

9. College Readiness

What It Is

College readiness is measured by the percentage of high school students who take and complete classes that fulfill entrance requirements at state institutions such as the University of California and the California State University.

Why It Is Important

Increasingly, post-secondary education is important to ensure better life opportunities and income potential. Students who meet the criteria for higher education are more prepared to take advantage of opportunities available to them in the next phase of their lives, which may include a fulfilling job. Schools and communities must work together to provide the support that students need to be able to take advantage of higher education.

How We Are Doing

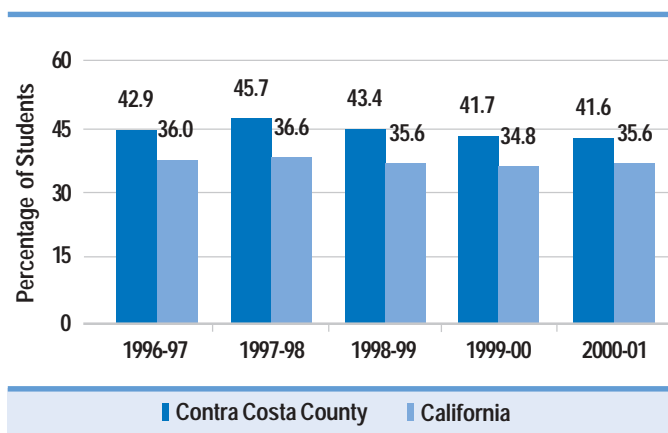
Contra Costa County consistently outperformed the state in the number of high school students prepared for college. SAT-1 verbal and math scores increased from 1999-00 to 2001-02, while decreasing statewide during this time. However, both locally and statewide the percentage of college-ready students decreased, falling from 42.9% locally in 1996-97 to 41.6% in 2000-01 and from 36.0% to 35.6% statewide during the same period. College readiness varied by ethnicity, with 63% of Asian students ready for college compared to 47.6% of Caucasians, 46.3% of Filipinos, 32.7% of American Indians, 27.1% of Pacific Islanders, 19.6% of African Americans, and 18.1% of Latinos.

Figure 9.1 — SAT-1 Scores, Verbal/Math Average, 1999-00 to 2001-02

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
Contra Costa County	1066	1064	1071
California	1099	1008	1006

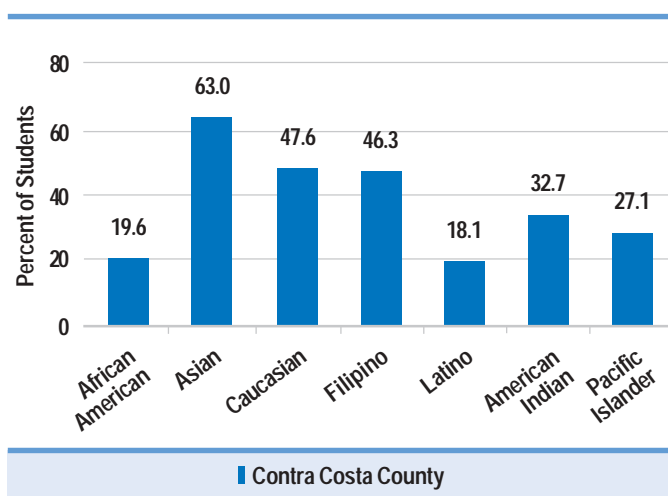
Source: California Department of Education, Education Planning and Information Center, 2003.

Figure 9.2 — Percentage of Students Who Completed College Preparatory Courses



Source: California Department of Education, Educational Demographics Unit, 2002.

Figure 9.3 — Percentage of Students Who Completed College Preparatory Courses by Ethnicity, 2000-2001



Source: California Department of Education, Educational Demographics Unit, 2002.