP exam compared to 57 percent nationally. The percentage of AP test takers who scored at least a 3 on at least one AP test has declined both nationally and in Texas since 2000, however, the total numbers of AP test takers have also increased significantly during this time period.

Source: PSAT/NMSQT: The College Board, PSAT/NMSQT Data & Reports (<http://research.collegeboard.org/programs/psat/data/cb-1r>); AP: The College Board, AP Program and Participation Data 2016 (<https://research.collegeboard.org/programs/ap/data/participation/ap-2016>)

