

SANTA CLARA COUNTY  OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Charles Weis, Ph.D.

County Superintendent of Schools

May 17, 2010

TO: Charles Weis, Ph.D., County Superintendent

FROM: Linda Aceves, Chief Academic Officer, Educational Services Branch
Diana Wilmot, Ph.D., Coordinator, Assessment and Accountability

SUBJECT: College Readiness

On May 18, 2010, the California Department of Education will release data for student performance on the SAT exam, AP Exams, and ACT exam for 2008-09 year. In California, college readiness is broadly gauged by five factors:

- 1) SAT® exam
- 2) Advanced Placement (AP®) exam
- 3) ACT® exam
- 4) UC/CSU Eligibility
- 5) Early Assessment Program (EAP) test

This memo provides a brief description of each factor, together with data that relate to college readiness of students in Santa Clara County. Some overall findings include:

- Santa Clara County students who take the SAT have consistently outperformed students across the state and the nation, while also participating at higher rates. **(Table 1)**
- Santa Clara County students who take the AP exams have consistently outperformed students across the state and the nation, while the percent of exams taken have increased similarly each year. **(Table 2)**
- Santa Clara County students who take the ACT exam have consistently outperformed students across the state and the nation, but the participation rate of students in Santa Clara County and California is far less than students across the nation. **(Table 3)**

2008-09 Santa Clara County SAT Results

The SAT exam, which is administered by the College Board, measures students in three areas: Critical Reading, Mathematics and Writing. The exam is designed to offer a standardized metric that tests students' knowledge, critical thinking skills and communication in order to predict how well students will do in college. Each section of the SAT exam is scored on a scale of 200-800, with a combined total possible score of 2400. Disaggregated results for student subgroups are not available.

Key Findings

- The average SAT Critical Reading, Math and Writing scores for Santa Clara County students increased each year for three years countywide and in nearly all districts. **(Table 1)** The average Critical Reading score increased five points, from 534 to 539; the average Mathematics score increased seven points, from 572 to 579; and the average Writing score increased by four points, from 539 to 543 **(Figure 1)**. This equates to increased opportunity for Santa Clara County students to access four-year universities across the country.
- County scores remain higher than average scores statewide. The average Critical Reading score statewide was 495, an increase of one point from the previous year; the average Math score for the state was 513, the same as the last two years; and the average Writing score statewide was 494, a one-point increase from the prior year. **(Table 1)**
- In 2008-09, the percentage of Santa Clara County students who took the SAT was 46%, the same percentage as last year. **(Table 1)**
- A higher percentage of students in Santa Clara County took the SAT (46%) than students statewide (35%). Statewide, the percentage of students taking the SAT declined about one percent in each of the preceding years. **(Table 1)**
- Four districts out of 11 had more than 60% of students taking the SAT. Another four districts had between 30%-60% of students taking the SAT. Only one district had fewer than 30% of students taking the SAT. **(Table 1)**
- Santa Clara County students outperform students across the nation by 38 points in Critical Reading, 64 points in Math and 50 points in Writing **(Table 1)**.

2008-09 Advanced Placement Exam Results for Santa Clara County

Advanced Placement (AP) exams are offered in thirty-four subject areas for high school students and eligible students can receive college credit if they perform well on the exam. Students generally self-select to take the exam based on their level of preparation, which can be leveraged by the rigorous curriculum advocated by the College Board. Though AP exams are offered to all high school students, AP classes are generally intended for 11th and 12th graders. AP Exam grades are reported on a 5-point scale. College credits are determined by each college or university. A 3 or higher is generally considered to be “passing” with a “C”. This report summarizes results over the past three years on the number of AP Exam test takers, and the percentage of exams earning scores of 3 or better. Results are reported for the county as a whole and for each district. Disaggregated results for student subgroups are not available.

Key Findings

- In 2008-09, 13,484 Santa Clara County students took one or more Advanced Placement Exams, an increase of more than 1,000 students since 2007-08, and more than 1,600 students since 2006-07. **(Table 2)**
- The number of Advanced Placement Exams taken by Santa Clara County students increased from 22,373 exams in 2006-07 to 22,610 exams in 2007-08 and 24,850 exams in 2008-09. **(Table 2)**
- The percentage of exams countywide that received scores of 3, 4, or 5 remained relatively consistent from 72% in 2006-07 to 71% in 2007-08 and 73% in 2008-09. The statewide percentage of exams scored at 3 or better also remained relatively steady at 57% in 2006-07 and 2007-08 and 58% in 2008-09. **(Figure 2)**
- Palo Alto Unified had the greatest percentage of AP exams receiving scores of 3 or higher, with 93% receiving such scores in 2008-09. In Fremont Union High School District and Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District, 87% of the exams received scores of 3 or better. **(Table 2)**
- In 2008-09, 73% of AP exams taken by Santa Clara County students have received a passing score of 3 or higher, compared to 58% of AP exams taken by students across the state and the nation. **(Table 2)**

2008-09 Santa Clara County ACT Results

Although it is not a requirement for college eligibility in the UC/CSU system, many colleges and universities across the nation use students' ACT scores as one factor in making admissions decisions. The ACT is designed to assess high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. The test covers four subject areas: English, mathematics, reading and science reasoning. Each subject area test receives a score ranging from 1 to 36. The composite score is the average of all four subject area test scores. Disaggregated results for student subgroups are not available.

