



Question: How did currently enrolled 12th grade students (September 2008) participating in the New Tech High program at Akins High School perform on their TAKS 2007 and 2008 tests, compared with other 12th graders enrolled in Akins High School and across the district?

Findings:

Currently enrolled (September 2008) Akins High School 12th graders participating in the New Tech High (NTH) program had higher 2008 TAKS passing rates in English language arts, science, and social studies, and they made greater gains on TAKS from 2007 to 2008 in English language arts, mathematics, and science, when compared with other currently enrolled Akins High School 12th graders and 12th graders across the district.

New Tech High Students at Akins High School, September 2008

Staff in the Austin Independent School District’s (AISD) Department of Program Evaluation analyzed the 2007 and 2008 TAKS performance for currently enrolled 12th grade students (September 2008) participating in Akins High School’s NTH program, and compared their performance with other currently enrolled 12th graders at Akins High School and all district 12th graders. Students participating in the NTH program self-select into the program, and they are informed of the program’s learning requirements when they are making course choice decisions. The demographics of these NTH 12th graders are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Demographic Summary for Currently Enrolled AISD New Tech High 12th Graders at Akins High School, September 2008

	Number	Percentage
African American	21	18.4%
Hispanic	64	56.1%
White	22	19.3%
Economically Disadvantaged	69	60.5%
Limited English Proficient	*	*
Special Education	*	*
Total	114	100%

Source: District enrollment records as of September 2008

Note. * indicates numbers less than 5 which are not reported.

TAKS 2007 and 2008 Results for New Tech High Students and Comparison Groups

Table 2 shows the 2007 and 2008 cumulative TAKS passing percentages by subject area for currently enrolled 12th graders at Akins High School, comparing NTH students with Akins non-NTH participants, with all currently enrolled 12th graders at Akins, and with all district 12th graders who had test scores both years. NTH students had the highest 2008 TAKS passing rates in English language arts, science, and social studies. From 2007 to 2008, there were gains in percentages passing in each subject tested across all student groups. The greatest percentage point gains among these student groups were made on TAKS science. Comparing student groups, NTH students made the greatest percentage point gains from 2007 to 2008 in English language arts, mathematics and science, while Akins non-NTH students made the greatest gains in social studies.

Table 2: TAKS 2007 and 2008 Passing Percentages for Currently Enrolled 12th Graders at Akins HS (NTH Participants and non-NTH Participants), Compared with all 12th Graders in the District, September 2008

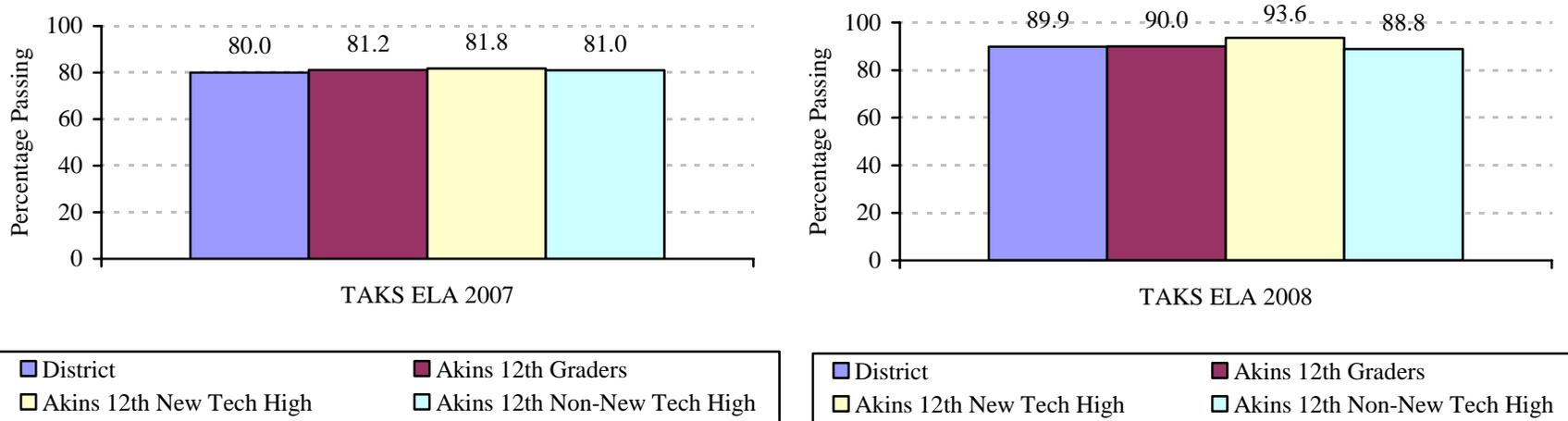
Group	English Language Arts 2007	English Language Arts 2008	Difference	Mathematics 2007	Mathematics 2008	Difference	Science 2007	Science 2008	Difference	Social Studies 2007	Social Studies 2008	Difference
District	80	89.9	9.9	61.3	79	17.7	58.3	81.4	23.1	82.6	94	11.4
Akins	81.2	90	8.8	53.2	73.3	20.1	45.9	78.3	32.4	83	94.4	11.4
Akins Non-NTH	81	88.8	7.8	52.4	72.2	19.8	45.9	76.4	30.5	81.6	93.7	12.1
Akins NTH	81.8	93.6	11.8	55.4	76.6	21.2	45.9	83.9	38	86.9	96.4	9.5

