Educational inequities start early

Percentage of 3–4 year-olds enrolled in preschool (2021)

Asian — 59.0%
Black — 48.0%
Hispanic — 42.0%
White — 55.0%
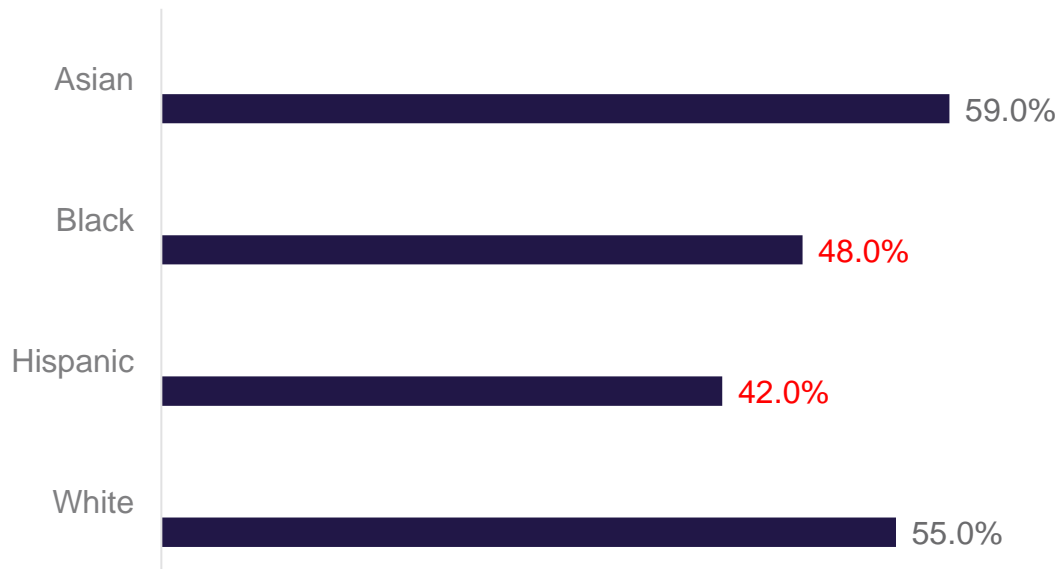
Source: Current Population Survey, 2021

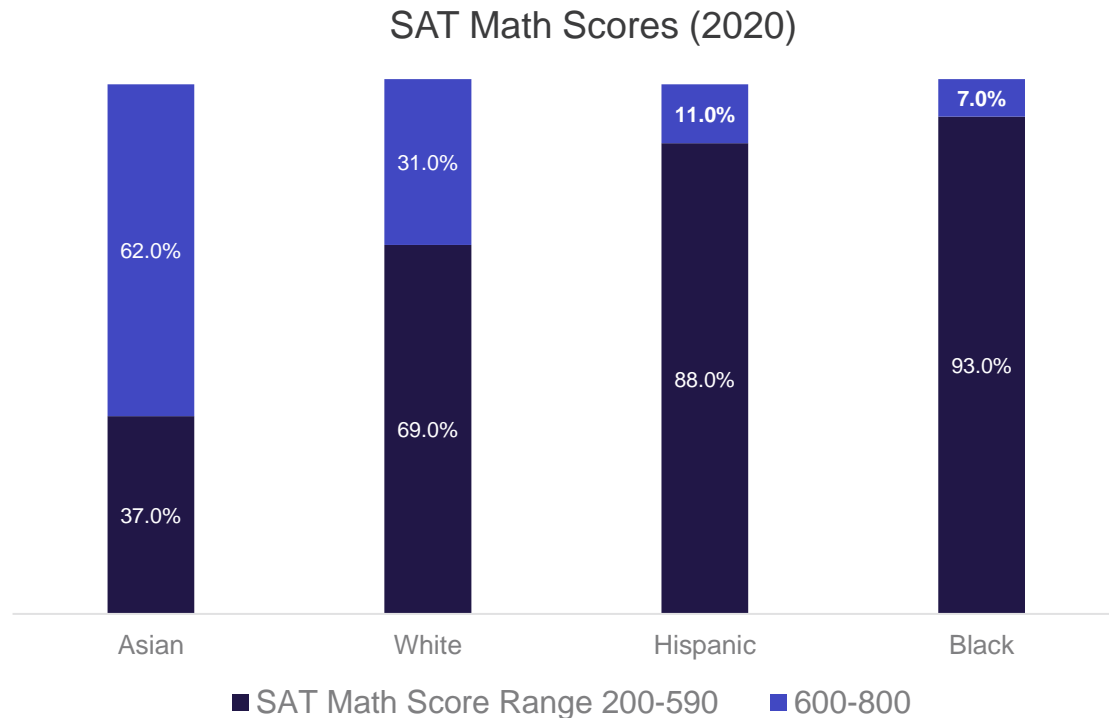NATIONAL ACADEMIES *Sciences Engineering Medicine*