Key Findings

- The average ACT scores for Santa Clara County students increased from 23.4 in 2005-06 to 24.6 in 2008-09. This is a greater increase in ACT scores than students across the state and the nation for the same time period. **(Figure 3)**
- The average scores for county students are higher than the averages scores for students statewide and a higher percentage of Santa Clara County students take the test. In 2008-09, the average scores for Santa Clara County students was 24.6, compared to 21.9 statewide. **(Figure 3)**
- The percentage of students in the county who took the ACT in 2008-09 increased by nearly five and half percent since 2006-07. In 2008-09, 15.3% of Santa Clara County students took the ACT, the highest percentage in the last four years. A higher percentage of students in Santa Clara County took the ACT (15.3%) than students statewide (14.0%). **(Table 3)**
- Most districts maintained relatively similar average ACT scores from 2006-07 to 2008-09, with the exception of Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District, which had small increases each year. **(Table 3)**
- Students at Fremont Union High School District, Palo Alto Unified, Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District and Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District had the highest average ACT scores in 2008-09. They also had the highest percentage of students taking the ACT. **(Table 3)**
- In 2008-09, Santa Clara County students who took the ACT outperformed students across the state by 1 point and the nation by 4 points. **(Table 3)**

2007-08 UC/CSU Eligibility Results for Santa Clara County

To become UC/CSU Eligible students must enroll and pass the necessary courses outlined by the A-G Requirements. These requirements consist of the following courses: English – 4 years required, Mathematics – 3 years required , Laboratory Science – 2 years required, History/Social Science – 2 years required, Language other than English – 2 years required, Visual and Performing Arts – 1 year required, Electives – 1 year required. The following results show the percent of Santa Clara County students who have completed these courses for the 2007-08 year.

Key Findings

- In 2007-08, 48% of Santa Clara County graduates were UC/CSU eligible. This represents a 4% decrease from the prior year. **(Table 4)**
- Santa Clara County students have had a higher proportion of graduates who have completed their UC/CSU courses for eligibility (48%) compared to students statewide (34%). **(Table 4)**
- An achievement gap between White/Asian students and Hispanic/African-American students is evident. For example, in Santa Clara County, 70% of Asian students and 52% of White students are UC/CSU eligible, while 23% of Hispanic students and 27% of African-American students are UC/CSU eligible. **(Figure 4)**
- Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District has the highest percentage of students who are UC/CSU eligible in Santa Clara County (76%). **(Table 4)**

2008-09 Early Assessment Program (EAP) for Santa Clara County

The Early Assessment Program (EAP) is offered to high school juniors (11th graders) to provide opportunities to measure their readiness for College-level English and Mathematics. This test is designed as an early warning sign for 11th grade students who may be in need of remedial courses when they arrive at colleges within the California State University (CSU) system. This report shows the percentage of EAP testers in Santa Clara County who are ready for College-level English and College-level math for the 2008-09 year.

Key Findings

- In 2008-09, 26% of students in Santa Clara County who took the EAP test were ready for College-level English and College-level Mathematics. **(Table 5)**. This represents a 4% point increase in English and a 5% point increase in Math since the 2005-06 year, while the state showed only a 1% point increase in the same time period. **(Figure 5)**
- Students in Santa Clara County and students across the state show an increase in participation rate each year from 2005-06 through 2008-09. While the Countywide participation rate was lower than the statewide participation rate during the first two years of the EAP administration (2005-06, 2006-07), the countywide participation rate has equaled or surpassed the statewide participation rate in the last two years for English and Math. **(Table 6)**
- In 2008-09, Santa Clara County students who took the EAP test were more ready for College-level English (26%) than students statewide (16%), and more ready for College-level Math (26%) than students statewide (13%), while the participation rate countywide and statewide is similar. **(Table 5)**
- Four districts in Santa Clara County have 40% or more of their students who took the EAP test ready for College-level English. Three districts in Santa Clara County have 40% or more of their students who took the EAP test ready for College-level Mathematics. **(Table 5)**
- In 2008-09, Santa Clara County students in all ethnic subgroups are more College-ready in English and Math compared to students statewide. **(Table 7)**
- In 2008-09, Santa Clara County students' participation rates are higher than the State participation rates for White students and lower for Hispanic students in English and Math **(Table 7)**.
- An achievement gap between White/Asian students and Hispanic/African-American students is evident. For example, in Santa Clara County, 41% of Asian students and 33% of White students are College-ready in English, while 8% of Hispanic students and 14% of African-American students are College-ready in English. **(Figure 6)**

Table 1: Santa Clara County SAT Results by District

2006-07 to 2008-09

District	2006-2007				2007-2008				2008-2009			
	Percent Tested*	Critical Reading Average	Math Average	Writing Average	Percent Tested*	Critical Reading Average	Math Average	Writing Average	Percent Tested*	Critical Reading Average	Math Average	Writing Average
Campbell Union High	43%	530	551	526	41%	531	549	532	42%	529	550	525
East Side Union High	37%	477	519	476	36%	483	517	481	37%	481	521	482
Fremont Union High	72%	574	638	578	74%	574	637	584	74%	579	642	591
Gilroy Unified	27%	482	487	479	26%	485	494	492	25%	491	498	491
Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High	77%	607	641	614	76%	601	635	605	72%	601	638	610
Milpitas Unified	51%	496	534	494	49%	495	536	487	49%	511	563	510
Morgan Hill Unified	46%	506	532	498	49%	509	529	499	41%	517	538	511
Mountain View-Los Altos Union High	72%	575	599	573	66%	577	607	585	61%	585	619	593
Palo Alto Unified	84%	624	655	615	84%	626	661	630	83%	626	663	631
San Jose Unified	42%	523	545	522	37%	530	549	529	35%	530	560	532
Santa Clara Unified	38%	487	515	481	37%	488	514	484	36%	497	530	496
Countywide (Santa Clara)	48%	534	572	533	46%	537	573	539	46%	539	579	543
Statewide	37%	493	513	491	36%	494	513	493	35%	495	513	494
Nationwide	45%	502	515	494	45%	502	515	494	46%	501	515	493

District results include students enrolled at district-administered schools as well as direct-funded charter schools.

