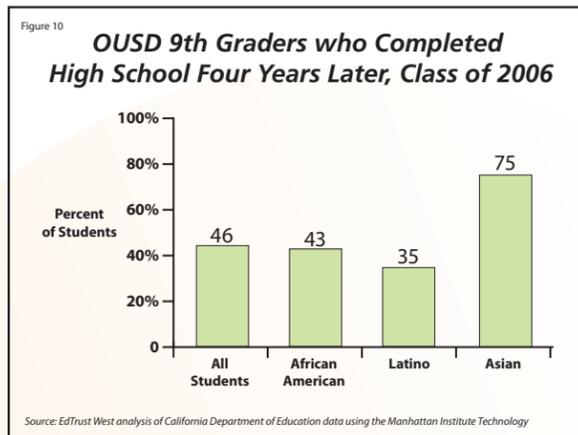


How Many OUSD Students Are Graduating On Time?

It is no surprise that graduation rate data are often unreliable. Indeed, "official" figures tend to be hugely inflated. For example, the CDE and OUSD report that 61% of Oakland Unified students graduated in 2006. Better methodologies, as demonstrated in Figure 10, show wildly different results: Less than one-half of OUSD's 9th graders overall graduate on time, as do only about one-third of Latino young people.

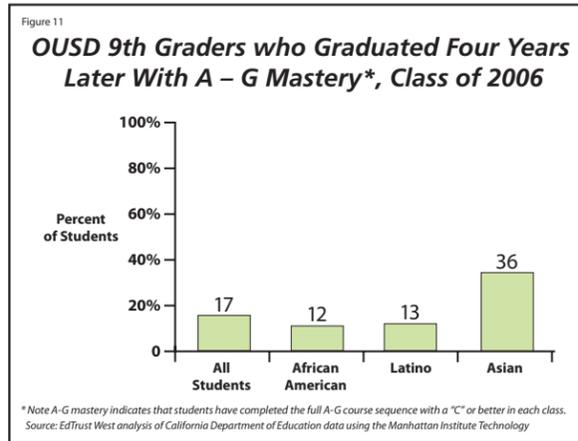


How Many OUSD Students Are Graduating On Time and "College Ready"?

As we have seen in Figure 10, far too few students ever graduate from OUSD. Worse yet, as Figure 11 shows, most of the students that do graduate have not successfully completed the sequence of courses they will need to succeed in life after high school, otherwise known as the A-G curriculum. A-G is made up of 15 courses required for admission to California's four-year public colleges and universities.

The A-G Courses are:

- A – 2 years of college prep History/Social Science
- B – 4 years of college prep English
- C – 3 years of college math, through Algebra II
- D – 2 years of lab science (biological and physical)
- E – 2 years of the same foreign language
- F – 1 year of visual or performing arts
- G – 1 year of a college prep elective



Only 17% of all students in OUSD graduate on time having successfully completed the A-G college preparatory curriculum. And the achievement gaps are even more devastating—only about 12% of African-American and 13% of Latino 9th graders in Oakland will graduate with A-G. That means the vast majority of Oakland's black and brown students that do graduate cannot even apply for admission to the UC and CSU systems. Worse still, without A-G, students will be hard-pressed to secure living wage employment. In today's and tomorrow's economy, A-G means ready for college and career.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

This report provides information on whether OUSD is preparing students for the challenges of 21st century citizenship. Sadly, it reveals that much more needs to be done. Parent and community input is critical to help shape OUSD's response to lagging achievement and damaging achievement gaps.

What you can do:

- Include your voice in shaping OUSD's efforts to make sure all students graduate ready for college and career.
- Participate in district and community forums
- Join a local community based organization and get involved in the growing movement for College and Career Ready for All.
- Know what courses are being offered for high school students.
- Talk to local and district leaders. Find out where they stand on College and Career Ready for All and push them to do the right thing.
- Stay informed. Know the data. Visit www.edtrustwest.org for a link to our webtool "Raising the Roof" for more information about achievement and opportunity in OUSD. Or call our office for help.



