

# RESEARCH BRIEF

No. 63-17

July 2017

## High School Profile – Alexandria City Public Schools: 2015-16

This Research Brief is part of a series of high school profile reports that present key demographic and college readiness statistics for each of the high schools in NOVA's service area. NOVA's service area includes the following jurisdictions: Alexandria City, Arlington County, Fairfax County, Falls Church City, Loudoun County, Manassas City, Manassas Park City, and Prince William County. This Research Brief pertains to the Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) division. The definitions below provide an overview of the statistics that are presented in this Brief.

**Number of Graduates and Completers:** Public high school and graduate completer data are collected on an annual basis during the fall. Graduates include those who received a diploma (standard, advanced studies, special, modified standard, or general achievement). Completers may receive a certificate, such as the General Educational Development (GED) Certificate. The data was retrieved from the Virginia Department of Education High School Graduates and Completers Report: <http://www.doe.virginia.gov>.

The following definitions were retrieved from the Virginia Department of Education (VA DOE) <http://schoolquality.virginia.gov>:

**Enrollment and Demographics:** Includes the number of students enrolled at each high school and key demographic information such as gender and race composition of the student body.

**SAT Scores:** Presents average SAT scores in each SAT section (critical reading, math, and writing) at the high school (College Board), public school division (College Board), and state levels ([VA DOE](#)).

**Standards of Learning (SOL):** The SOLs describe the Commonwealth's expectations for student learning. Virginia high school students are assessed in reading, writing, math, science, and history. The proportion of students who successfully passed standards of learning assessments are presented at the high school, public school division, and state levels.

**Absenteeism:** A student is considered chronically absent if he or she misses two or more instructional days per month (18 days, or 10 percent of a 180-day school year) regardless of whether the absences are excused or unexcused. According to the U.S. DOE, a student who is chronically absent in any year between eighth and twelfth grade is seven times more likely to drop out of school. This Brief presents the proportion of students who were chronically late. Data is presented at the high school, public school division, and state levels.

**Free and Reduced Meal Eligibility:** Students from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the poverty level are eligible for free meals. Those between 130 percent and 180 percent of poverty level are eligible for reduced-price meals, for which students can be charged no more than 40 cents for lunch and 30 cents for breakfast. The proportion of free and reduced meal-eligible students is presented at the high school, public school division, and state levels.

**Advanced Placement Course Enrollment and Test Taking:** Advanced Placement (AP) courses are created by the College Board and offer college-level curricula and examinations to high school students. American colleges and universities may grant placement and course credit to students who obtain high scores on the examinations. The more challenging a student's high school curriculum, the more likely they are to persist at a post-secondary institution.<sup>1</sup> AP course enrollment is presented at the high school, public school division, and state levels.

**Dual Enrollment:** Dual Enrollment is an enrichment opportunity that allows high school students to earn college credits while still being enrolled in high school. Studies show that students who acquire college credits while in high school are more likely to graduate and continue their education beyond high school. The rate of dual enrollment is presented at the high school, public school division, and state levels.

**On-time Graduation Rate within Four Years:** On-time graduates are students who earn high school diplomas within four years of entering the ninth grade. The on-time graduation rate is presented at the high school, public school division, and state levels.

**Postsecondary Enrollment:** Postsecondary enrollment shows the number and percent of Virginia high school graduates who enrolled in an institution of higher education within sixteen months of graduating from high school in 2013-14. The postsecondary enrollment rate is presented at the high school, public school division, and state levels.

---

<sup>1</sup> Warburton, E. C., Bugarin, R., & Nunez, A. M. (2001). Bridging the Gap: Academic Preparation and Postsecondary Success of First-Generation Students. Statistical Analysis Report. Postsecondary Education Descriptive Analysis Reports.

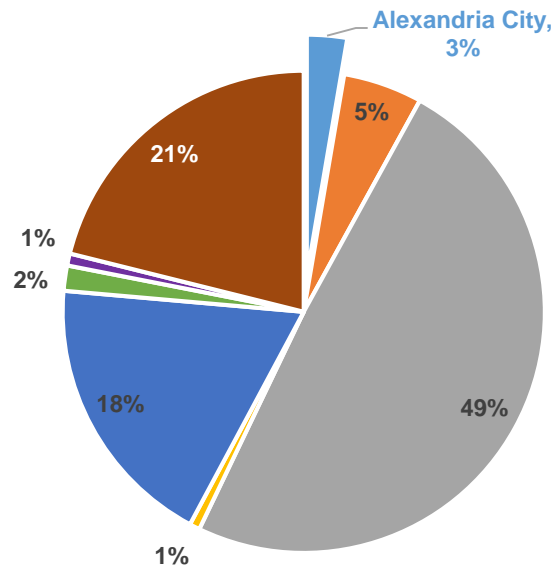
## Inter-Division Snapshot

### Graduates and Completers

In 2015-16, there were 27,243 graduates and completers in NOVA's service area. Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) generated 3 percent of these graduates.