* The number of students for whom the College Board reported SAT data divided by "Grade 12 Enrollment."

Santa Clara County SAT Results

Average Verbal, Math and Writing Scores for Santa Clara County Students

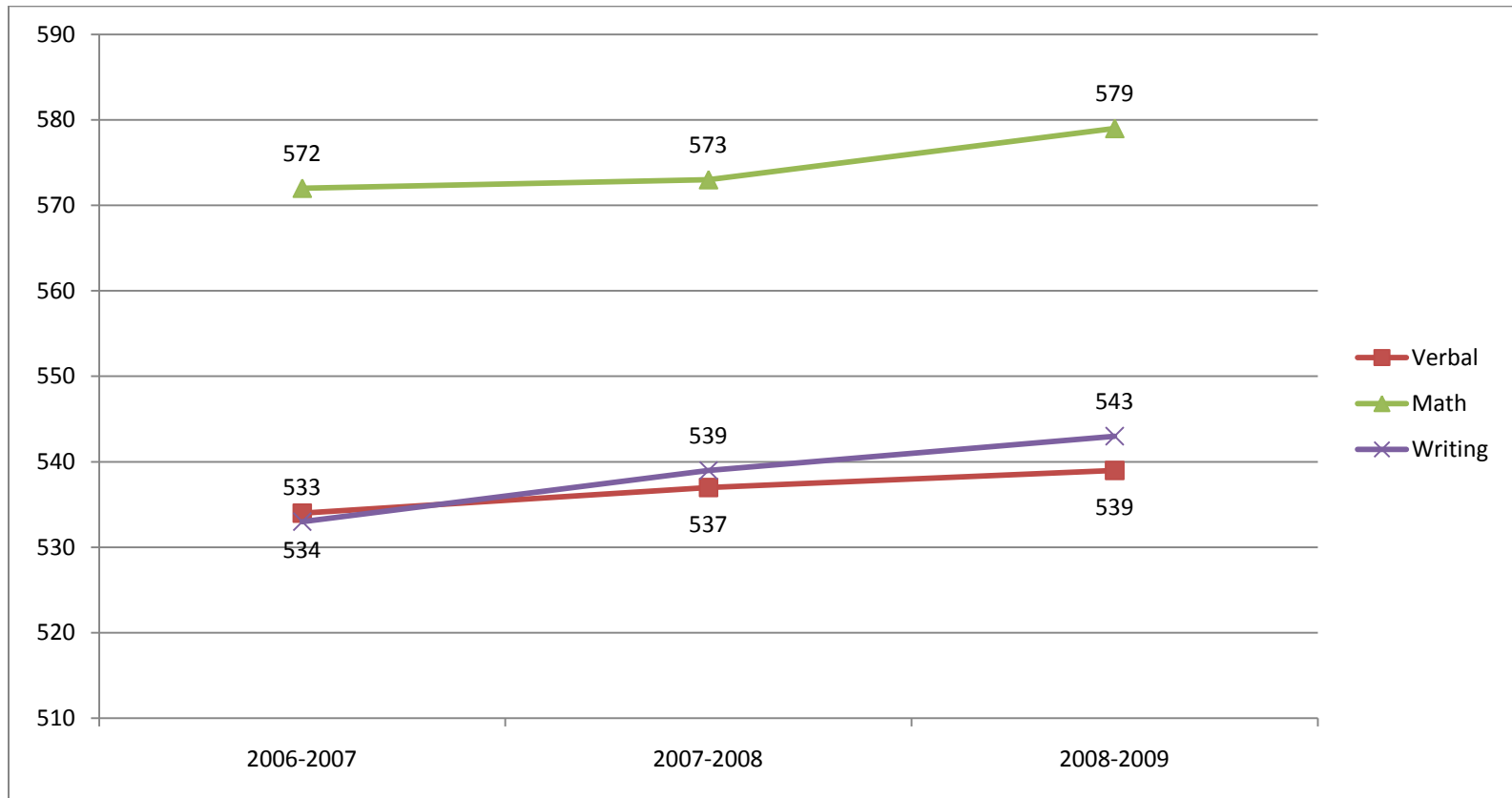


Figure 1

Table 2: Santa Clara County Advanced Placement (AP) Exam Results

District	2006-2007			2007-2008			2008-2009		
	Number of test takers	Number of exams taken	Percent of exams with scores of 3, 4, or 5*	Number of test takers	Number of exams taken	Percent of exams with scores of 3, 4, or 5*	Number of test takers	Number of exams taken	Percent of exams with scores of 3, 4, or 5*
Campbell Union High	757	1,365	69%	831	1,436	66%	842	1,430	63%
East Side Union High	3,369	5,637	54%	3,655	5,916	56%	3,830	6,266	58%
Fremont Union High	2,290	4,638	87%	2,508	5,033	84%	2,629	5,419	87%
Gilroy Unified	235	484	48%	241	487	59%	246	457	57%
Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union	791	1,751	87%	811	1,760	87%	842	1,792	87%
Milpitas Unified	470	724	60%	497	721	64%	477	751	71%
Morgan Hill Unified	450	681	50%	477	726	52%	492	808	47%
Mountain View-Los Altos Union	974	1,705	78%	1,013	1,724	77%	1,026	1,776	80%
Palo Alto Unified	946	2,356	94%	1,041	2,563	94%	1,107	2,651	93%
San Jose Unified	1,171	2,163	68%	1,313	2,308	70%	1,461	2,504	68%
Santa Clara Unified	421	869	59%	477	927	59%	508	972	59%
Countywide (Santa Clara)	11,874	22,373	72%	12,871 (up 7%)	22,610	71%	13,484 (up 5%)	24,850	73%
Statewide	208,299	376,712	57%	220,195 (up 5%)	396,455	57%	231,050 (up 5%)	417,548	58%
Nationwide	1,312,523	2,266,038	59%	1,432,169 (up 8%)	2,674,296	57%	1,546,020 (up 7%)	2,860,912	58%

* An Advanced Placement Exam score of 3 or better commonly qualifies a student for college credit.