Source: Cumulative 2007 and 2008 TAKS records as of September 17, 2008

Note: Greatest percentage point gains from 2007 to 2008 between groups within TAKS subject are highlighted in green.

Figures 1 through 4 on the following pages provides another view of the TAKS 2007 and 2008 results for these students. The 12th graders enrolled in Akins High School as of September 2008, who are participating in the NTH program, had higher passing rates on their 11th grade, Exit-Level 2008 TAKS tests than did other currently enrolled 12th graders at their school. In some cases, the 12th graders in NTH did better than all 11th grade students tested in the district during 2007-2008. However, this was not always the case in the 2007 TAKS results for these students when they were 10th graders. NTH students had a 93.6% passing rate on the 2008 Exit Level, English Language Arts (ELA) TAKS, which was higher than for other currently enrolled 12th graders at their school and for all AISD 11th graders who took the test (Figure 1). Among the currently enrolled Akins NTH 12th graders, 67.3% had a 2008 TAKS scale score greater than or equal to 2200, which is considered one measure of college readiness. The 2007 results showed few differences among students in these groups.

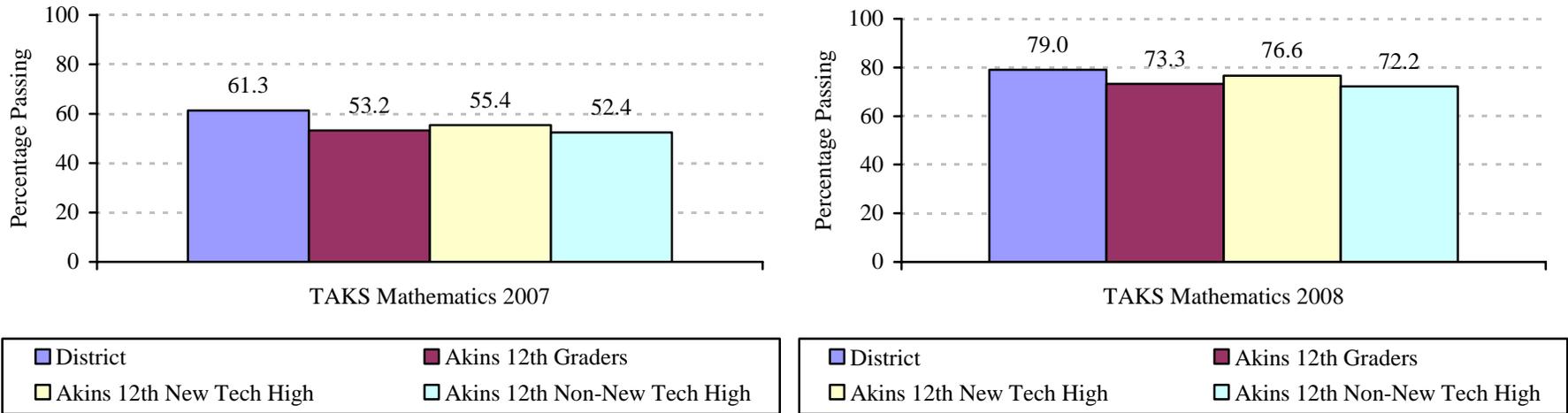
Figure 1: English Language Arts TAKS 2007 and 2008 Passing Percentages for Currently Enrolled 12th Graders at Akins HS, (NTH Participants and non-NTH Participants), Compared with all 12th Graders in the District, September 2008