A Snapshot of High Schools in the Oakland Unified School District

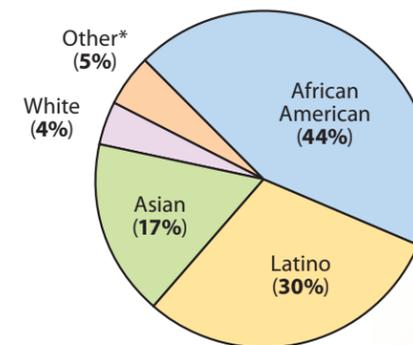
California's high schools are in crisis. Many students never graduate at all and, of those that do, too many are woefully ill-prepared for life after high school. The picture is even more alarming for students in the Oakland Unified School District.

There are, though, some strong signs of hope. Across the district, educators, parents and community activists are working to transform Oakland's schools so they better serve all students. The best place to start is with a good hard look at the data. Powerful information strengthens the hands of good leaders by giving them ammunition to change long-standing patterns and practices that fail our students.

In this report, we start with the data to examine what happens as students journey throughout Oakland's high schools to answer the question: Is Oakland Unified graduating students ready for the 21st century?

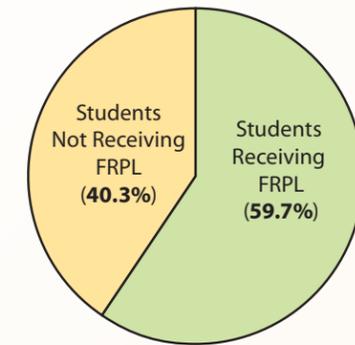
Who Are the Students in Oakland Unified School District?

OUSD High School Students by Ethnicity



* includes Filipino, Native American, Multiple/No Response.

OUSD High School Students Receiving Free and Reduced Price Lunch (FRPL)



Total OUSD Students Grade 9-12 (2007): 13,183

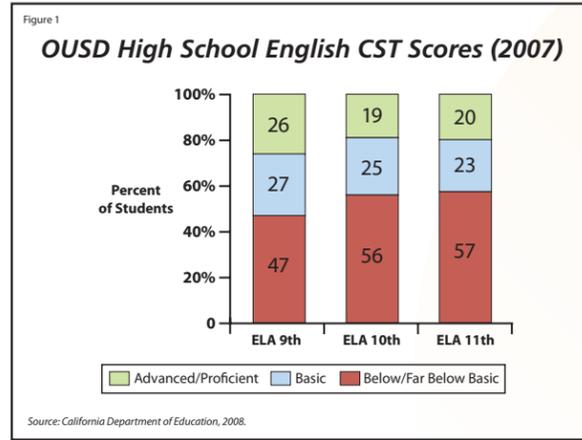
Source: California Department of Education, 2008.



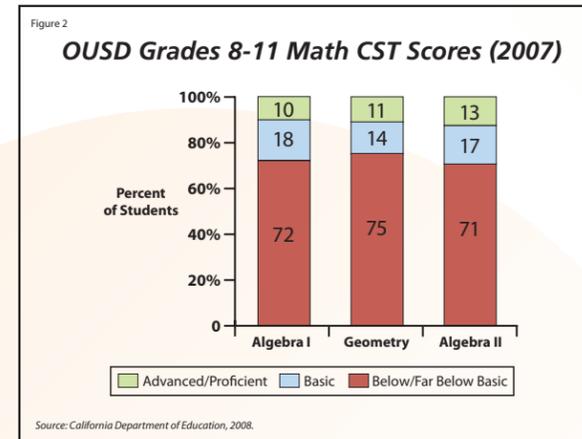
155 Grand Avenue, Suite 1025
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www.edtrustwest.org

Are Oakland High Schools Teaching the Basics?

Let's start by examining student performance to determine if Oakland's high schools are successfully teaching students the fundamental skills they need.