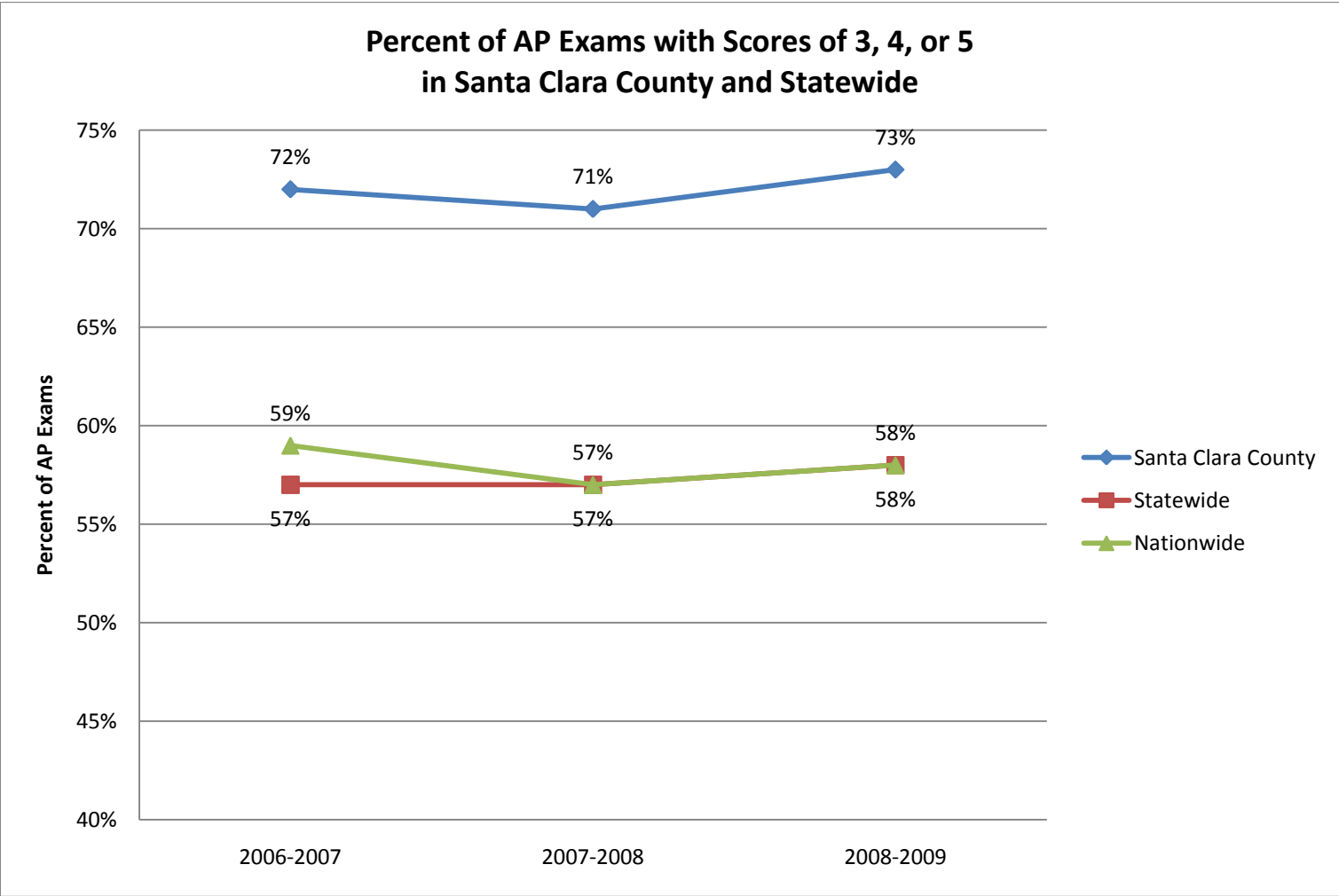


Figure 2

Table 3: Average ACT scores and Percent tested by District

District	2006-2007		2007-08		2008-2009	
	Percent Tested*	Average Score**	Percent Tested*	Average Score**	Percent Tested*	Average Score**
Campbell Union High	6.7%	24	9.3%	24	10.7%	24
East Side Union High	4.2%	22	5.9%	22	7.6%	22
Fremont Union High	17.8%	26	22.1%	26	29.1%	26
Gilroy Unified	7.1%	21	8.1%	22	7.1%	21
Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union	23.4%	27	32.5%	26	43.3%	27
Milpitas Unified	3.4%	24	4.7%	24	5.4%	23
Morgan Hill Unified	8.9%	23	8.9%	24	8.2%	24
Mountain View-Los Altos Union	25.7%	25	29.3%	26	31.5%	27
Palo Alto Unified	17.6%	26	24.6%	26	33.0%	27
San Jose Unified	12.5%	22	13.8%	22	15.2%	22
Santa Clara Unified	5.1%	23	5.7%	23	12.1%	22
Countywide (Santa Clara)	9.8%	24	12.2%	25	15.3%	25
Statewide	10.6%	22	11.8%	22	14.0%	22
Nationwide	42%	21	43%	21	45%	21

* Percent tested represents the number of ACT test takers divided by the grade 12 enrollment as of the fall CBEDS reporting date.

**Average scores are reported to the nearest whole number. Exact values for the County and State are shown on the figure below.

