MORNING CONSULT[®]

OcollegeBoard

PREFERENCES OF PARENTS AND STUDENTS ON COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

Polling Presentation

SEPTEMBER 2022

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ABOUT US

Morning Consult is a global data intelligence company delivering insights on what people think in real time. By surveying tens of thousands across the globe every day, Morning Consult is unmatched in scale and speed: It determines the true measure of what people think and how their decisions impact business, politics and the economy.

Industry leaders rely on Morning Consult's proprietary technology and analysis for real-time intelligence to transform information into a competitive advantage.

38

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary4Methodology21Appendix26General Views of Admissions & College Entrance Exams27

Views of Score Submission Approaches

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

KEY POINTS

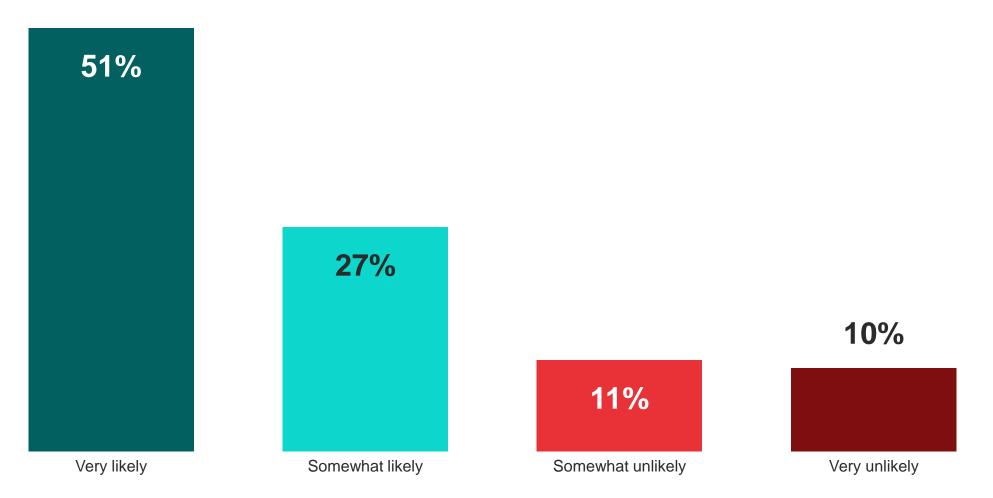
- The majority of high school students and parents believe there is value in a college education.
 - Close to 80% of U.S. high school students report being at least somewhat likely to attend a 4-year college within 3 years of graduating high school.
 - 2 out of 3 students who plan to attend college say that their primary reason for wanting to do so is to get the job they want.
 - More than 40% cite being exposed to many different types of people and perspectives as a secondary reason for attending college.
 - Over 70% of students and parents believe that a college degree holds the same or higher value now as it did before the pandemic.
- When asked about preparedness for college, most parents (56%) and students (54%) reported they/their child feels "somewhat prepared."
 - Only 12% of students and 20% of parents reported feeling they/their child is very prepared for college.
 - 31% of students and 21% of parents chose "not too prepared" or "not prepared at all." (4% of both students and parents answered "don't know/no opinion.")
- Most high school students and parents believe the college admissions process is both difficult and fair.
 - Three-in-five students (60%) and parents (61%) believe the college admissions process is fair.
 - While parents across income levels are equally likely to agree that the college admissions process is fair (61%), those with income levels below \$50K (26%) are more likely to *strongly agree* than parents with higher income levels (17%).
 - More than 64% of students and approximately 60% of parents think the admissions process is generally difficult.
- Many students and parents believe that college entrance exams provide students an equal opportunity to showcase their strengths, regardless of their background.
 - Across racial and ethnic demographics, parents and students are in consensus that college entrance exams, along with GPA, provide students the most equal opportunity to showcase their strengths over other admissions criteria.
 - College entrance exams were number 3 in this ranking for students (among 10 admissions criteria) and number 2 in the ranking for parents.
- Approximately 80% of students and parents want college entrance exams to continue to have a role in college admissions, either as optional or required. These findings are consistent across racial and gender demographics.
 - 70% of students and 57% prefer SAT/ACT to be optional for admissions.
 - 19% of students and 17% of parents prefer students not be permitted to submit SAT/ACT scores for admission.
 - 11% of students and 26% of parents prefer SAT/ACT to be required for college admissions.

PREFERENCES OF PARENTS AND STUDENTS ON COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

About four-in-five students (78%) are likely to attend a four-year college within three years of graduating high school.

How likely or unlikely it is for you to attend a four-year college within three years of graduating high school?

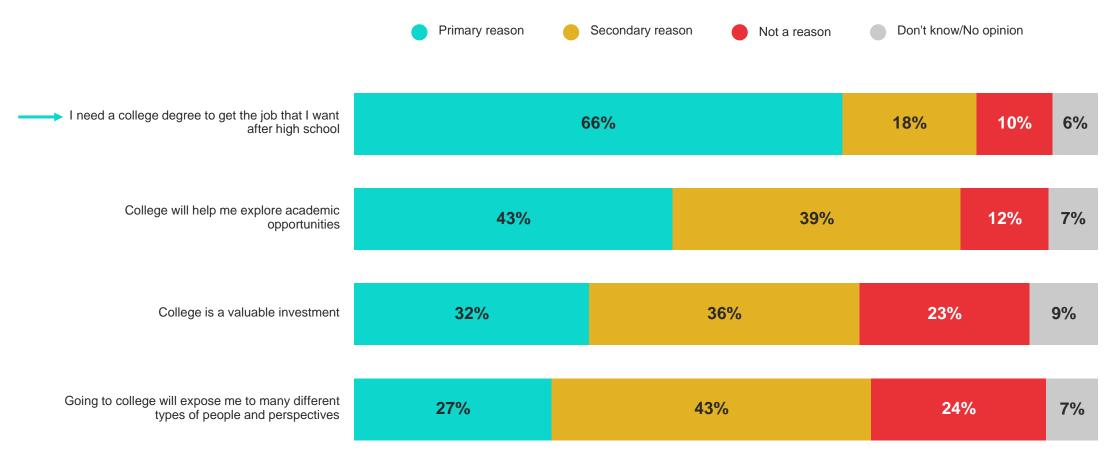
AMONG STUDENTS



GENERAL VIEWS OF ADMISSIONS & COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

Students are most likely to say their *primary reason* for attending college after high school is that they *need a college degree to get the job they want after high school* (66%).

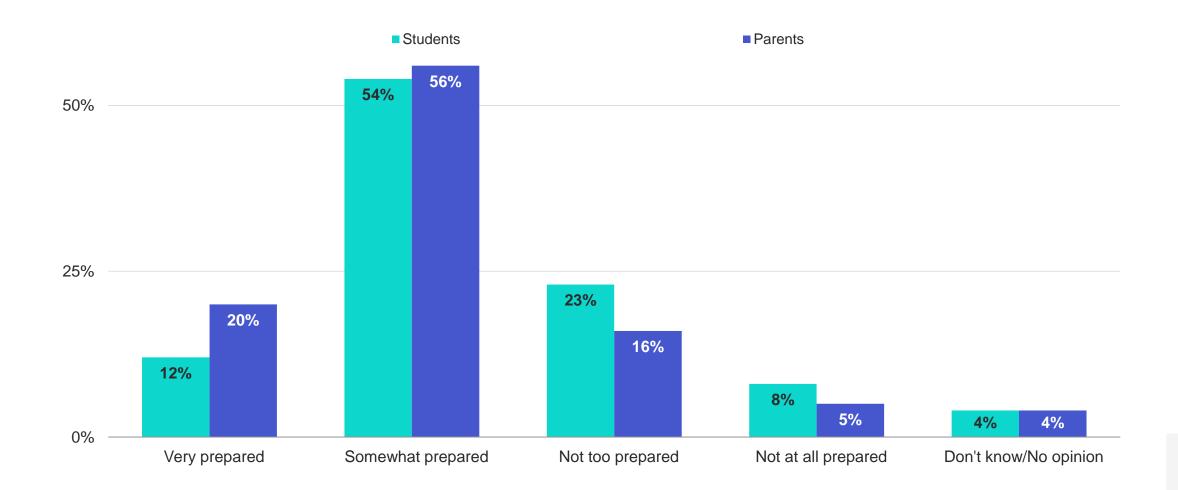
For you personally, how much of a reason is each of the following on why you plan to attend college after graduating from high school?



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GENERAL VIEWS OF ADMISSIONS & COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

Majorities of parents (76%) and students (66%) say they/their child feels *prepared* for college. How prepared do you/your child feel for college?