And persist in early years

Percentage of students displaying advanced science achievement, Kindergarten to Fifth Grade

	Kindergarten	1st Grade	2nd Grade	3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade
White	15.5%	14.8%	13.5%	14.2%	14.3%	13.4%
Black	3%	2.7%	2.7%	2.8%	1.9%	2.6%
Hispanic	3.8%	3.9%	4.6%	3.9%	4%	4.2%
Asian	7%	10.3%	15.4%	13.7%	13.8%	16.1
Two or more races	13.2%	16.2%	16%	15.8%	15.*%	16.6%
American Indian/Native American/Pacific Islander	5.4%	5.3%	5.7%	3.9%	7%	4.3%

Source: Morgan et al., 2022

And continue through high school years

SAT Math Scores (2020)

	Asian	White	Hispanic	Black
600-800	62.0%	31.0%	11.0%	7.0%
SAT Math Score Range 200-590	37.0%	69.0%	88.0%	93.0%

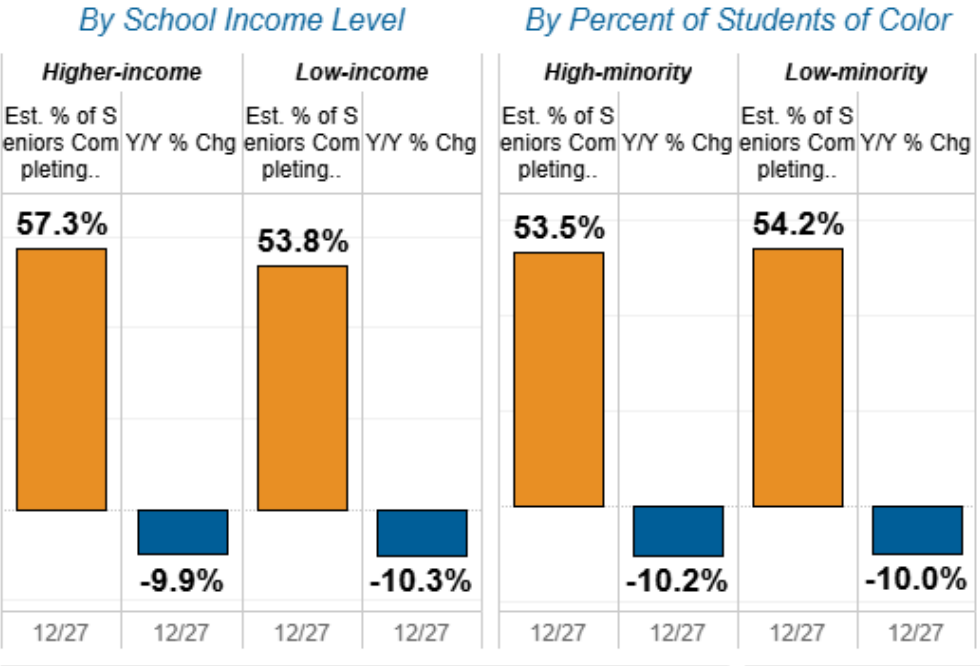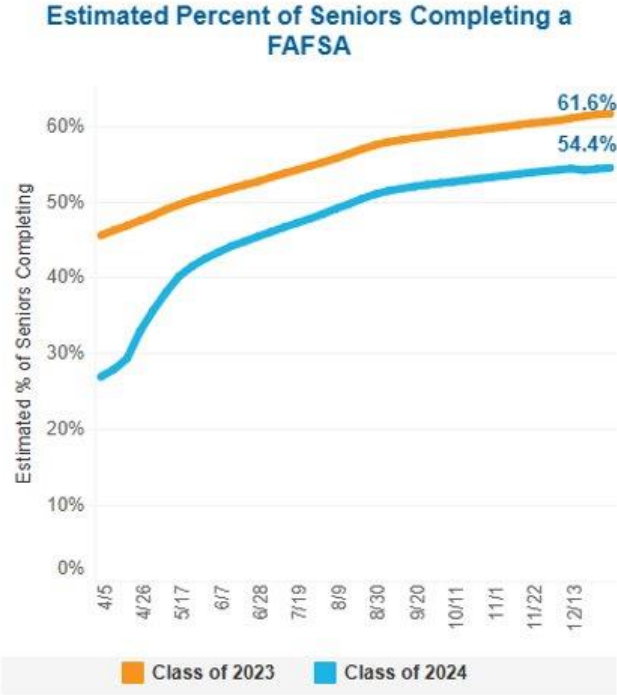■ SAT Math Score Range 200-590　■ 600-800