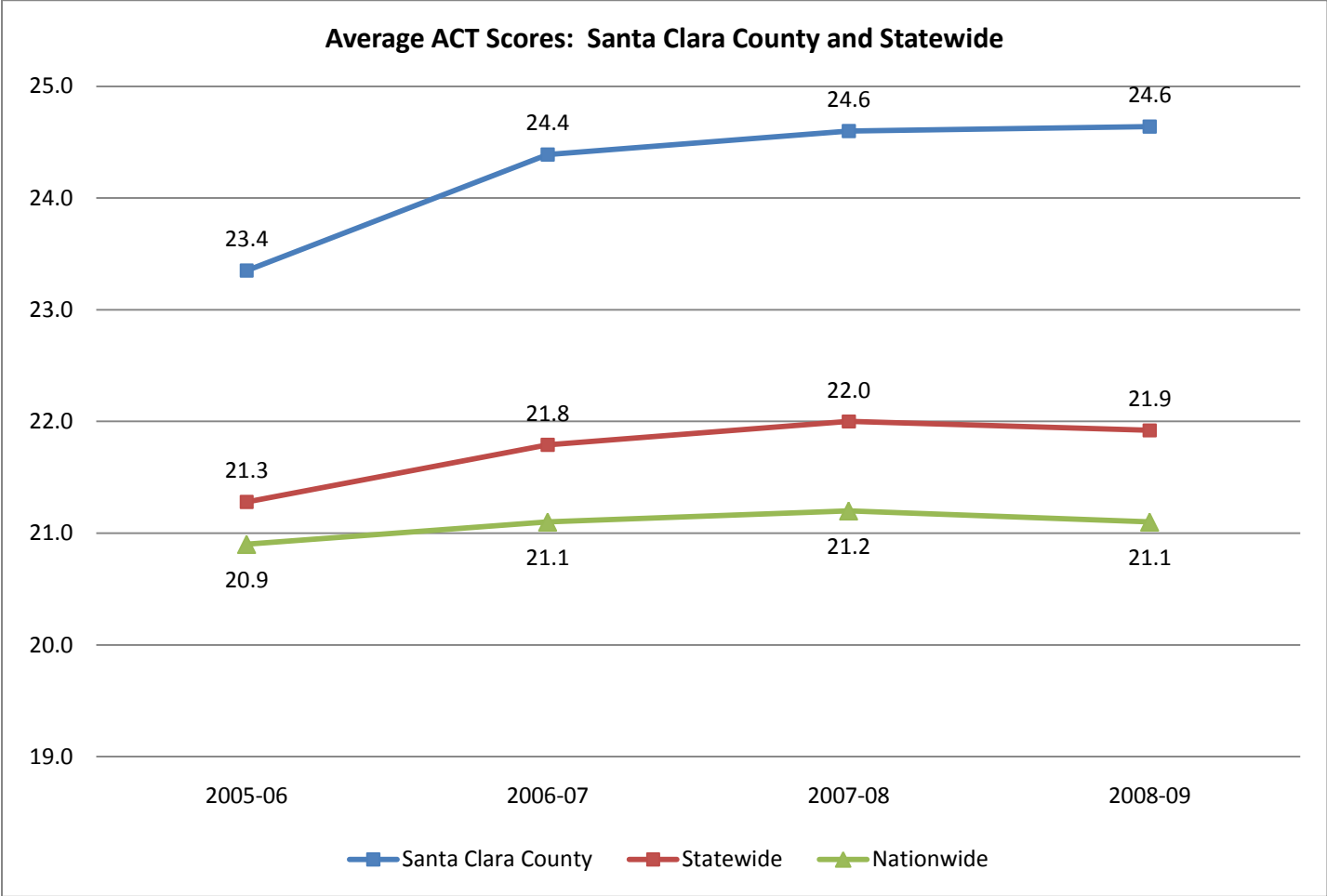


Figure 3

Table 4: Santa Clara County UC/CSU Eligibility Results by District

District	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Number of graduates*	Percent of Graduates UC/CSU Eligible**	Number of graduates*	Percent of Graduates UC/CSU Eligible**	Number of graduates*	Percent of Graduates UC/CSU Eligible**
Campbell Union High	1,436	33%	1,447	39%	1,547	36%
East Side Union High	4,911	35%	4,525	40%	4,885	39%
Fremont Union High	2,107	68%	2,224	70%	2,375	69%
Gilroy Unified	513	29%	547	18%	642	27%
Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High	721	82%	729	76%	751	76%
Milpitas Unified	749	29%	723	42%	756	41%
Morgan Hill Unified	547	43%	529	70%	605	38%
Mountain View-Los Altos Union High	787	63%	868	65%	748	68%
Palo Alto Unified	803	74%	783	70%	845	75%
San Jose Unified	1,792	66%	1,843	66%	1,841	41%
Santa Clara Unified	854	39%	806	41%	854	37%