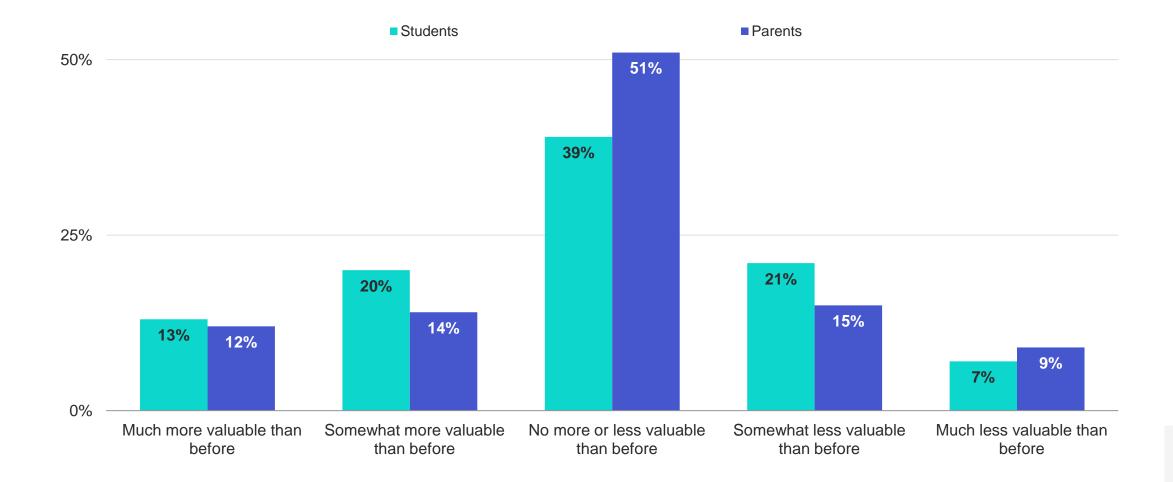


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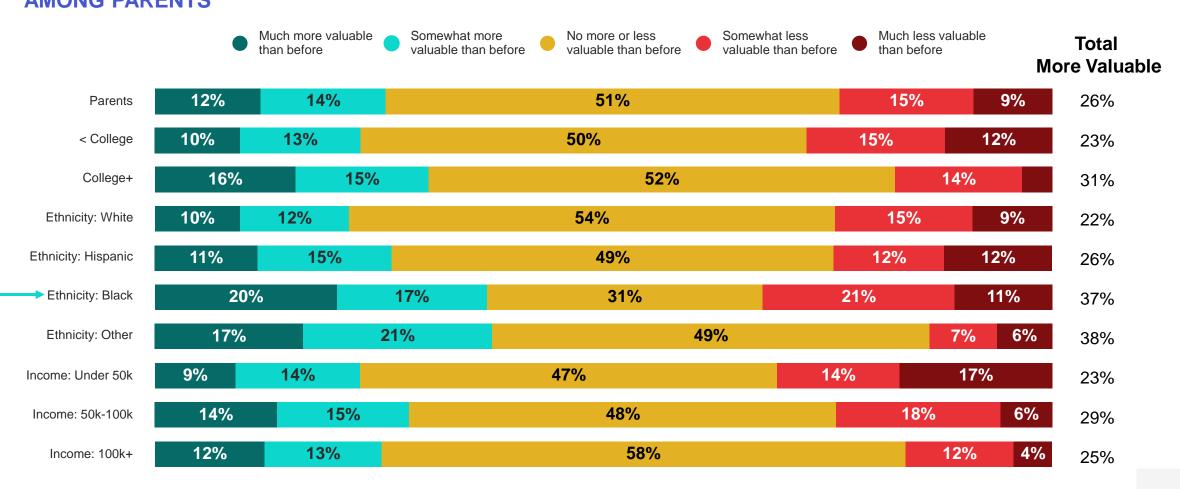
GENERAL VIEWS OF ADMISSIONS & COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

Over 70% of students and 77% of parents believe that a college degree holds the same or higher value now as it did before the COVID-19 pandemic.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, would you say a college degree is?



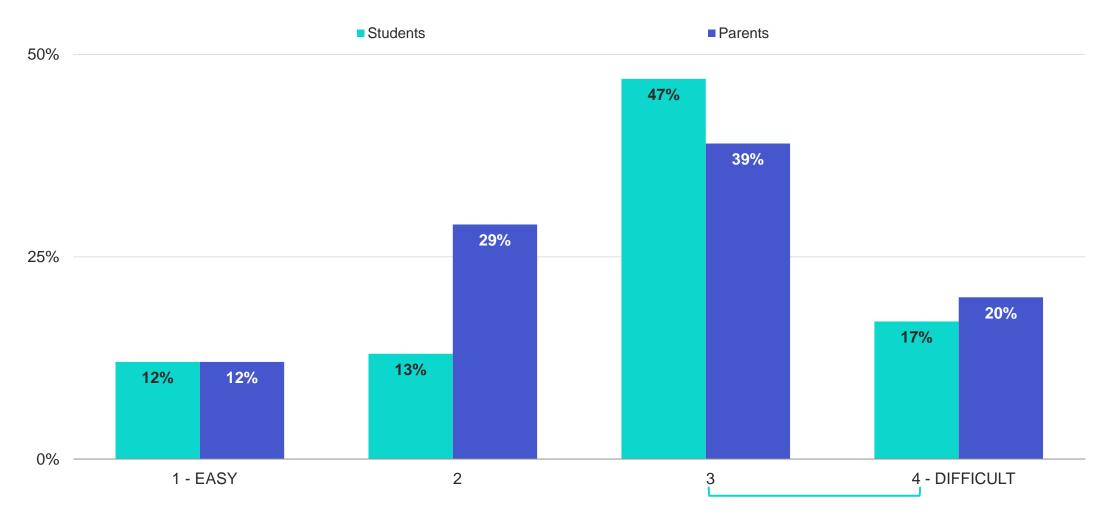
Black adults are more likely than Hispanic or white adults to say a college degree is *more* valuable than before the pandemic, but less likely to say it is *the same value* pre-pandemic. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, would you say a college degree is?



Note: Asian-American parents not included due to insufficient N size [N=33].

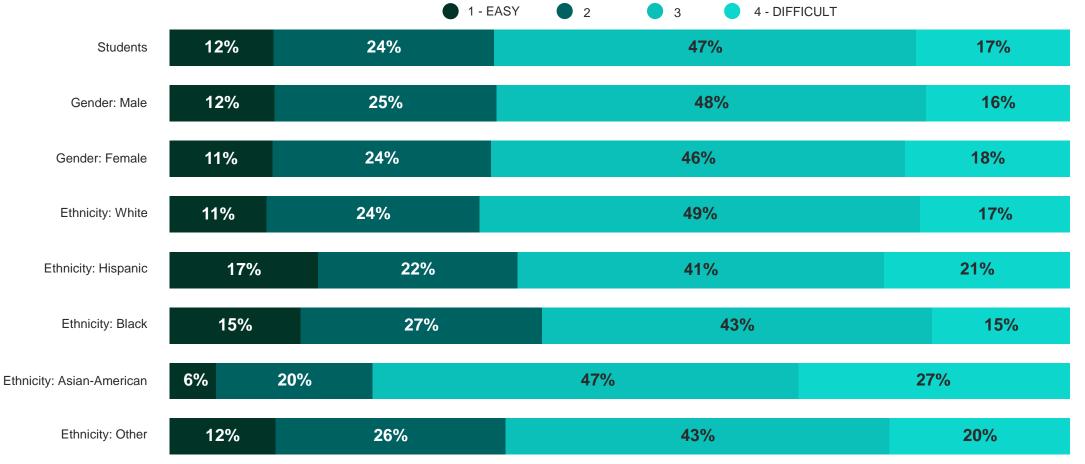
Majorities of students (64%) and parents (59%) *agree* the college admissions process is currently *difficult* as it stands.

In your opinion, which of the following words best describes the college admissions process as it currently stands? For each question, please place yourself along the spectrum from Strongly Agree with Word 1 to Strongly Agree with Word 2. **EASY/DIFFICULT**



There are no significant differences by gender or ethnicity on how easy or difficult the college admissions process is perceived as it currently stands.

In your opinion, which of the following words best describes the college admissions process as it currently stands? For each question, please place yourself along the spectrum from Strongly Agree with Word 1 to Strongly Agree with Word 2. **EASY/DIFFICULT AMONG STUDENTS**

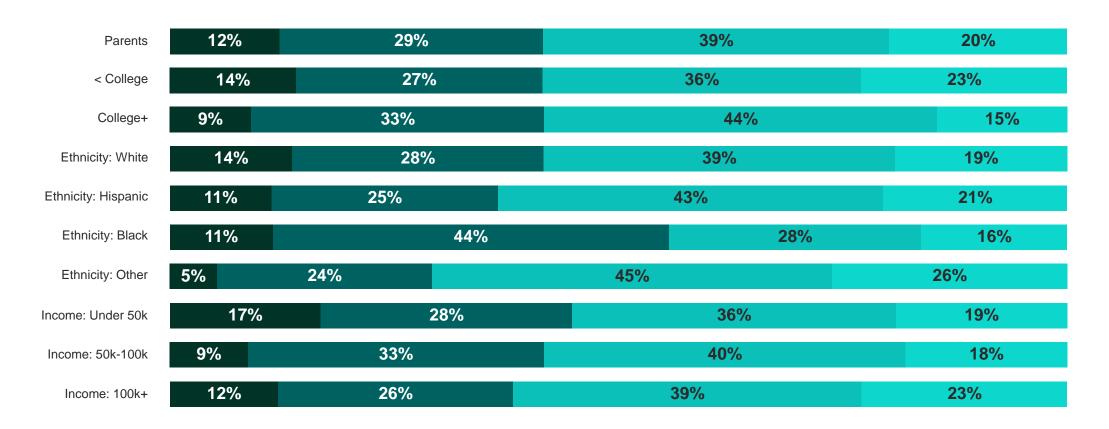


Note: Asian-American students do not differ significantly from adults of other race/ethnicity groups in this question due to margin of error (+/-12%).

Parents' opinions vary more widely than students on the difficulty of the college admissions process as it currently stands.