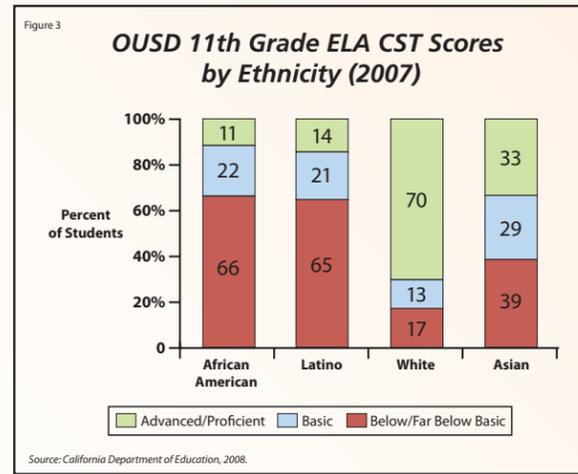


As Figure 1 shows, close to one-half of Oakland's 9th graders have not been taught to read at even the Basic level. Worse yet, by the time students reach the 11th grade, a full 57% are still performing at the Below and Far Below Basic levels. And only one in five of Oakland's 11th graders read at grade level.

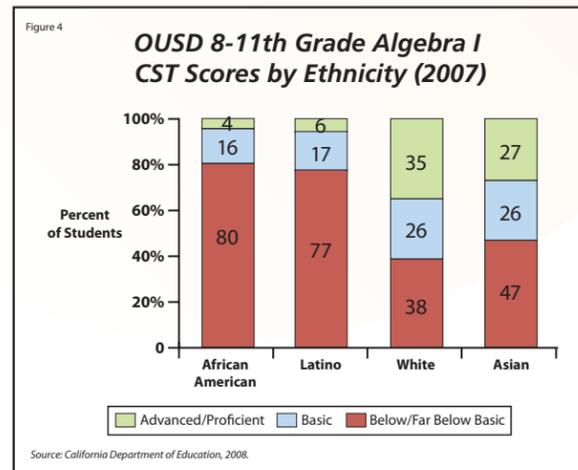


The situation is worse in high school math. Less than a third of students reach the Basic level in any rigorous mathematics course. And in Algebra I – the gateway course to succeed in higher order math – only 10% of students reach Proficiency. (Figure 2)

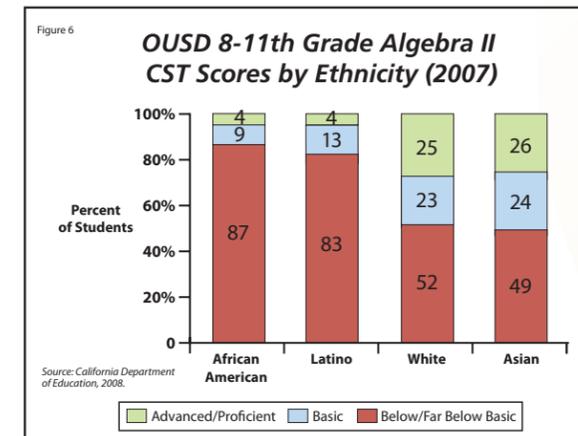
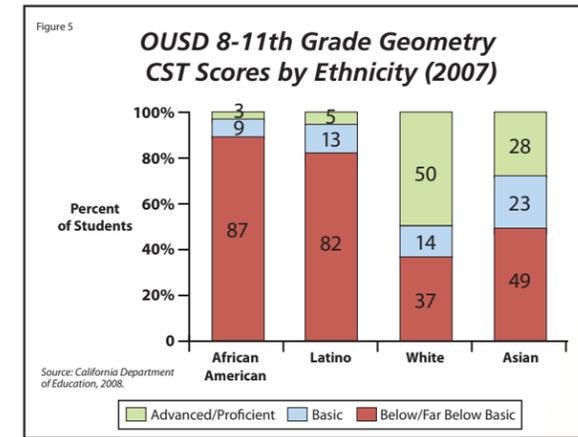
The patterns in Figures 1 and 2 mask even more disturbing trends: the wide achievement gaps separating students of color and those growing up in poverty from their peers.



