

Pandemic, Remote Learning Undo STAAR Test Gains; Texas Student Scores Slide

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Hispanic and Black students' scores on the 2021 exam fell more than those of white students and reversed previous years' gains.

State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) Results

2021 REPORT CARD

Percentage-point change in students who passed



Remote*



In-person

Hispanic

-20

-5

Black

-16

-5.5

White

-8.4

-3.5

Other

-5

-1

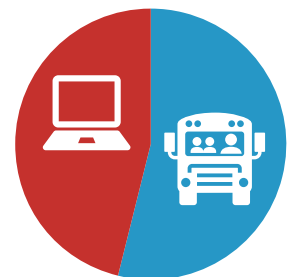
65%

of Texas students in grades 3-8 are Hispanic or Black.

Large share of students remote as of fall 2020

46%
Remote

54%
In-person



Factors affecting remote learners include:

- Reduced control over learning environment
- Inadequate technology/infrastructure



The decline in academic achievement due to the pandemic could affect the future of the Texas workforce and widen racial and ethnic inequality if losses are not quickly reversed.

*Remote (in-person) refers to students in school districts with less than 25% (more than 75%) of students on campus as of October 2020.

NOTES: STAAR scores are not available for 2019-20 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2021 report card shows percentage-point change in students receiving an "approaches grade level" score or better as compared with 2019.

SOURCES: Texas Education Agency; "Pandemic Schooling Mode and Student Test Scores: Evidence from U.S. States," Clare Halloran, Rebecca Jack, James C. Okun and Emily Oster, National Bureau of Economic Research, Working Paper no. 29497, November 2021.