Santa Clara County	15,290	48%	15,094	52%	15,923	48%
Statewide	349,207	36%	356,641	35%	376,393	34%

*The number of twelfth-grade graduates who received a diploma in the school year indicated, or the summer following that year. It does not include students graduating on the basis of the California High School Proficiency Examination, from programs administered by a community college, from adult education programs or receiving a General Education Development certificate (GED).

** Percent of UC/CSU eligibility represents the percent of twelfth-grade graduates, for the school year indicated, completing all the courses required for University of California (UC) and/or California State University (CSU) entrance with a grade of "C" or better. This represents only a portion of the entrance requirements for UC or CSU.

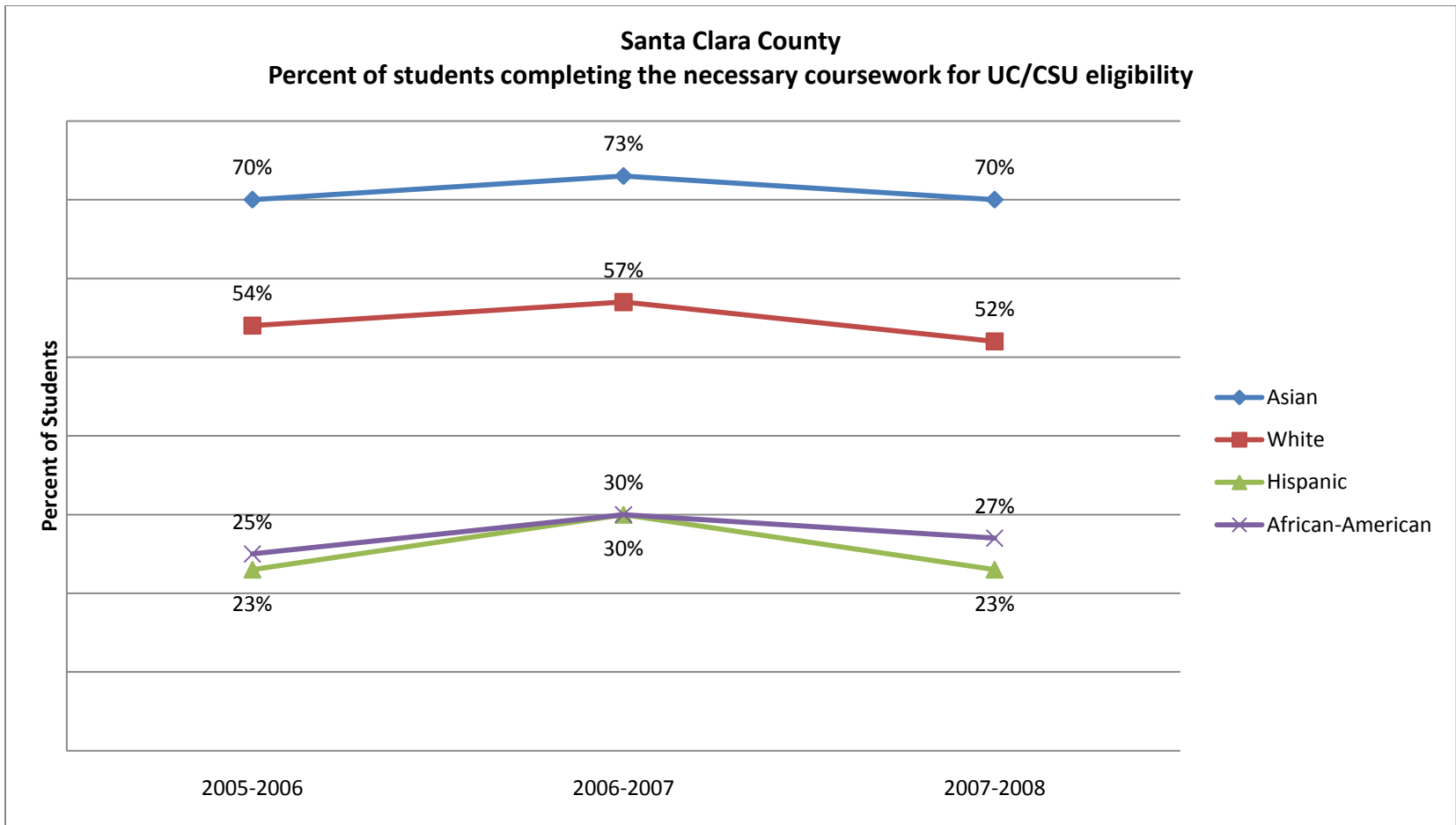


Figure 4

Table 5: 2008-09 Santa Clara County Early Assessment Program (EAP) Results by District