**Figure 1. Graduates and Completers in NOVA's Service Area by Division: 2015-16**

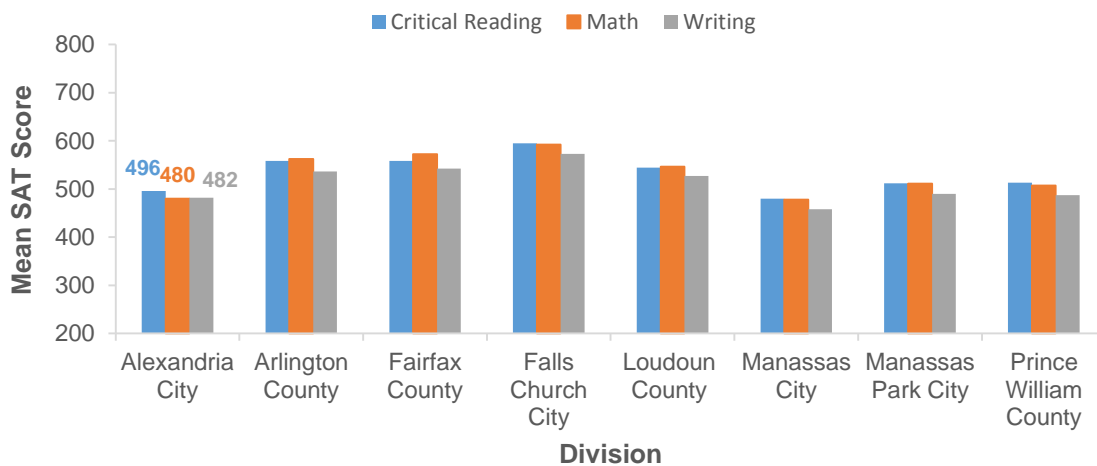
- Alexandria City
- Arlington County
- Fairfax County
- Falls Church City
- Loudoun County
- Manassas City
- Manassas Park City
- Prince William County



### Mean SAT Scores

ACPS average SAT scores across all sections were lower than the state averages in 2016 (see Figure 7: Critical Reading – 516, Math – 513, Writing – 493).

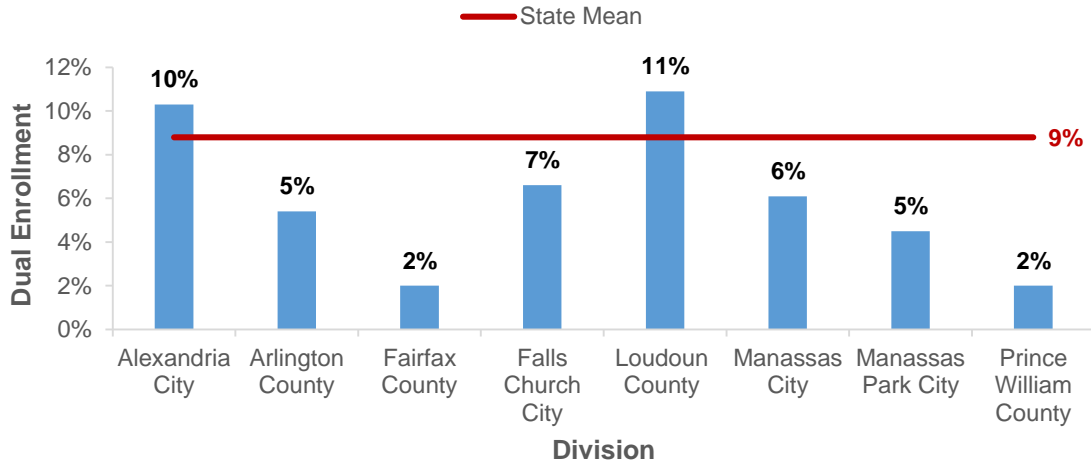
**Figure 2. Mean SAT Scores by Division: 2016**



### Dual Enrollment

In Virginia, 9 percent of students were dual enrolled in 2015-16. The ACPS division had a similar proportion of students dual enrolled in 2015-16, among divisions in NOVA's service area (10 percent).