Source: College Board, 2020

2023-24 admission cycle particularly challenging for equity.

In addition to the Supreme Court further limiting use of race in college admissions…

1. The new, simplified, FAFSA form roll-out was delayed and filled with complications for both applicants and university financial aid offices.

2. Many states have passed or are hoping to pass "anti-DEI" legislation with some extending beyond the Supreme Court decision.
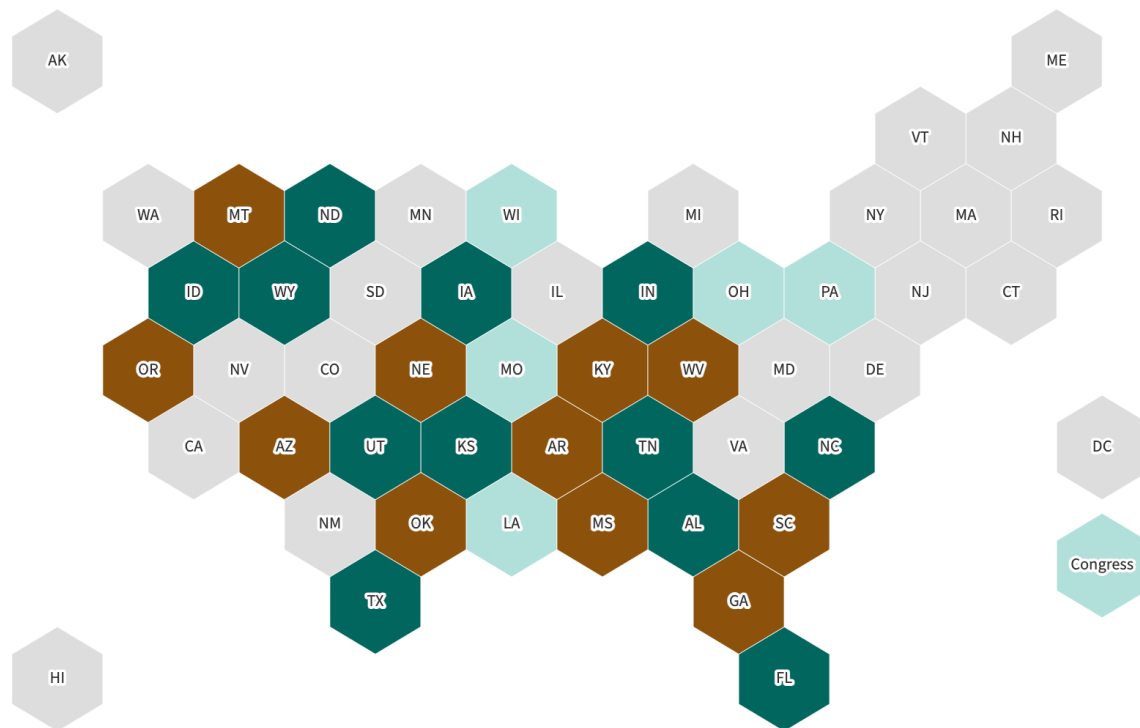
FAFSA applications were down across the board