In your opinion, which of the following words best describes the college admissions process as it currently stands? For each question, please place yourself along the spectrum from Strongly Agree with Word 1 to Strongly Agree with Word 2. EASY/DIFFICULT **AMONG PARENTS** 1 - EASY 4 - DIFFICULT 2

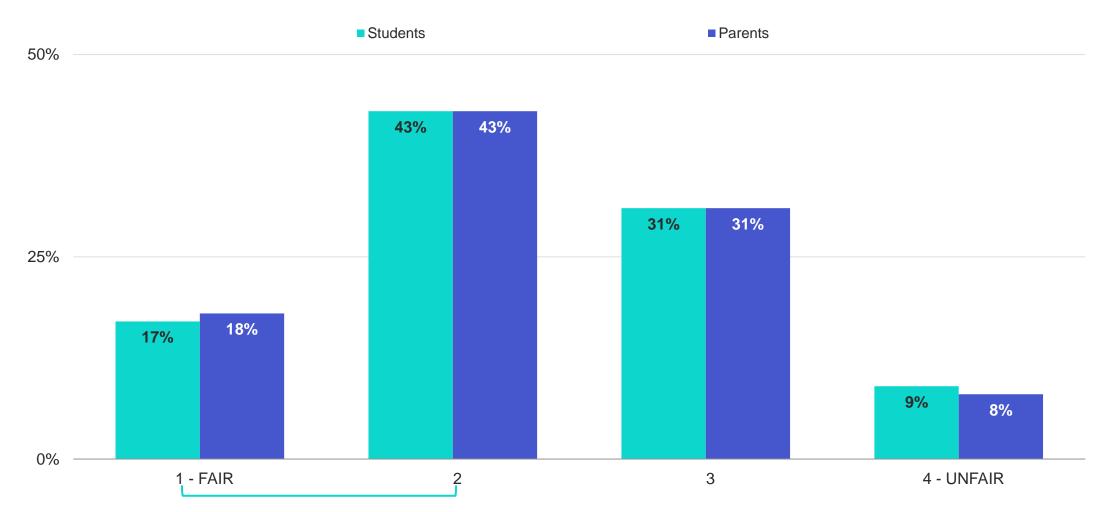
3



GENERAL VIEWS OF ADMISSIONS & COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

Three-in-five students (60%) and parents (61%) *agree* the college admissions process is *fair* as it currently stands.

In your opinion, which of the following words best describes the college admissions process as it currently stands? For each question, please place yourself along the spectrum from Strongly Agree with Word 1 to Strongly Agree with Word 2. **FAIR/UNFAIR**



Parents with incomes below \$50k (26%) are more likely than those with higher incomes to *strongly agree* the college admissions process is *fair* as it currently stands.

2

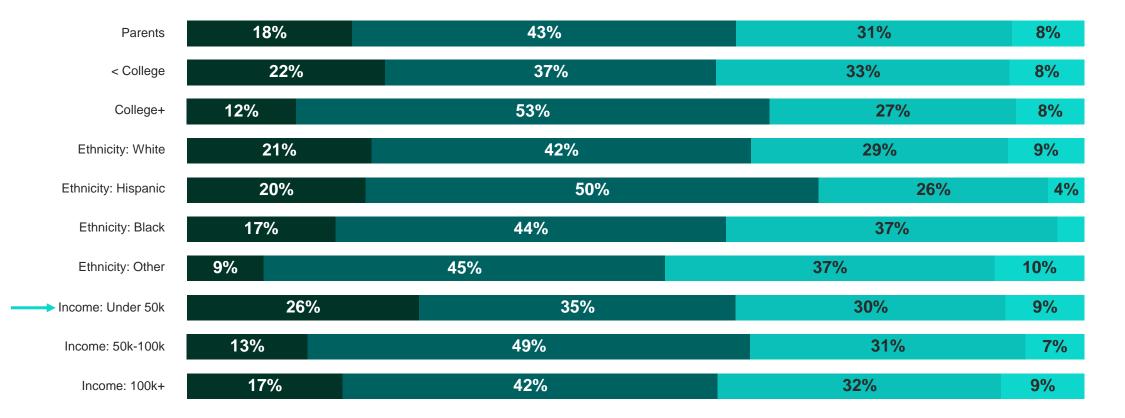
In your opinion, which of the following words best describes the college admissions process as it currently stands? For each question, please place yourself along the spectrum from Strongly Agree with Word 1 to Strongly Agree with Word 2. **FAIR/UNFAIR**



1 - much more to 'Fair'

3

4 - much more to 'Unfair'



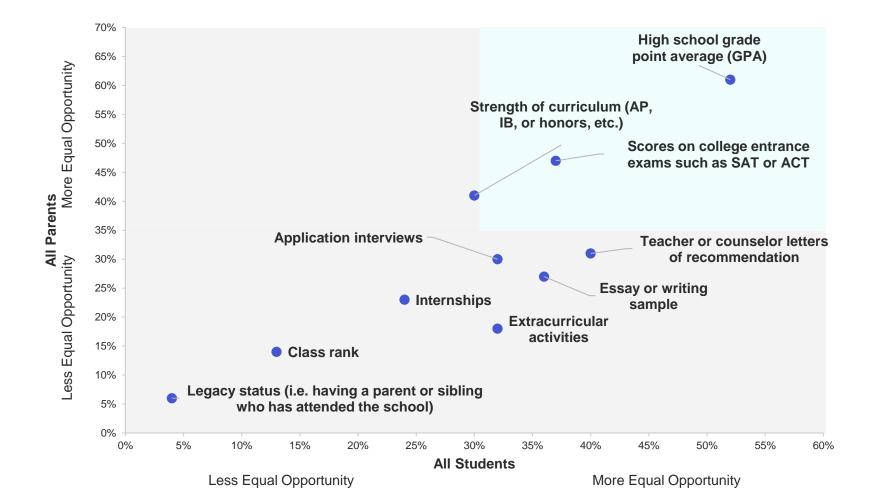
Note: Asian-American parents not included due to insufficient N size [N=33].

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PREFERENCES OF PARENTS AND STUDENTS ON COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

Parents and students are in consensus that college entrance exams, along with GPA, provide students the most equal opportunity to showcase their strengths over other admissions criteria.

Which of the following admissions criteria do you think provides students the most equal opportunity to showcase their strengths, regardless of their background? Select your top three. **% Selected**



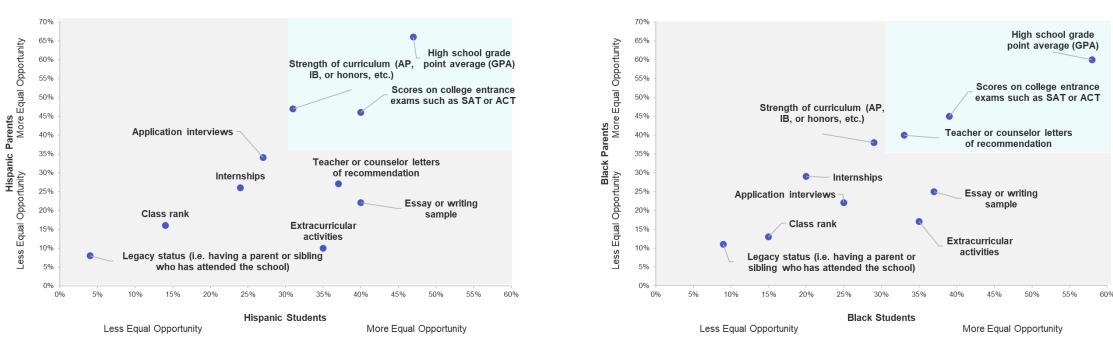
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PREFERENCES OF PARENTS AND STUDENTS ON COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS (ALL)

Hispanic Parents and Students

Similar to the overall responses, Hispanic and Black parents and students agree that college entrance exams, along with GPA, provide students the most equal opportunity to showcase their strengths.

Which of the following admissions criteria do you think provides students the most equal opportunity to showcase their strengths, regardless of their background? Select your top three. **% Selected**



Black Parents and Students

The number of responses for Asian American responses was insufficient to show in this matrix (students N=62 and parents N=33).

PREFERENCES OF PARENTS AND STUDENTS ON COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

Lower- (51%) and mid-income (50%) parents are more likely than high-income (39%) parents to say *scores on college entrance exams* provide students the most equal opportunity to showcase their strengths.

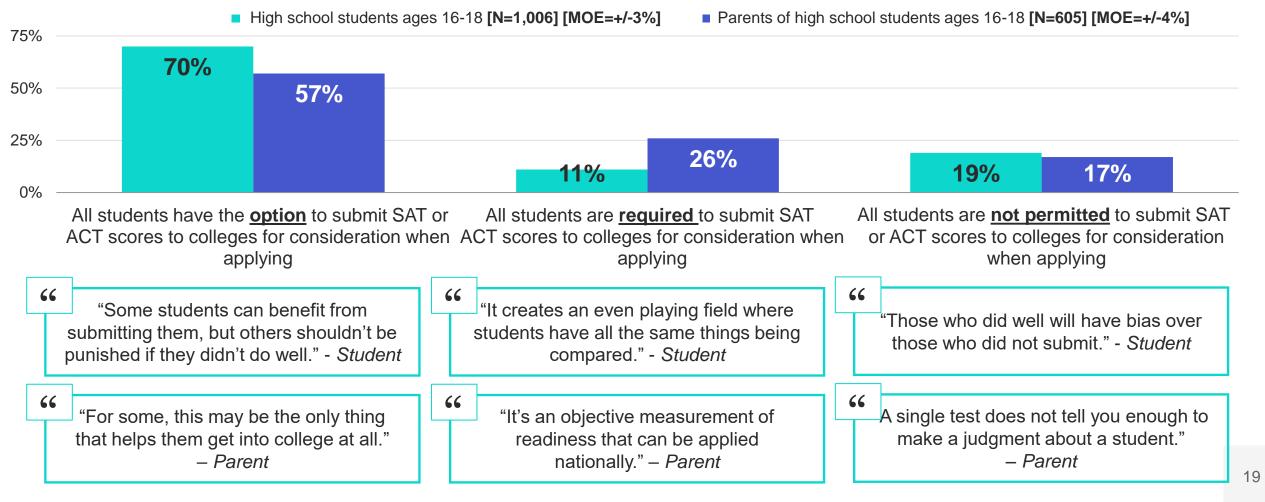
Which of the following admissions criteria do you think provides students the most equal opportunity to showcase their strengths, regardless of their background? Select your top three. **% Selected**

AMONG PARENTS	Parents	Gender: Male	Gender: Female	Ethnicity: White	Ethnicity: Hispanic	Ethnicity: Black	Ethnicity: Other	Income: < 50k	Income: 50-100k	Income: 100k+
High school grade point average (GPA)	61%	61%	62%	59%	66%	60%	75%	59%	66%	59%
Scores on college entrance exams such as SAT or ACT	47%	48%	46%	46%	46%	45%	56%	51%	50%	39%
Strength of curriculum (AP, IB, or honors, etc.)	41%	44%	39%	39%	47%	38%	54%	39%	39%	47%
Teacher or counselor letters of recommendation	31%	28%	34%	31%	27%	40%	22%	41%	26%	27%
Application interviews	30%	30%	31%	33%	34%	22%	24%	29%	31%	32%
Essay or writing sample	27%	22%	31%	28%	22%	25%	23%	21%	27%	32%
Internships	23%	25%	22%	24%	26%	29%	18%	28%	20%	23%
Extracurricular activities	18%	19%	18%	20%	10%	17%	14%	11%	23%	21%
Class rank	14%	17%	11%	14%	16%	13%	13%	10%	16%	16%
Legacy status	6%	6%	7%	7%	8%	11%	0%	11%	3%	5%

Note: Asian-American parents not included due to insufficient N size [N=33].