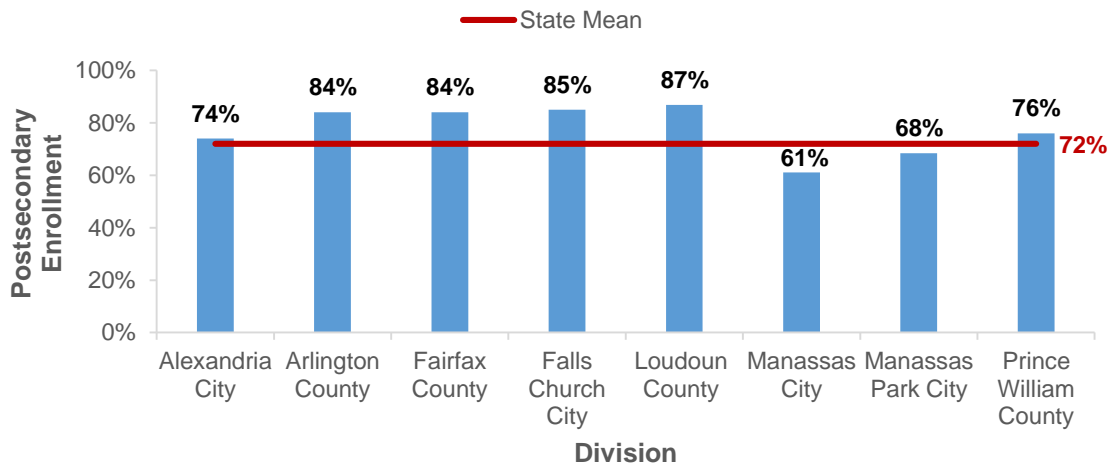
**Figure 3. Proportion of Dual Enrollment Students by Division: 2015-16**



### Postsecondary Enrollment

Postsecondary enrollment pertains to the proportion of high school graduates who enrolled at a two- or four-year institution within sixteen months of graduating in 2013-14. Statewide, 72 percent of the 2013-14 graduate cohort enrolled at a postsecondary institution by 2016. In the ACPS division, the postsecondary enrollment rate was 74 percent.

**Figure 4. Rate of Postsecondary Enrollment by Division: 2013-14 Graduate Cohort**



## Alexandria City Public Schools

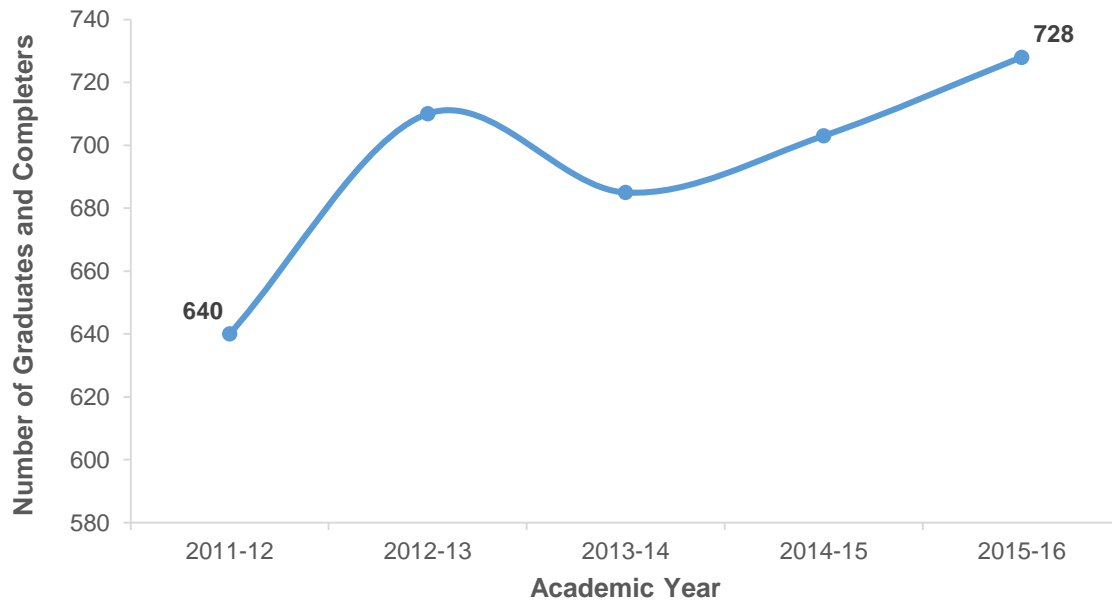
T.C. Williams is the only high school in the Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) division. The number of graduates and completers has increased by 14 percent from 2011-12 to 2015-16.

The average SAT scores of T.C. Williams high school students were lower than the state average in 2016 (by up to 33 points). T.C. Williams high school students also had lower pass rates on the SOLs than the state averages (with the exception of Reading which was the same: 80 percent). In particular, on the math SOL, 59 percent of T.C. Williams students passed in comparison to the state pass rate of 80 percent. One-quarter of T.C. Williams high school students were absent for greater than 10 percent of the 2015-16 academic year and 60 percent of students were eligible for free or reduced-cost meals. In comparison to the state rate, students from T.C. Williams High School graduated on time at a lower rate. The postsecondary enrollment rate for the high school was two percentage points higher than the state rate (74 percent versus 72 percent).