District	EAP English			EAP Mathematics		
	Percent Participation	Number EAP Test Takers	Percent College-ready	Percent Participation	Number EAP Test Takers	Percent College-ready
Campbell Union High	90%	1,634	25%	86%	925	13%
East Side Union High	83%	4,908	15%	77%	2,428	19%
Fremont Union High	95%	2,352	43%	83%	1,684	44%
Gilroy Unified	80%	559	16%	84%	189	13%
Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union	96%	777	47%	77%	512	40%
Milpitas Unified	75%	556	22%	72%	355	23%
Morgan Hill Unified	91%	658	21%	73%	344	10%
Mountain View-Los Altos Union	89%	786	46%	94%	625	29%
Palo Alto Unified	52%	470	41%	34%	264	57%
San Jose Unified	86%	1,872	25%	72%	988	25%
Santa Clara Unified	88%	838	21%	93%	467	12%
Countywide (Santa Clara)	84%	15,676	26%	77%	8,847	26%
Statewide	82%	366,949	16%	77%	169,478	13%

Table 6: Early Assessment Program (EAP) Results for Santa Clara County and Statewide

Year		EAP English			EAP Mathematics		
		Percent Participation	Number EAP Test Takers	Percent College-ready	Percent Participation	Number EAP Test Takers	Percent College-ready
2005-06	Countywide (Santa Clara)	69%	11,790	22%	72%	6,963	21%
	Statewide	75%	312,167	15%	74%	137,067	12%
2006-07	Countywide (Santa Clara)	75%	13,677	24%	67%	7,098	20%
	Statewide	78%	342,348	16%	70%	141,648	12%
2007-08	Countywide (Santa Clara)	82%	14,973	27%	72%	7,918	24%
	Statewide	79%	352,943	17%	70%	147,885	13%
2008-09	Countywide (Santa Clara)	84%	15,676	26%	77%	8,847	26%
	Statewide	82%	366,949	16%	77%	169,478	13%

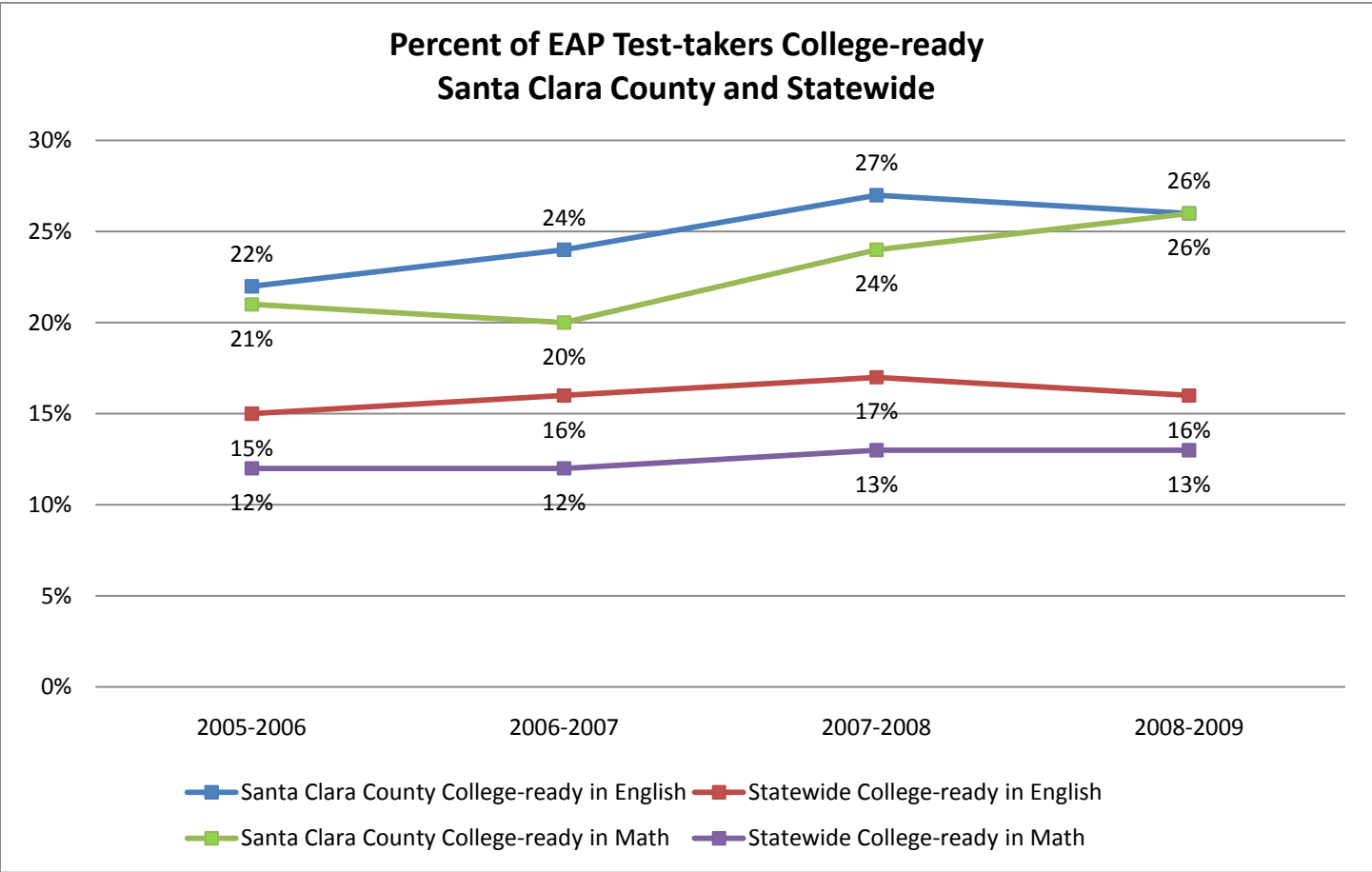


Figure 5

Table 7: 2008-09 Early Assessment Program (EAP) Results by Ethnicity for Santa Clara County and Statewide