PREFERENCES OF PARENTS AND STUDENTS ON COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

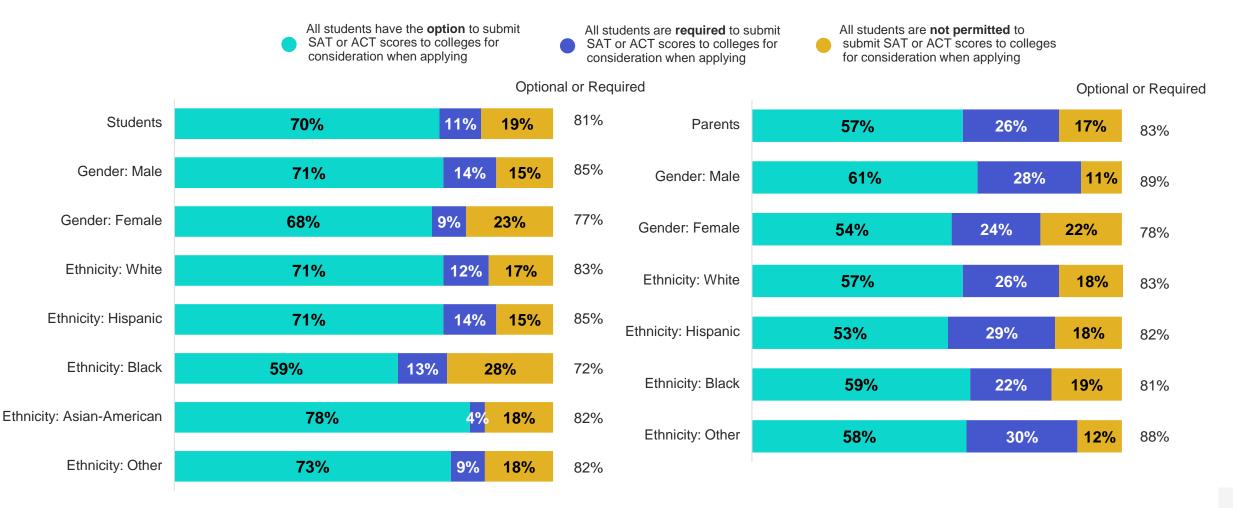




PREFERENCES OF PARENTS AND STUDENTS ON COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

Across the key demographics, parents and students prefer to have an option or requirement to submit college entrance exam scores over the restriction of not having a choice.

Thinking about your college applications, would you prefer...?



Note: Asian-American parents not included due to insufficient N size [N=33].

ACADEMIC RESEARCH FUNDING

METHODOLOGY

RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

The research was conducted by Morning Consult on behalf of The College Board and Bloomberg Philanthropies to understand the perspectives of students and parents on postpandemic college admissions. This study, based on a nationally-representative sample of 16-18-year-old U.S. high school students and their parents, provides unique insights on what parents and students want from the college admissions process – particularly with respect to college entrance exams.

METHODOLOGY STATEMENT

These polls were conducted between August 22-September 3^{rd} , 2022 among samples of 1,006 students and 605 parents. The interviews were conducted online. Results from the full surveys have a margin of error of +/- 3 percentage points (students) and +/- 4 percentage points (parents).

STUDENT SURVEY DEMOGRAPHIC DEFINITIONS

DEMOGRAPHIC	WEIGHTED (N)	%	DEFINITION
Students	1,006	100%	High school students ages 16-18 in grades 11-12
Gender: Male	521	52%	Male students
Gender: Female	485	48%	Female students
Ethnicity: White	661	66%	White students (includes Hispanic and non-Hispanic)
Ethnicity: Hispanic	239	24%	Hispanic students
Ethnicity: Black	152	15%	Black students (includes Hispanic and non-Hispanic)
Ethnicity: Asian- American	62	6%	Asian-American students (includes Hispanic and non-Hispanic)
Ethnicity: Other	194	19%	Students of another race or ethnicity (includes Hispanic and non-Hispanic)
1 st Gen	387	38%	Students with no parent(s) that have completed a four-year college degree or more education
Test Takers	856	85%	Students who have taken and/or are planning to take the SAT or ACT
Non-Test Takers	150	15%	Students who have not taken and have no plans to take the SAT and ACT
High Achievers	318	32%	Students currently in/have previously taken AP/IB courses and with a weighted GPA of 3.7+

PARENT SURVEY DEMOGRAPHIC DEFINITIONS

DEMOGRAPHIC	WEIGHTED (N)	%	DEFINITION
Parents	605	100%	Parents of high school students ages 16-18 in grades 11-12
Educ: < College	381	63%	Parents who have not completed a 4-year college degree
Educ: College+	224	37%	Parents who have completed a 4-year college degree or more education
Ethnicity: White	447	74%	White parents (includes Hispanic and non-Hispanic)
Ethnicity: Hispanic	129	21%	Hispanic parents
Ethnicity: Black	73	12%	Black parents (includes Hispanic and non-Hispanic)
Ethnicity: Other	84	14%	Parents of another race or ethnicity (includes Hispanic and non-Hispanic)
Income: Under 50k	185	31%	Parents whose annual household income is below \$50,000
Income: 50k-100k	236	39%	Parents whose annual household is between \$50,000-\$100,000
Income: 100k+	184	30%	Parents whose annual household is above \$100,000

Note: Asian-American parents not included due to insufficient N size [N=33].

OPEN-ENDED ANALYSIS APPROACH



PREPROCESS

Leverage Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques to standardize responses



ENRICH Enrich our understanding of each response via artificial neural networks trained on massive quantities of text data



ANALYZE

Apply an NLP technique called Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency (TF-IDF) to compare and analyze documents



SYNTHESIZE

Cluster responses into coherent, distinct narratives by conducting unsupervised machine learning modeling ACADEMIC RESEARCH FUNDING

APPENDIX

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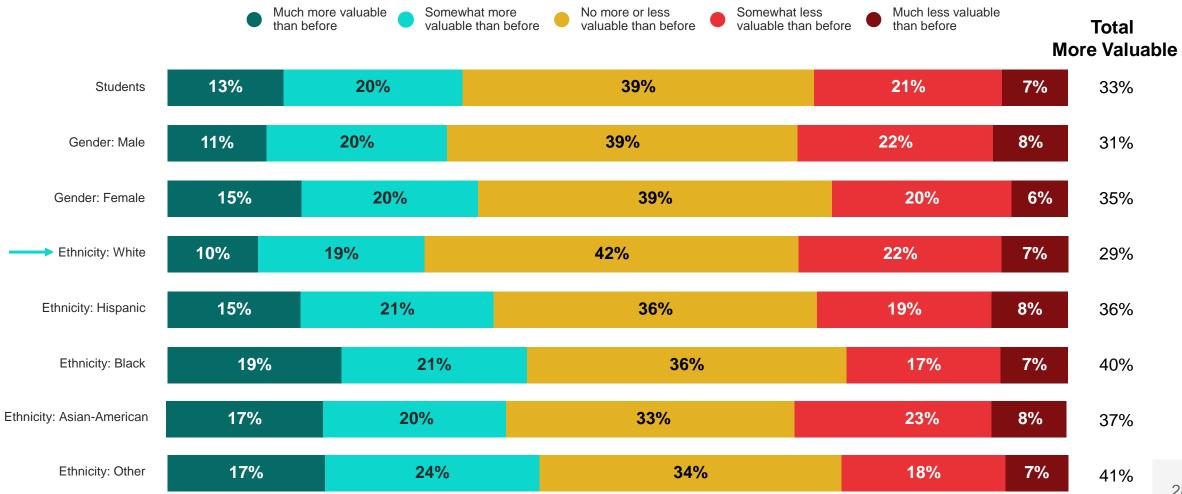
AGENDA

GENERAL VIEWS OF ADMISSIONS & COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

VIEWS OF SCORE SUBMISSION APPROACHES

White students (42%) are more likely than those from other racial/ethnic backgrounds to say a college degree holds *no more or less value* than before the pandemic.