**Table 1. Alexandria City Public School Graduates and Completers by High School:  
2011-12 through 2015-16**

High School	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Change from 2011-12
T.C. Williams	640	710	685	703	728	13.8%

**Figure 5. Alexandria City Public School Graduates and Completers:  
2011-12 through 2015-16**



**School: T.C. Williams High School**

**Table 2. T.C. Williams High School Graduates and Completers: 2011-12 through 2015-16**

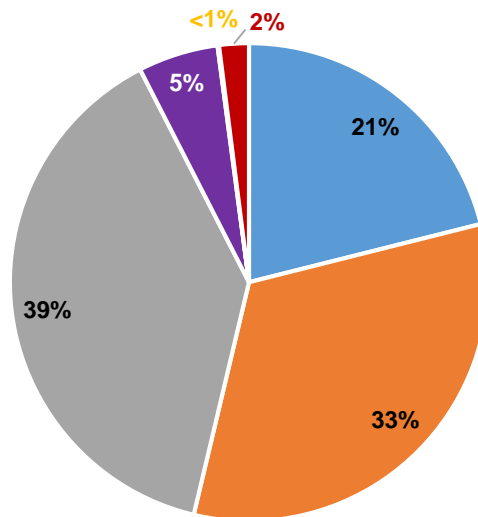
High School	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Change from 2011-12
T.C. Williams	640	710	685	703	728	13.8%

**Table 3. T.C. Williams High School Student Enrollment by Gender: 2015-16**

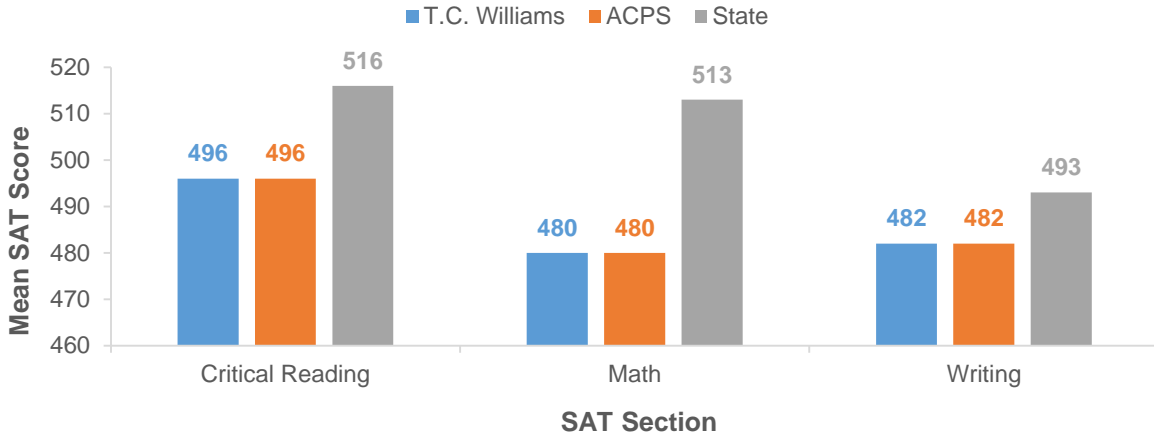
High School	HS Enrollment 2015-16	Male		Female	
		#	%	#	%
TC Williams	3,631	1,887	52.0%	1,744	48.0%

**Figure 6. T.C. Williams High School Student Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity: 2015-16**

■ White   
 ■ Black   
 ■ Hispanic   
 ■ Asian   
 ■ American Indian   
 ■ Two or More



**Figure 7. T.C. Williams High School Students' Mean SAT Scores: 2016**



**Table 4. T.C. Williams High School Students' Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) Assessments: 2015-16**

Subject	Passed (Proficient or Advanced Levels)		
	T.C. Williams	Alexandria City Public Schools	State
Reading	80%	73%	80%
Writing	74%	69%	77%
Math	59%	67%	80%
Science	72%	69%	83%
History	74%	77%	86%

**Table 5. T.C. William High School Student Characteristics: 2015-16**

Characteristics	T.C. Williams	Alexandria City Public Schools	State
Students Absent for >10% of School Year	25.1%	12.1%	11.1%
Free and Reduced Meal Eligibility	59.9%	58.9%	41.9%
Advance Placement Course Enrollment	14.5%	14.5%	21.3%
Advance Placement Test Taken	14.5%	14.5%	16.4%
Dual Enrollment	10.3%	10.3%	8.8%
On-Time Graduation Rate within Four Years	82.2%	82.2%	91.4%
Postsecondary Enrollment*	74.4%	74.4%	71.9%

\*2013-14 Graduate Cohort's Postsecondary Enrollment