Source: Cumulative 2007 and 2008 TAKS records as of September 17, 2008

The currently enrolled NTH students had a 76.6% passing rate on the 2008 Exit-Level Mathematics TAKS test, which was higher than for other currently enrolled 12th graders at their school (Figure 2). However, the passing percentage of the NTH students was less than that of all AISD 11th graders (79.0%) who took the Exit-Level Mathematics TAKS test. Among currently enrolled NTH 12th graders at Akins HS, 36.9% had a 2008 TAKS scale score greater than or equal to 2200, which is considered one measure of college readiness. The 2007 TAKS Mathematics results for these students showed similar patterns, although the passing rates were lower in 2007 for all student groups than for the same students in 2008.

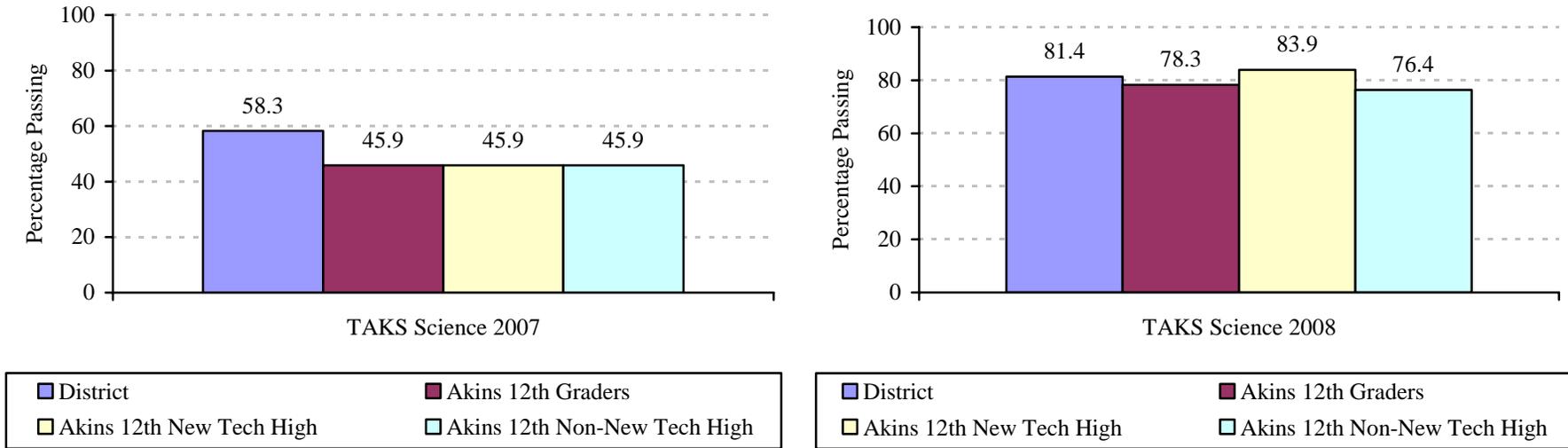
Figure 2: Mathematics TAKS 2007 and 2008 Passing Percentages for Currently Enrolled 12th Graders at Akins HS (NTH Participants and non-NTH Participants), Compared with all 12th Graders in the District, September 2008