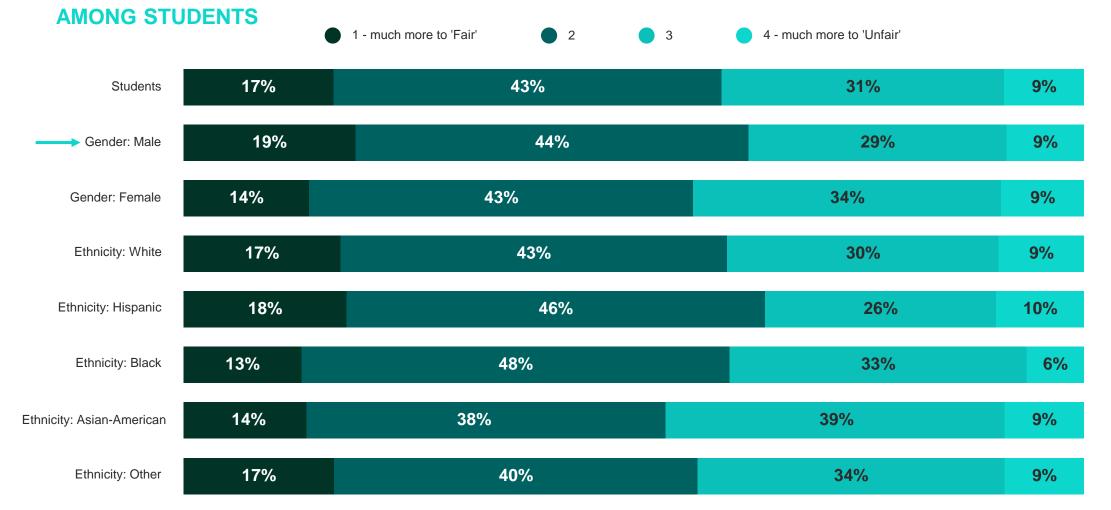
In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, would you say a college degree is? **AMONG STUDENTS**



GENERAL VIEWS OF ADMISSIONS & COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

Male students (63%) are more likely than female students (57%) to say the college process is *fair* as it currently stands.

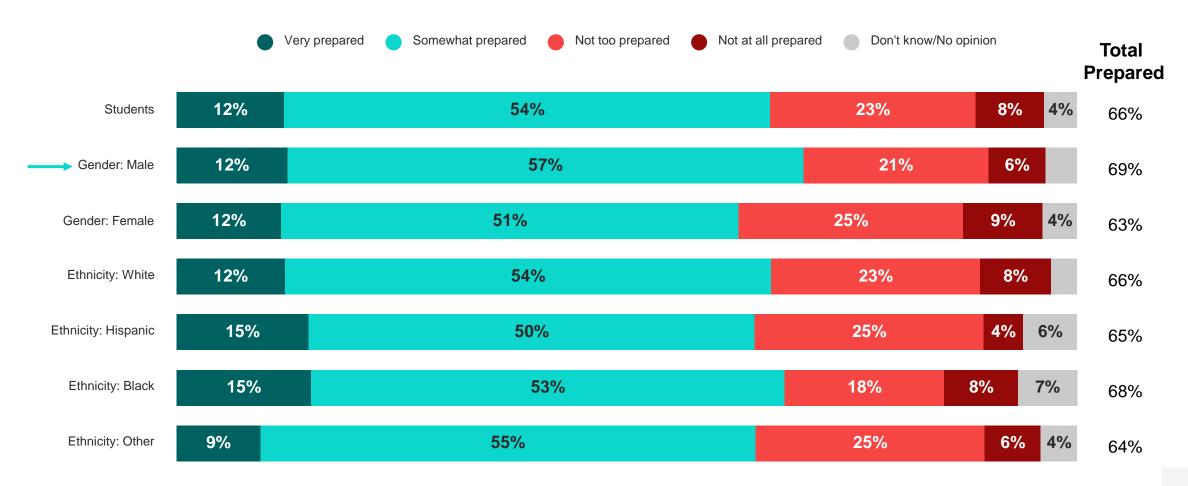
In your opinion, which of the following words best describes the college admissions process as it currently stands? For each question, please place yourself along the spectrum from Strongly Agree with Word 1 to Strongly Agree with Word 2. **FAIR/UNFAIR**



GENERAL VIEWS OF ADMISSIONS & COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

Male students (69%) are more likely than female students (63%) to feel *prepared* for college. How prepared do you feel for college?

AMONG LIKELY COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENTS [N=791]

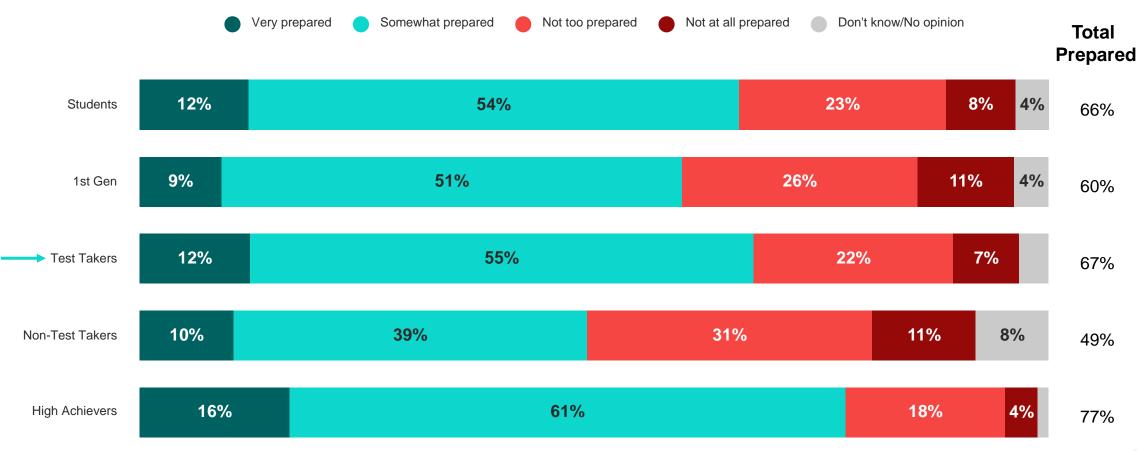


Note: Asian-American students not included due to insufficient N size [N=53].

GENERAL VIEWS OF ADMISSIONS & COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

Two-thirds of students who have taken the SAT or ACT ('test takers') feel *prepared* (67%) for college, where 49% of non-test takers say they feel *prepared*.

How prepared do you feel for college?

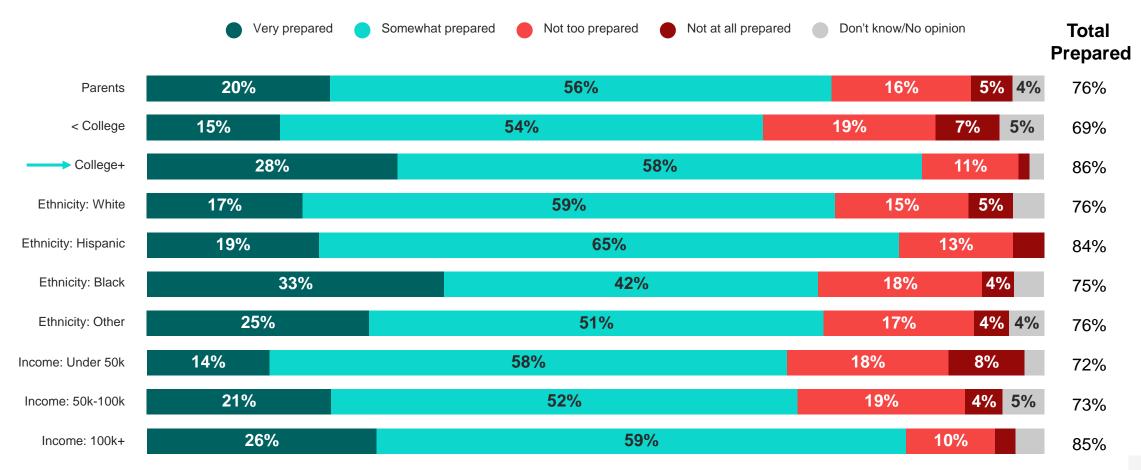


GENERAL VIEWS OF ADMISSIONS & COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

College-educated parents (86%) are more likely than non-college-educated parents (69%) to say their child feels *prepared* for college.

To the best of your knowledge, how prepared does your child feel for college?

AMONG PARENTS OF LIKELY COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENTS [N=496]

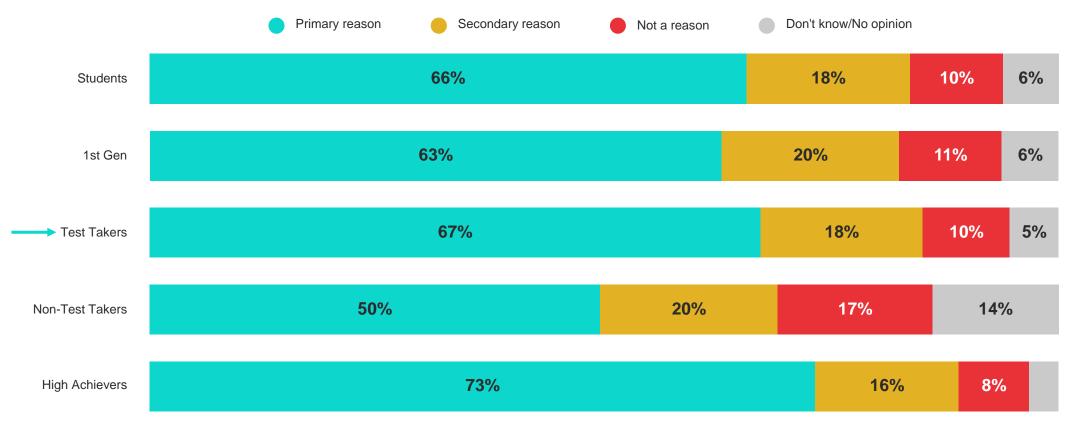


Note: Asian-American parents not included due to insufficient N size [N=29].

GENERAL VIEWS OF ADMISSIONS & COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

Test takers (67%) are more likely than non-test takers (50%) say the *primary reason* they plan to attend college is that they *need a college degree to get the job they want after high school*.