Ethnicity		EAP English			EAP Mathematics		
		Percent Participation	Number EAP Test Takers	Percent College-ready	Percent Participation	Number EAP Test Takers	Percent College-ready
Asian	Countywide (Santa Clara)	91%	4,485	41%	78%	3,399	42%
	Statewide	91%	39,701	32%	81%	28,263	32%
White	Countywide (Santa Clara)	89%	4,760	33%	77%	2,999	23%
	Statewide	82%	118,893	25%	76%	60,738	15%
Hispanic	Countywide (Santa Clara)	75%	4,641	8%	73%	1,544	6%
	Statewide	80%	160,682	7%	77%	60,456	4%
African American	Countywide (Santa Clara)	80%	520	14%	75%	207	9%
	Statewide	79%	26,629	8%	71%	9,039	4%

**2008-09 Percent College-ready on Early Assessment Program (EAP) Test
in Santa Clara County and Statewide
by Ethnicity**

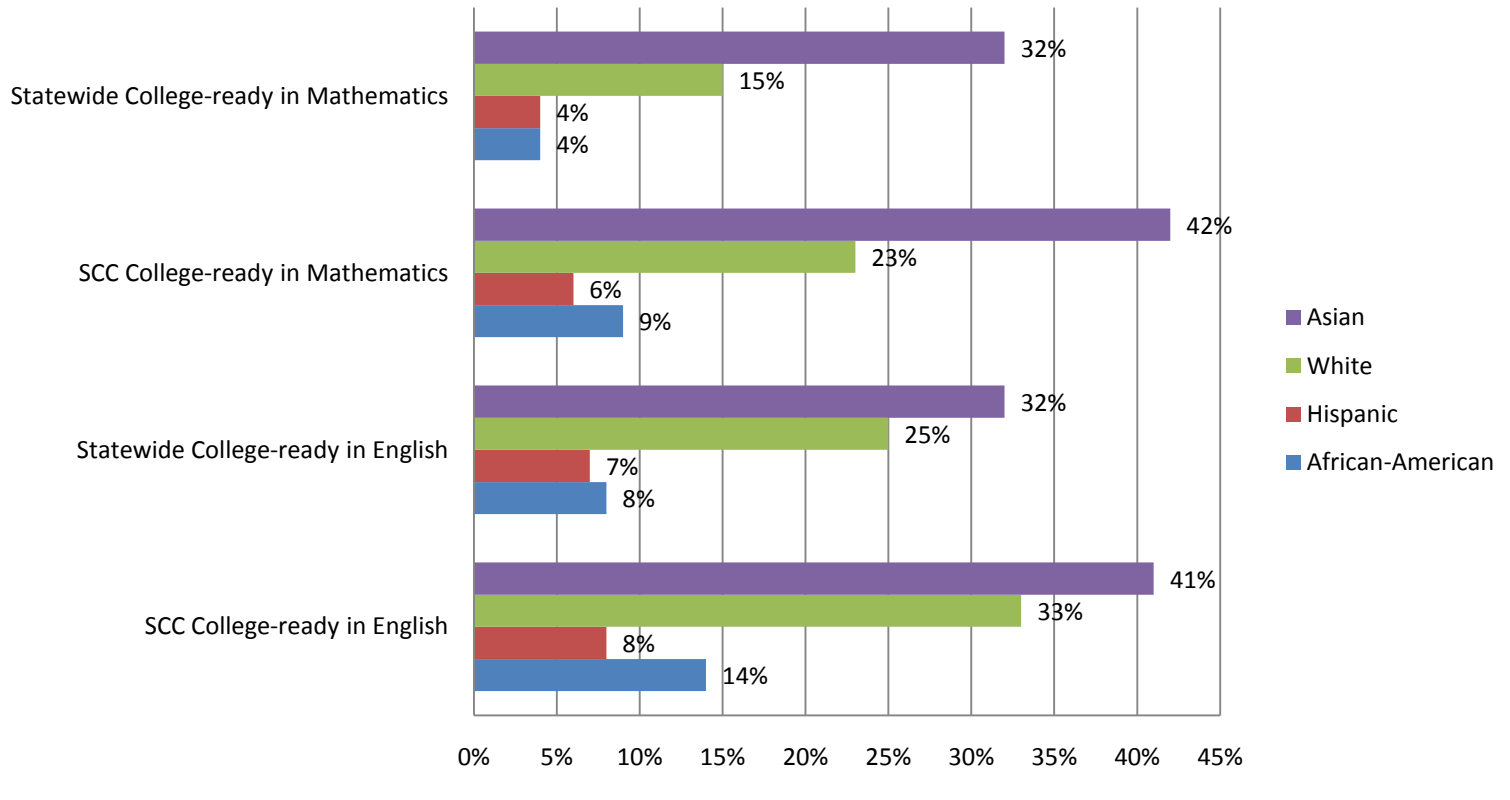


Figure 6