

Texas 21st CCLC Grant Evaluation: Overview of Grantees, Centers, and Students Participating in Texas Afterschool Centers on Education Program



Introduction

This report provides a first look at Cycle 11 program operations and program participants in the Texas Afterschool Centers on Education (Texas ACE) program. The report uses preliminary data from the 2021–22 fall term from the Texas 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Student Tracking System (TX21st), demographic data from the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS), and prior-year (2020–21) outcome data from PEIMS and the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) and end-of-course (EOC) exams.¹² The purpose of the analysis was to describe the characteristics of the 21st CCLC program including program operations and participation. Overall, data analysis included information on 351 centers and 46 grantees in Cycle 11 for fall 2021. A total of 36,715 students participated in more than 3.1 million hours of programming across different activity types and subject areas.

Description of Grantees and Centers Funded in Cycle 11, Fall 2021

As Table 1 shows, Cycle 11 of the Texas ACE grant program includes 46 grantees and 351 centers. All Cycle 11 Texas ACE program centers that were operational in fall 2021 offered in-person instruction while 22% offered both in-person and virtual (or remote) learning opportunities. However, it does not appear that many students used the virtual option, as 99% of the time students spent in Texas ACE programming in fall 2021 was in-person.

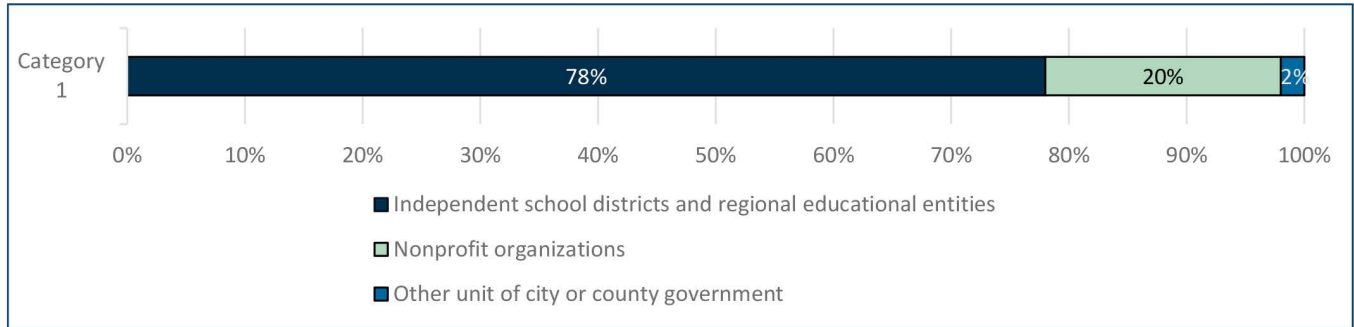
Table 1. Number of Texas ACE Program Centers and Grantees, Fall 2021

	Total
Number of centers	351
Number of grantees	46

¹ During fall 2021, Cycle 11 grantees were in their first year of their grant, which extended from July 1, 2021, to July 31, 2022.

² TX21st data reported here are for the fall term of the 2021–22 school year. Full 2021–22 TX21st data will be described in the implementation report to be published in the spring of 2023.

Figure 1. Percentage of Texas ACE Grantees by Category, Fall 2021



Most Cycle 11 Texas ACE grantees (78%) are independent school districts or regional education service centers. Twenty percent of grantees are nonprofit organizations and just 2% of grantees are other units of city or county government (Figure 1).

Education service center (ESC)³ Region 1 in Edinburg (20%), Region 4 in Houston (20%), and Region 20 in San Antonio (12%) accounted for the largest percentages of Cycle 11 Texas ACE centers in the state—52% of the funded centers. The Dallas Metroplex area had the next largest number of Texas ACE centers in the state with Region 10 in Dallas and Region 11 in Fort Worth each accounting for 8% of the Cycle 11 programs in the state. When compared to the distribution of campuses across the regions of the state, a larger proportion of Texas ACE centers were in Region 1 in the Rio Grande Valley (20% vs. 8% statewide), while a smaller proportion of Texas ACE centers were in Region 10 in Dallas (8% vs. 15% statewide). Table 2 provides a comparison of the 20 ESC regions with

Table 2. Percentage of Texas ACE Centers and Statewide Schools by Education Service Center Region, Fall 2021