For you personally, how much of a reason is each of the following on why you plan to attend college after graduating from high school? I need a college degree to get the job that I want after high school

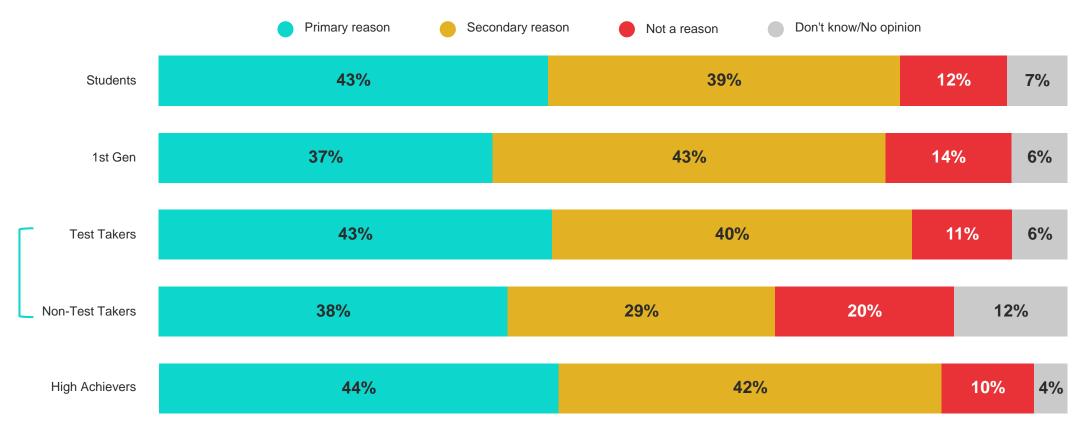


GENERAL VIEWS OF ADMISSIONS & COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

Test takers (43%) and non-test takers (38%) are about equally likely to say they *primary reason* they plan to attend college is to *explore academic opportunities*.

For you personally, how much of a reason is each of the following on why you plan to attend college after graduating from high school?

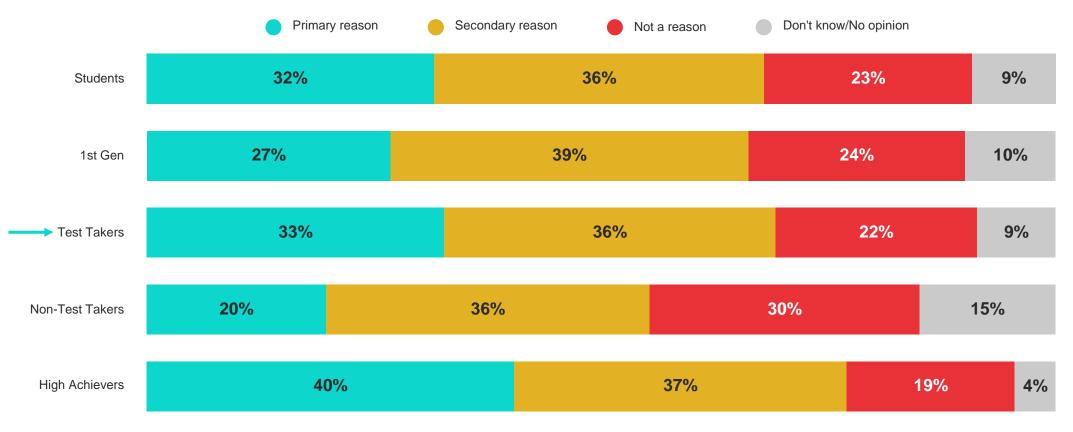
College will help me explore academic opportunities



GENERAL VIEWS OF ADMISSIONS & COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

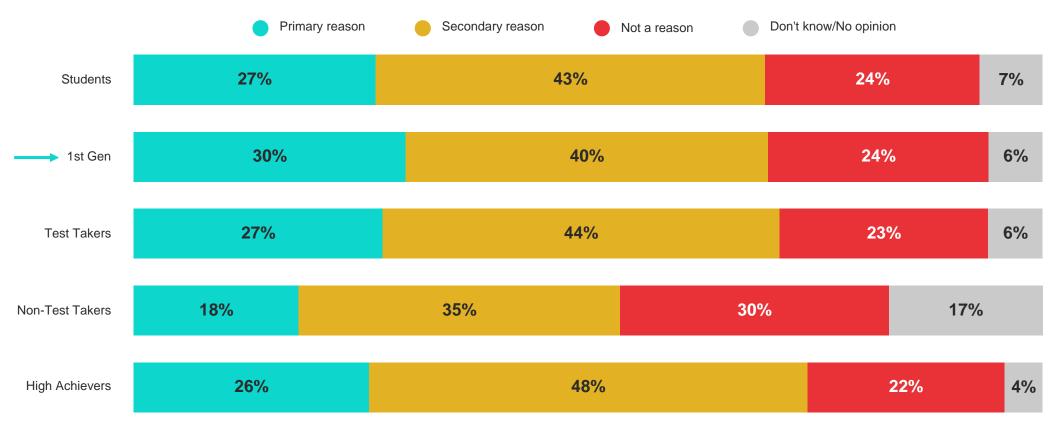
Test takers (33%) are more likely than non-test takers (20%) to say the *primary* reason they plan to attend college is because *college is a valuable investment*.

For you personally, how much of a reason is each of the following on why you plan to attend college after graduating from high school? **College is a valuable investment**



GENERAL VIEWS OF ADMISSIONS & COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

Almost a third of 1st generation college students say the *primary* reason they plan to attend college is that *college will expose them to many different types of people and perspectives*. For you personally, how much of a reason is each of the following on why you plan to attend college after graduating from high school? **Going to college will expose me to many different types of people and perspectives AMONG LIKELY COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENTS [N=791]**



VIEWS OF SCORE SUBMISSION APPROACHES

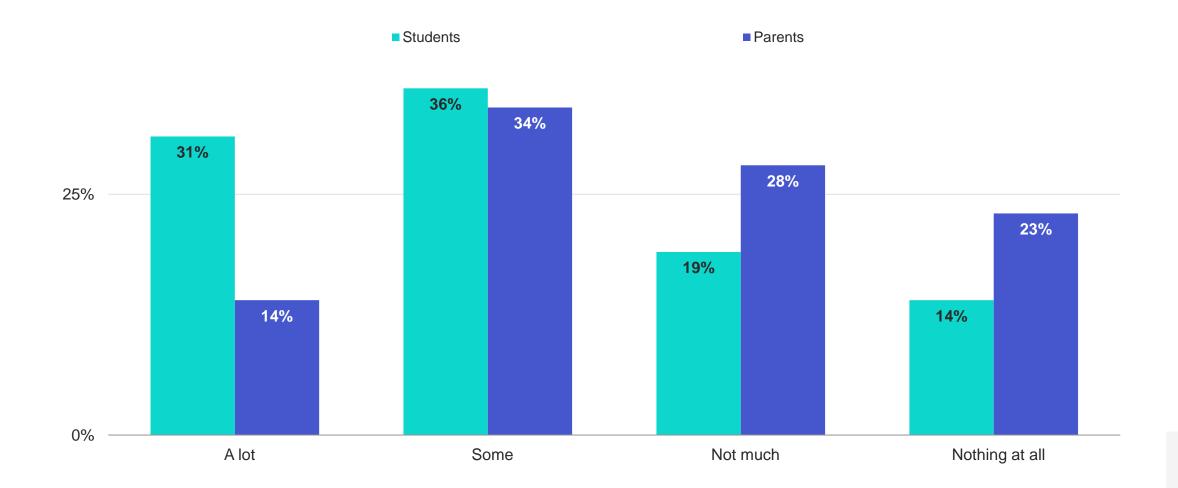
GENERAL VIEWS OF ADMISSIONS & COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

AGENDA

VIEWS OF SCORE SUBMISSION APPROACHES

Students (67%) are more likely than parents (48%) to have seen, read, or heard about colleges giving students the option to submit their scores in the application process.

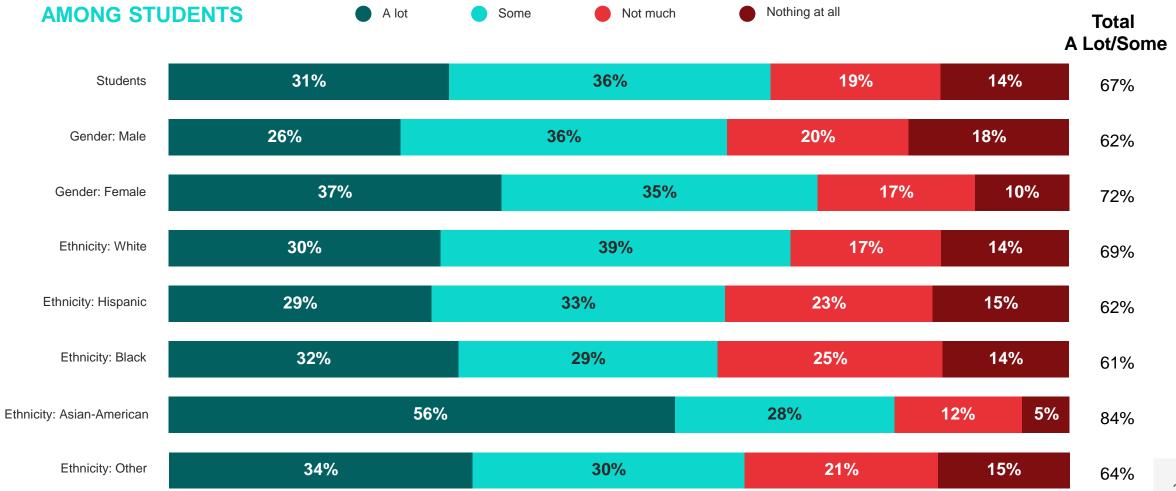
How much have you seen, read, or heard about colleges **giving students the option** to submit SAT or ACT scores as a part of the application process?



VIEWS OF SCORE SUBMISSION APPROACHES

Asian-American students (84%) are more likely to have heard *a lot/some* about colleges giving students the option to submit test scores than students of other racial/ethnic groups.

