

SPOTLIGHT

Imagining Differently with CSF

Approximately 26% of Tacoma adults have earned a college degree. That means most TPS students are the first in their family to imagine the possibility of college or technical school. College Success Foundation keeps thoughts of college front and center for students of color, students living in poverty or foster care, and first-generation students. They help kids reimagine themselves and their futures with staff mentors who build trusting relationships with their CSF Scholars before, during, and after school.

In middle schools, CSF helps students build awareness of college and career choices and focus on attendance and academics. When they get to high school, CSF Scholars hear more from their mentors about college planning and readiness, get financial aid search assistance, and participate in summer programming that has them explore actual college experiences.

The high school graduation rate for these scholars is an off-the-charts 97%. Personal relationships keep that rate high, according to CSF Executive Director Shanna Lamar. She explains that CSF is planning to launch an app that allows mentors to keep in touch with kids from middle school right through college and to provide a tether of support once the kids head off to college, a time of transition when students can use the support of their mentors to help make their college dreams a reality.



HIGH SCHOOL COLLEGE ENTRY EXAMS

KEY FINDINGS

Participation Close to 100%, Score Gaps Persist

The increasingly pervasive college-bound culture at TPS includes free SAT college-entry exams offered during the school day (not on weekends, when it can be harder for kids to get to test sites). TPS has also made it possible for kids to take the test as early as the spring of their junior year. Those policy changes have given SAT participation a boost at TPS: This year, 98.7% of all seniors completed the test.

For the past four years, TPS has removed the financial and scheduling barriers to taking the SAT for all students, who also have more opportunities than ever before to take the test prior to their senior year. Across the board, students are taking the test more often; on average, increasing from 1.3 times taken among 2014-15 seniors to 1.7 times taken for the 2017-18 class.

We have re-established a baseline for College Entry Exams since the College Board significantly updated the SAT exam itself in recent years. Class of 2017 seniors had an average composite score of 1036, outperforming last year's 1024. Though still below their more affluent peers, students living in poverty have seen a tremendous gain in both their average composite score and in total participation over the last year. Gaps have closed in the proportion of students meeting the standard for the Reading section. However, they remain wide for both the Math and Writing components (*see right*).

GET INVOLVED!

- **Host** a FREE SAT Prep Course. Start by visiting CollegeBoard.org.
- **Visit** CollegeBoard.org to take free practice exams and download SAT Prep tools.
- **Challenge** students with a word of the day or an equation of the week leading up to the free test.

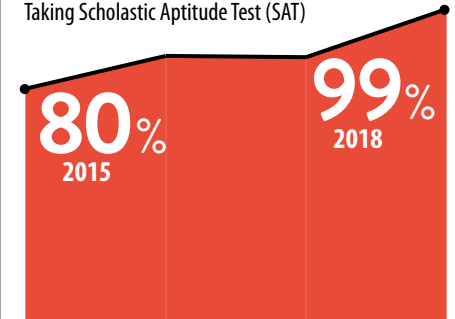


DIG DEEPER:
Visit GraduateTacoma.org/Data
to dig deeper into the data!

DATA TRENDS

BASELINE TO CURRENT

Taking Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)



AIMING HIGHER GOAL: Increase the percentage of 12th graders who take the SAT. Increase the average score on the SAT.

SAT OPPORTUNITY GAPS

Between Students Meeting Subject Standard

- White Students
- Asian Students
- Other Students of Color*

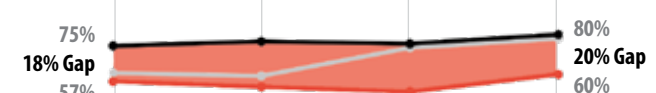
READING



MATH



WRITING



* "Other Students of Color" includes Black, Hispanic, Native American, Multi-racial and Pacific Islander students, all of whom have experienced persistent opportunity gaps.