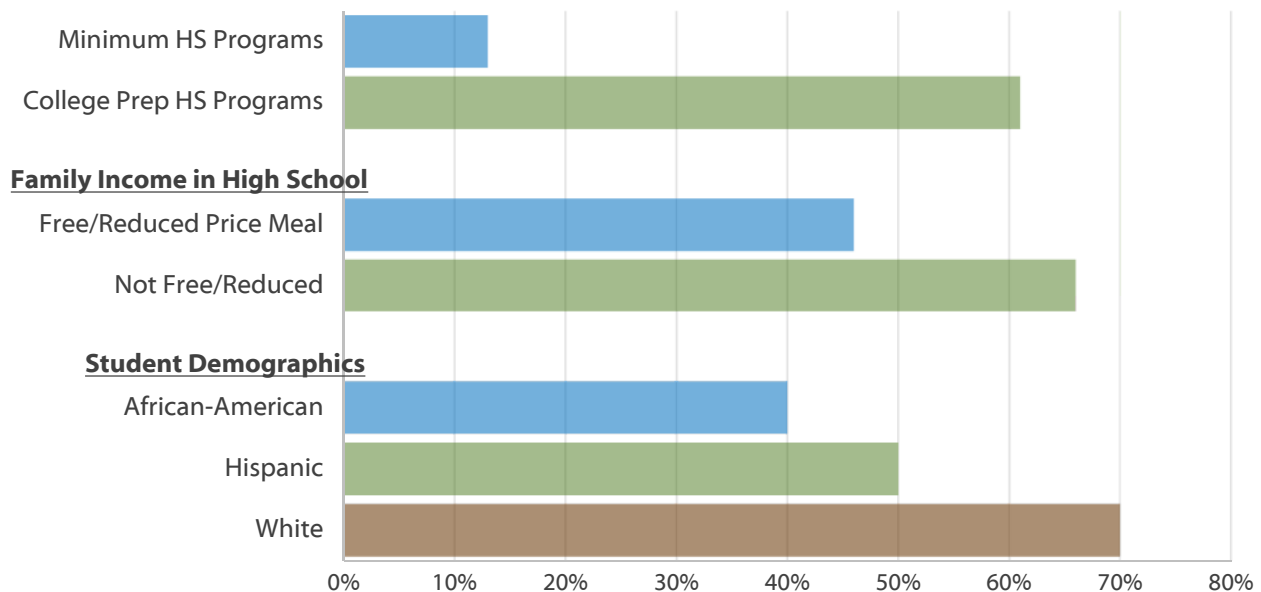


The Importance of College Prep Programs in High School

Percent of 2015-16 Texas High School Graduates, Enrolled in Texas Higher Education in Fall 2016 that Met All TSI Standards



The Texas Success Initiative (TSI) was created by the state to help colleges and universities assess the college-readiness of incoming students in reading, writing, and math. To meet TSI standards, students either score high enough on an approved TSI assessment or complete an approved TSI exemption (e.g. scoring above a threshold on the SAT, ACT, or TAKS tests, or completing college-level coursework). Students who do not meet TSI standards may be required to complete developmental coursework – courses that often do not count towards a certificate or degree program – before enrolling in college-credit courses.

Of all 2015-16 high school graduates who enrolled in higher education the following fall, 58 percent met TSI standards in math, writing, and reading. However, the percentages of high school students who met all TSI standards varied widely when comparing characteristics. Students who enrolled in higher education after completing the minimum high school diploma program were far less likely to meet TSI standards than students who completed the College Prep* diploma. Sixty-one percent of students in the College Prep diploma program met all TSI standards, compared to just 13 percent of those completing the minimum diploma program.

Low-income high school graduates were also less prepared for college than their peers. Forty-six percent of students who received free or reduced-price meals in high schools – a common metric to identify low-income students – met all TSI standards compared to 66 percent of students who did not receive free or reduced-price meals. College readiness measures also varied based on student demographics. Seventy percent of White students met all TSI standards, compared to 50 percent of Hispanic students and 40 percent of African-American students.

*A high school student who graduates under either the Recommended or Distinguished achievement program is considered to have a College Prep diploma for the purposes of this analysis, and a graduate of the Foundation or Minimum achievement program is considered a Minimum program. The Recommended and Distinguished programs require more completed credits (26) in mathematics, science, social studies, language other than English, and fine arts than the minimum program. The Foundation and Minimum programs have fewer required completed credits (22).

Source: TSI Description and Requirements, College for All Texas, (<http://www.collegeforalltexas.com/index.cfm?objectid=63176344-FFFA-217B-60C9A0E86629B3CA>). Student Performance on Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Readiness Measures 2015-16 High School Graduates Enrolled in Texas Public Higher Education in Fall 2016, THECB, September 2017, (<http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/6849.PDF?CFID=51345397&CFTOKEN=71711012>)