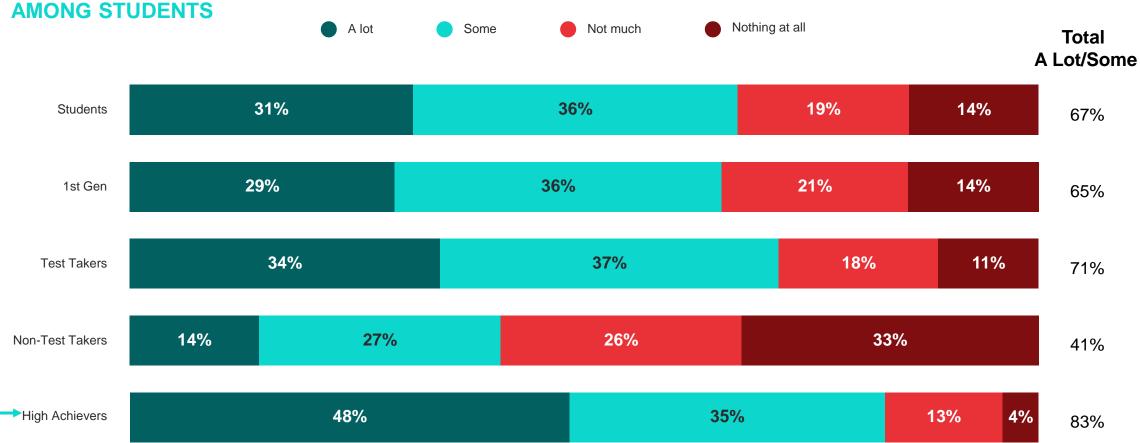
How much have you seen, read, or heard about colleges **giving students the option** to submit SAT or ACT scores as a part of the application process?



VIEWS OF SCORE SUBMISSION APPROACHES

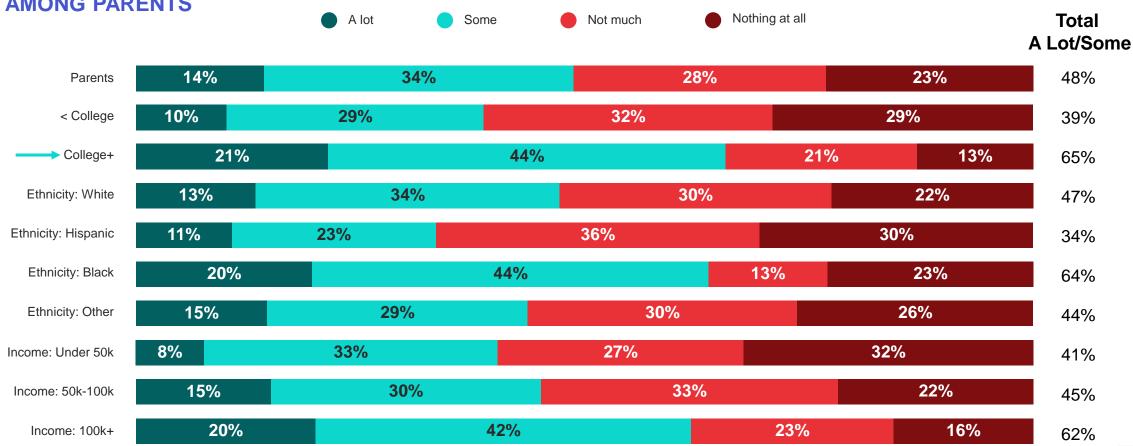
Four-in-five high-achieving students have heard *a lot/some* (83%) about colleges giving students the option to submit SAT or ACT scores in the application process.

How much have you seen, read, or heard about colleges giving students the option to submit SAT or ACT scores as a part of the application process?



VIEWS OF SCORE SUBMISSION APPROACHES

College-educated parents (65%) are more likely than non-college-educated parents (39%) to have seen, read, or heard *a lot/some* about colleges giving students the option to submit their scores. How much have you seen, read, or heard about colleges giving students the option to submit SAT or ACT scores as a part of the application process?



AMONG PARENTS

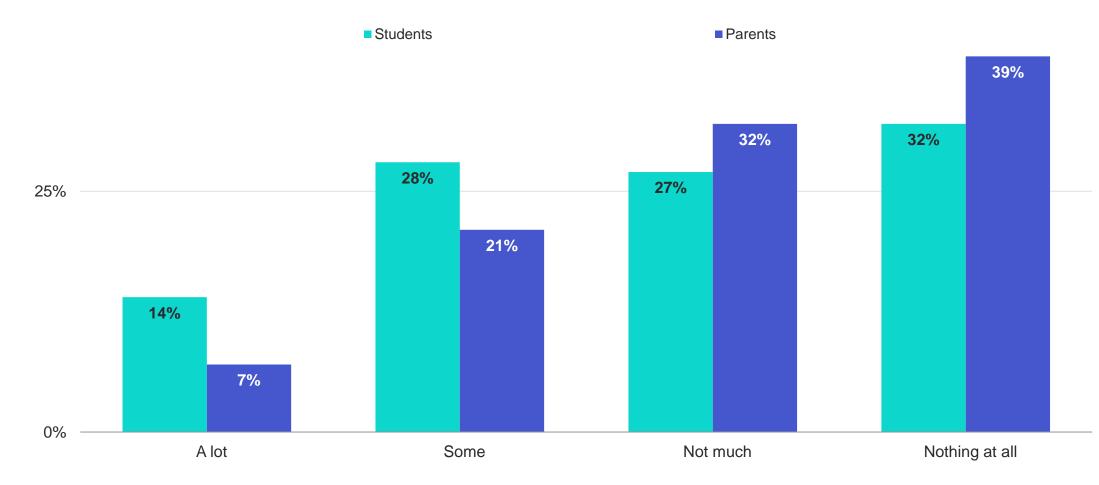
Note: Asian-American parents not included due to insufficient N size [N=33].

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VIEWS OF SCORE SUBMISSION APPROACHES

Almost three-quarters of parents (71%) have *not* seen, read, or heard about colleges prohibiting students from submitting scores, where students are more split between those who *have* (42%) and *have not* (59%) heard about this.

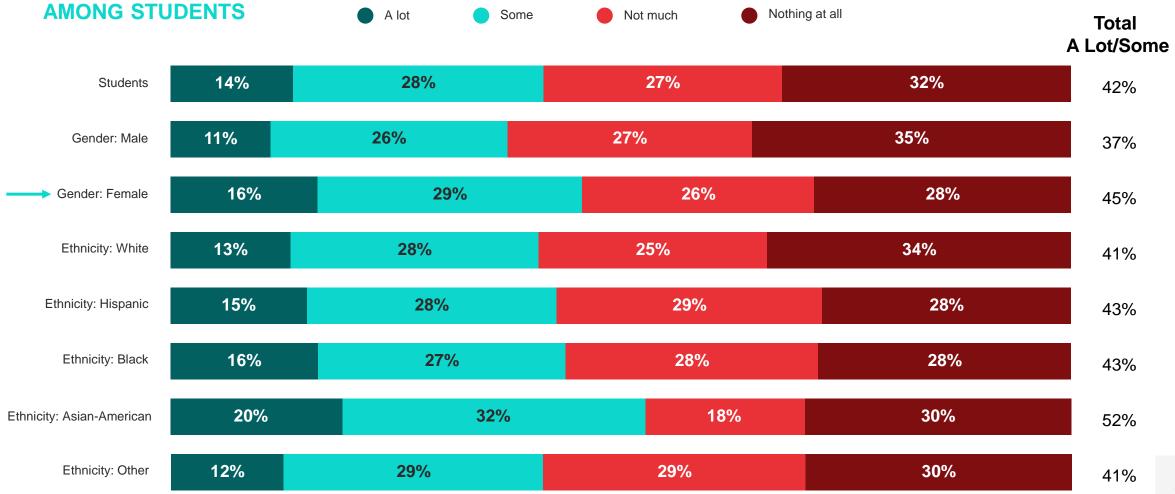
How much have you seen, read, or heard about colleges **prohibiting students** from submitting SAT or ACT scores as a part of the application process?



VIEWS OF SCORE SUBMISSION APPROACHES

More female students (45%) than male students (37%) have heard *a lot/some* about colleges prohibiting students from submitting their scores in the application process.

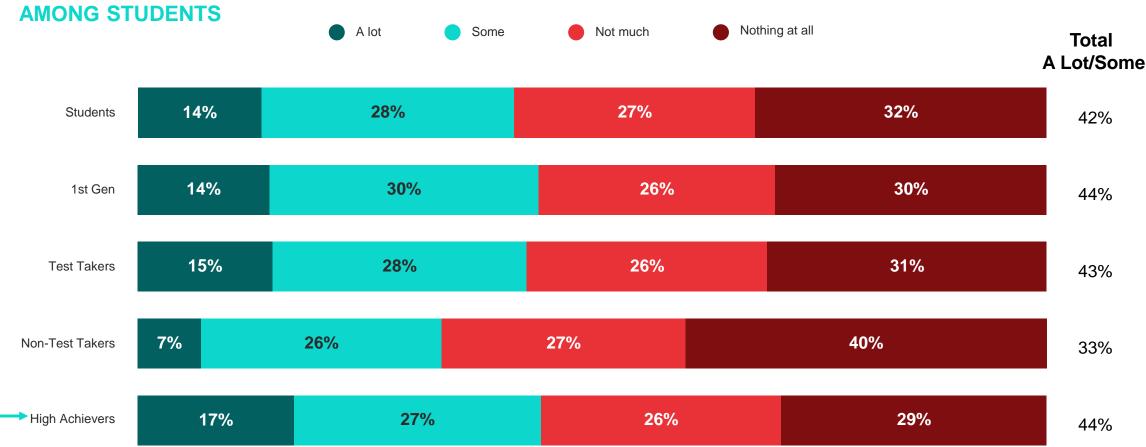
How much have you seen, read, or heard about colleges **prohibiting students** from submitting SAT or ACT scores as a part of the application process?



