

**RESEARCH BRIEF**

**How did prekindergarten (pre-K) students perform on the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test (PPVT) and the Test de Vocabulario en Imágenes (TVIP) in Fall 2013?** District wide, Austin Independent School District (AISD) pre-K students’ average normal curve equivalent (NCE) score of 40.4 was in the *low average* range on the Peabody (Tables 1 and 2). On average, English language learners (ELLs) scored lower on the Peabody than did non-ELLs.

Each year in the fall and spring semesters, the PPVT and the TVIP (i.e., Spanish version of the PPVT) are provided to a sample of pre-K students across all AISD elementary campuses with a pre-K program. In 2013-2014 the sample was stratified to be representative of each vertical team.

A total of 2,062 pre-K students were tested in Fall 2013. Of those tested, 158 were not tested in their home language; in most cases, those students had a home language other than Spanish or English. Because PPVT/TVIP is age normed on native English and Spanish speakers, students not tested in their home language were eliminated from the analysis.

**Table 1.** Prekindergarten Peabody Normal Curve Equivalent (NCE) Results, by English Language Learner (ELL) Status and Vertical Team, Fall 2013

Vertical team	All tested students		Non-ELL		ELL	
	# students tested	Avg. NCE	# students tested	Avg. NCE	# students tested	Avg. NCE
<b>District wide</b>	<b>1,904</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>43.4</b>	<b>1,090</b>	<b>38.2</b>
Akins	226	39.4	113	41.7	113	37.1
Anderson	40	49.8	26	57.0	14	36.4
Austin	77	62.8	45	63.0	32	62.6
Bowie	29	59.6	27	60.0	-	-
Crockett	204	41.0	115	48.2	89	31.5
Eastside Memorial	115	43.0	54	34.9	61	50.1
Johnson	299	36.4	106	38.3	193	35.4
Lanier	258	39.1	73	36.8	185	40.0
McCallum	139	40.6	75	48.6	64	31.3
Reagan	284	36.6	75	38.2	209	36.0
Travis	233	39.3	105	38.0	128	40.2

Source. AISD student records, Department of Research and Evaluation

**Table 2.** Interpretation of Normal Curve Equivalent (NCE) Scores

Range of performance	NCE scores	National percentile
Very low	1–24	1–11
Low	25–35	12–25
Low average	36–44	26–39
Average	45–55	40–60
High average	56–64	61–74
High	65–75	75–88
Very high	76–99	89–99

**About this report.** Funding for this report was provided by Title I. Pre-K Peabody testing for 2013–2014 was supported through local funds and the Texas Literacy Initiative (TLI) grant.

**How did Peabody performance compare across vertical teams?** On average, the Austin and Bowie elementary school vertical teams had the highest Peabody pretest NCEs across the district and Johnson and Reagan elementary school vertical teams had the lowest Peabody pretest NCEs across the district.

Although non-ELLs, on average, scored higher on the Peabody than did ELLs, pre-K ELLs in the Eastside Memorial vertical team scored significantly<sup>1</sup> higher on the Peabody than did non-ELLs at those schools. Conversely, ELLs in the Anderson, Crockett, and McCallum vertical teams scored significantly lower on the Peabody than did non-ELLs at those schools.

**How did Peabody performance compare across early childhood centers?** Pre-K students at Read, Dobie, and Webb scored lower, on average, on the Peabody than did pre-K students district wide. On average, ELLs scored lower than non-ELLs, except for students at Read and Uphaus.

**Table 3.** Peabody Normal Curve Equivalent (NCE) Results, by English Language Learner (ELL) Status and Early Childhood Center, Fall 2013

	All prekindergarten (pre-K) students		Non-ELL		ELL	
	# students tested	Avg. NCE	# students tested	Avg. NCE	# students tested	Avg. NCE
<b>District wide</b>	<b>1,904</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>43.4</b>	<b>1,090</b>	<b>38.2</b>
Read	212	38.2	51	36.5	161	38.7
Uphaus	65	48.1	15	41.9	50	49.9
Dobie	134	34.9	24	46.8	110	32.3

Source. AISD student records, Department of Research and Evaluation

Please contact the author for permission to reproduce portions of this report if it is not used in its entirety.

**SUPERINTENDENT OF  
SCHOOLS**  
Meria J. Carstarphen Ed.D.

**OFFICE OF  
ACCOUNTABILITY**  
William H. Caritj, M.Ed.

**DEPARTMENT OF  
PROGRAM EVALUATION**  
Holly Williams, Ph.D.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
Vincent M. Torres, President • Gina Hinojosa, Vice President  
Dr. Jayme Mathias, Secretary • Cheryl Bradley • Ann Teich • Amber Elenz •  
Robert Schneider • Tamala Barksdale • Lori Moya



<sup>1</sup> Significance was based on  $p < .05$  for analysis of variance (ANOVA)  $t$ -tests.