Estimated Percent of Seniors Completing a FAFSA

- Class of 2023 — 61.6%
- Class of 2024 — 54.4%

By School Income Level

Higher-income		Low-income	
Est. % of Seniors Completing..	Y/Y % Chg	Est. % of Seniors Completing..	Y/Y % Chg
57.3%		53.8%	
	-9.9%		-10.3%
12/27	12/27	12/27	12/27

By Percent of Students of Color

High-minority		Low-minority	
Est. % of Seniors Completing..	Y/Y % Chg	Est. % of Seniors Completing..	Y/Y % Chg
53.5%		54.2%	
	-10.2%		-10.0%
12/27	12/27	12/27	12/27

Source: National College Attainment Network

Data are as of 12/27/24

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Anti-DEI legislation

- Since 2023:

  – 86 have been introduced

  – 14 have final legislative approval

  – 14 have become law

  – 54 have been tabled, failed to pass, or
    vetoed

Source: Chronicle of Higher
Education

Where Anti-DEI Legislation Has Been Proposed

No bill Introduced Final legislative approval Signed into law Tabled, failed to pass, or vetoed

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What do we know?

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Existing data collection efforts are not enough

- Very limited national data on applicants and admits

  - IPEDS collects data on enrolled students, but it is often released with a significant delay.

  - There is no national data on applicants and admits by race or income.

  - IPEDS is scheduled to begin collecting some of this data beginning in 2025, but this is not certain under the new administration and the new data collection will not provide any historical data.

- Limited systemic data on admissions practices and policies

  - No data on how practices and policies have changed in a post-affirmative action context.

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2024-25 Applications (via Common App).

- Applicants identifying as a URM increased by 11%.

- Selective schools had a slower increase in applicants (3%) than did less selective schools (15%).

- No change in number of applications per applicants by race.

- High achieving URM applicants discussing race in their essays slightly more often than non-URM applicants this year.

- Important Data Caveat: Unclear how representative applicant data is. Schools receiving varying share of their applicant data from Common App

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2024-25 First Year Enrollments (via NY Times)

- Collected comparable first year from enrolment data from 59 schools comprised of "top" colleges and universities.

- NY Times main takeaways:
  - Black and Hispanic enrollment declined on average.
  - On average, White and Asian enrollment was flat.
  - Share of students identifying as "race unknown" increased from 2% to 4%

Percentage Point Change in First Year Enrollments by Race 2022-23 to 2023-24 (via NY Times)

	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Race Unknown
Average	.5	-1.5	-1.0	.3	2.1
Selectivity <20%	.8	-2.1	-1.3	.8	2.5
Selectivity >20%	.2	-.3	-.3	-.5	1.3
Black and Hispanic Enrollment > 20%	1.8	-3.1	-2.5	1.9	2.8
Black and Hispanic Enrollment < 20%	-.3	-.4	0	-.7	1.7

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What DON'T we know?

Knowledge gaps in understanding the 2023-24 admissions numbers...

- We have no data on admitted students.

- We know little to nothing on how colleges and university's have modified their admissions policies and practices.

- How much of the 2024 enrollment numbers are driven by SCOTUS v. FAFSA v. anti-DEI efforts.

- What will happen in 2024-25?

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