White 11th graders in Oakland are nearly 7 times more likely than their African-American counterparts to perform at grade level in English. (Figure 3)



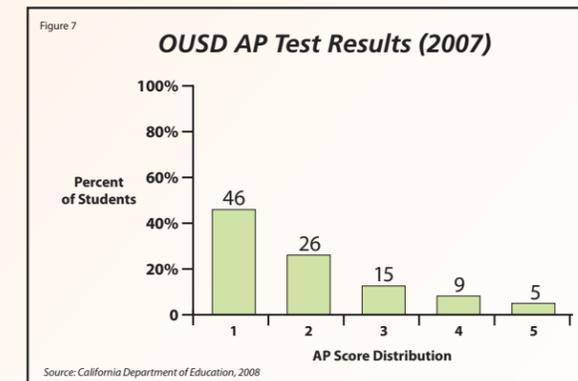
Only 4% of African-American and 6% of Latino students reach Proficient or above on Algebra I. A heartbreaking 80% and 77%, respectively, have not been taught even to the Basic level. By contrast, White and Asian students are well over four times more likely to be Proficient than their African-American and Latino counterparts in Algebra I. (Figure 4)



Scandalous achievement gaps persist in Geometry and Algebra II. There is an access gap because African-American and Latino students are far less likely to be placed in these rigorous courses in the first place. When they are, over 80% are not even taught to the Basic level. (Figures 5 and 6)

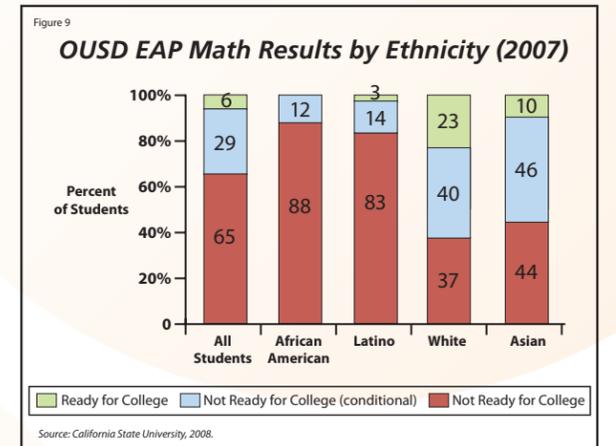
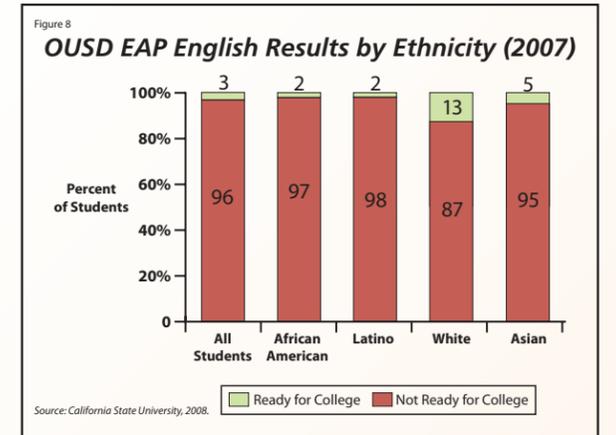
How Are OUSD Students Doing on AP Exams?

Advanced Placement classes are typically the most rigorous courses students can take in high school. A score of 3 or better on an AP test is considered passing. In Oakland, a whopping 72% of students taking the AP tests did not pass. (Figure 7)



Is OUSD Preparing Students to Succeed in College English and Math Courses?

The Early Assessment Program (EAP), measures whether students are ready for college at the end of 11th grade.



Sadly, the EAP reveals that only 3% of Oakland's 11th graders are college ready in English. And only 6% are college ready in Math. Though the college ready picture is bleak for all groups of students in OUSD, here too there are discouraging achievement gaps. (Figures 8 and 9)