VIEWS OF SCORE SUBMISSION APPROACHES

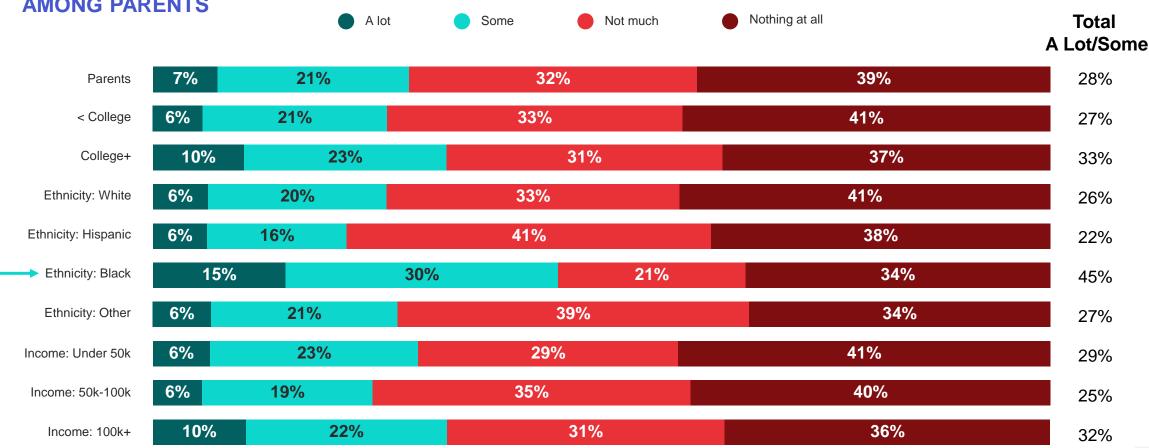
High-achieving students are split between those who *have heard* (44%) and *have not heard* (55%) about colleges prohibiting students from submitting scores in the application process.

How much have you seen, read, or heard about colleges prohibiting students from submitting SAT or ACT scores as a part of the application process?



VIEWS OF SCORE SUBMISSION APPROACHES

Nearly half of Black parents (45%) have heard *a lot/some* about colleges prohibiting students from submitting their scores in the application process, compared to fewer parents of other races/ethnicities. How much have you seen, read, or heard about colleges prohibiting students from submitting SAT or ACT scores as a part of the application process?

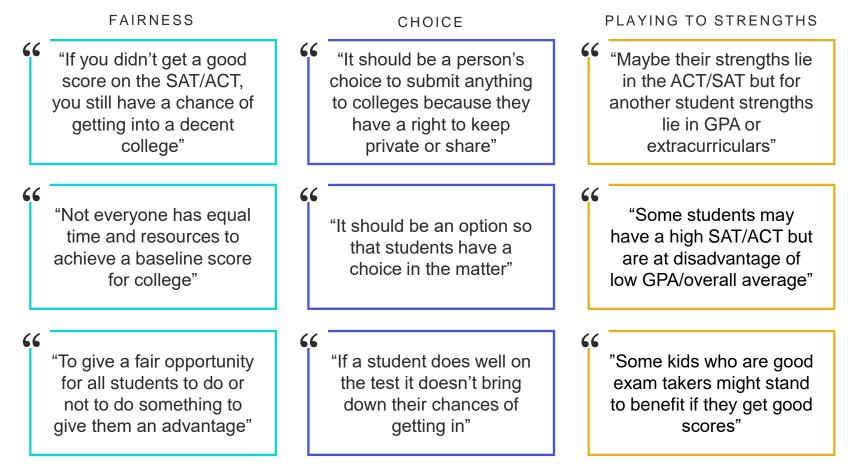


AMONG PARENTS

Note: Asian-American parents not included due to insufficient N size [N=33].

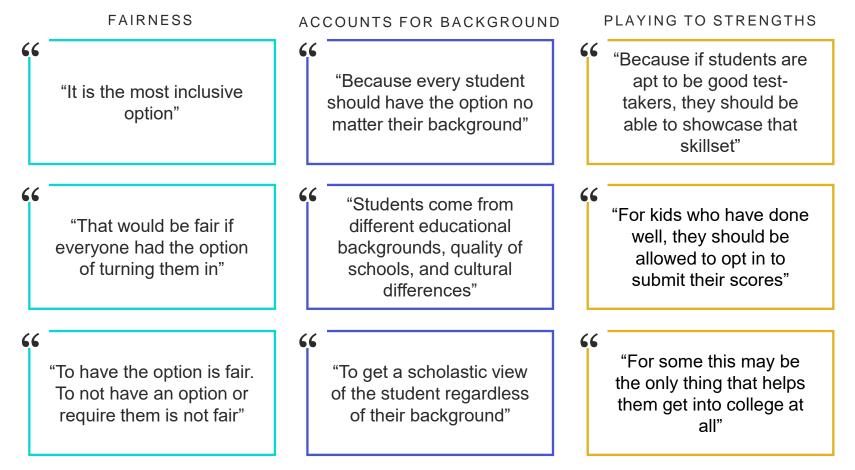
Students who prefer a test-optional approach to submitting scores name *fairness, choice,* and *playing to strengths* as the strongest drivers for their view.

In a sentence, why do you think all students should have the option to submit SAT or ACT scores to colleges for consideration when applying? AMONG STUDENTS WHO PREFER SCORES TO BE OPTIONAL [N=704]



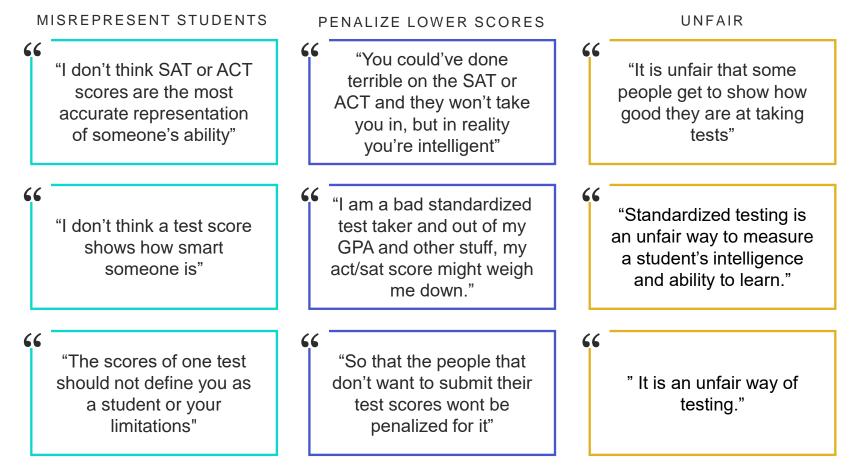
Parents who prefer a test-optional approach to submitting scores believe it promotes *fairness*, accounts for *background* differences, and lets students *play to their strengths*.

In a sentence, why do you think all students should have the option to submit SAT or ACT scores to colleges for consideration when applying? AMONG PARENTS WHO PREFER SCORES TO BE OPTIONAL [N=344]



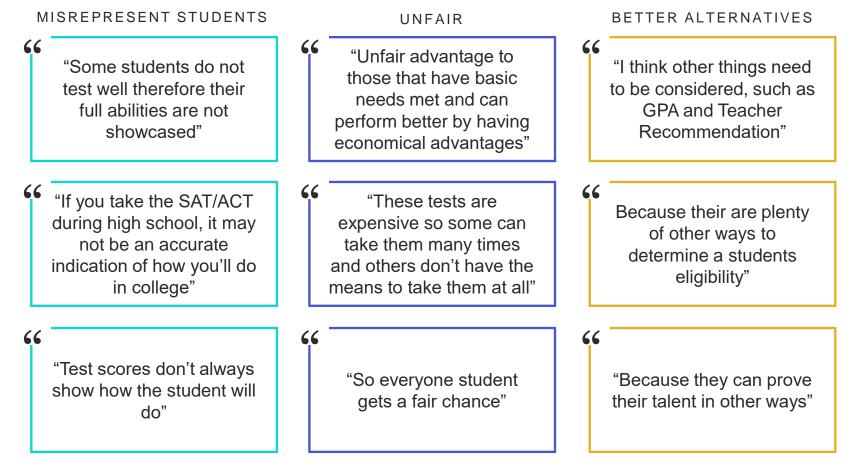
Students who prefer scores not be permitted believe that college entrance exams *misrepresent students*, *penalize lower scores*, and are generally *unfair*.

In a sentence, why do you think all students should not be permitted to submit SAT or ACT scores to colleges for consideration when applying AMONG STUDENTS WHO PREFER SCORES TO BE NOT PERMITTED [N=191]



Parents who prefer scores not be permitted say college entrance exams *misrepresent students*, are *unfair* to students with fewer resources, and that there are *better alternatives* available.

In a sentence, why do you think all students should not be permitted to submit SAT or ACT scores to colleges for consideration when applying' AMONG PARENTS WHO PREFER SCORES TO BE NOT PERMITTED [N=102]



MORNING CONSULT[°]

Parents who prefer colleges require scores think they *reflect college readiness, reflect student motivation,* and *level the playing field* for all students.

In a sentence, why do you think all students should be required to submit SAT or ACT scores to colleges for consideration when applying? **AMONG STUDENTS WHO PREFER SCORES TO BE** <u>**REQUIRED</u></u> [N=110]</u>**



Parents who prefer colleges require scores say they *reflect college readiness, level the playing field,* and uphold *tradition* in the college application process.

In a sentence, why do you think all students should be required to submit SAT or ACT scores to colleges for consideration when applying? **AMONG PARENTS WHO PREFER SCORES TO BE** <u>**REQUIRED</u></u> [N=157]</u>**