Source: Cumulative 2007 and 2008 TAKS records as of September 17, 2008

On the 2008 Exit-Level, Science TAKS test, NTH students had a 83.9% passing rate, which was higher than that of other currently enrolled 12th graders at their school and of all AISD 11th graders who took the test (Figure 3). Among currently enrolled Akins NTH 12th graders, 47.3% had a 2008 TAKS scale score greater than or equal to 2200, which is considered one measure of college readiness. The 2007 TAKS Science results showed that all student groups had lower passing rates than in 2008. In addition, there were no differences in 2007 passing rates among student groups at Akins (45.9%), and the district passing rate for all 10th graders tested that year was greater (58.3%) than for students at Akins.

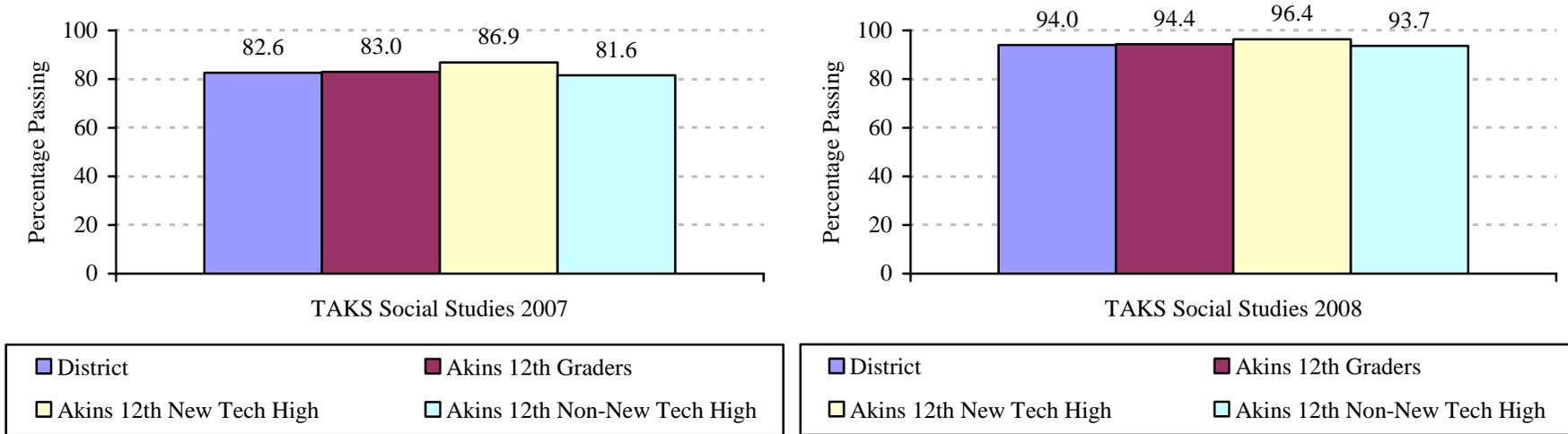
Figure 3: Science TAKS 2007 and 2008 Passing Percentages for Currently Enrolled 12th Graders at Akins HS (NTH Participants and non-NTH Participants), Compared with all 12th Graders in the District, September 2008



Source: Cumulative 2007 and 2008 TAKS records as of September 17, 2008

On the 2008 Exit-Level, Social Studies TAKS test, NTH students had a 96.4% passing rate, which was higher than that of other currently enrolled 12th graders at their school and of all AISD 11th graders who took the test (Figure 4). Among currently enrolled Akins NTH 12th graders, 82.1% had a 2008 TAKS scale score greater than or equal to 2200 which is considered one measure of college readiness. Similar passing rate patterns occurred in 2007 for these student groups, although all 2007 Social Studies passing rates were less than 2008 Social Studies passing rates for these students.

Figure 4: Social Studies 2007 and 2008 Passing Percentages for Currently Enrolled 12th Graders at Akins HS (NTH Participants and non-NTH Participants), Compared with all 12th Graders in the District, September 2008



Source: Cumulative 2007 and 2008 TAKS records as of September 17, 2008