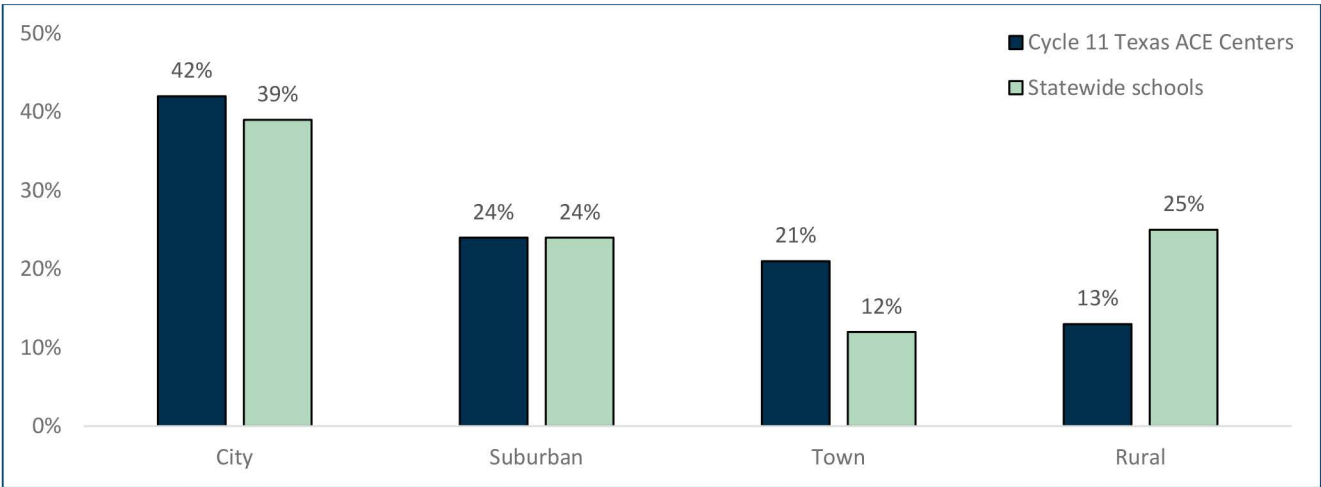
Education service center region	Percentage of Cycle 11 Texas ACE centers	Percentage of statewide schools
Region 1	20%	8%
Region 2	5%	2%
Region 3	0%	2%
Region 4	20%	17%
Region 5	0%	2%
Region 6	3%	4%
Region 7	4%	4%
Region 8	3%	2%
Region 9	0%	1%
Region 10	8%	15%
Region 11	8%	11%
Region 12	2%	4%
Region 13	7%	7%
Region 14	0%	2%
Region 15	0%	2%
Region 16	1%	2%
Region 17	4%	2%
Region 18	0%	2%
Region 19	3%	3%
Region 20	12%	9%

³ Regional ESCs support local education agencies (LEAs) in attaining the missions, goals, and objectives set forth by the Texas Education Agency. A total of 20 ESCs have been established to support LEAs in their geographic regions of the state.

Cycle 11 Texas ACE centers. The Texas ACE center distribution was similar to the grant application distribution across regions for the Cycle 11 program.

Most Cycle 11 Texas ACE centers are in cities (42%), while 24% are in suburban areas and 21% are in towns. At 13%, rural jurisdictions make up the smallest percentage of Texas ACE centers in Cycle 11. Rural jurisdictions are underrepresented among Cycle 11 Texas ACE centers (13% vs. 25% statewide) while towns are overrepresented (21% vs. 12% statewide). The percentage of centers in cities closely approximates the percentage of campuses in Texas that are in cities, and the percentage of centers in the suburbs matches the percentage of campuses in Texas that are in suburban areas (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Percentage of Texas ACE Program Centers and Statewide Schools by Geographic Location, Fall 2021



Characteristics of Students Participating in the Texas ACE Program

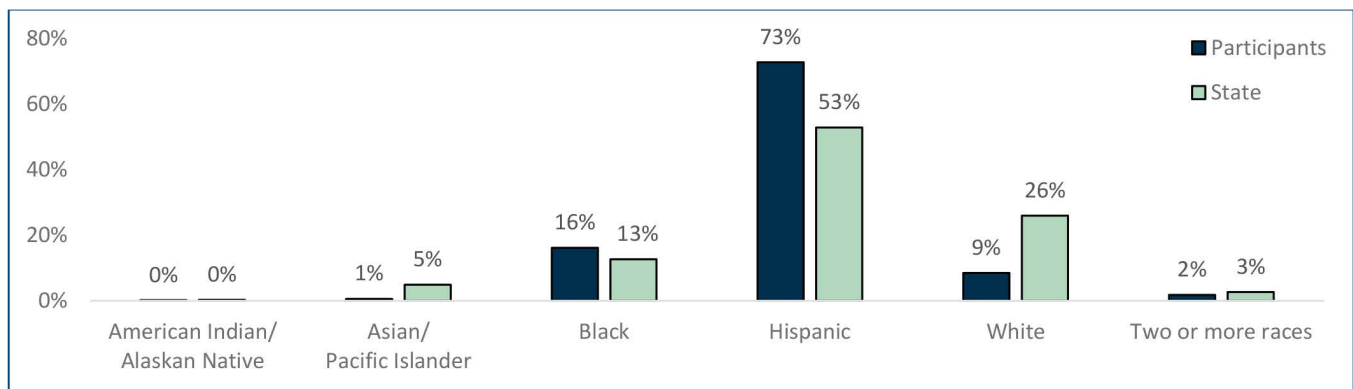
Of the 36,449 students⁴ who attended Cycle 11 Texas ACE programs in fall 2021, approximately two thirds (67%) were in early grades from prekindergarten (Pre-K) to Grade 5. Almost 23% of Texas ACE students were in middle school (Grades 6–8) and 11% were in high school (Grades 9–12). The proportion of Texas ACE students in Grades 3–5 was nearly double the percentage of students enrolled in these grades across the state. Conversely, the percentage of Texas ACE students in Grades 9–12 was much smaller than the statewide population of high school students in these grades (Table 3).

⁴ A total of 266 students did not have grade-level information and were not included in the analyses.

Table 3. Number and Percentage of Students in Texas ACE Program and Statewide Schools by Grade Span, Fall 2021

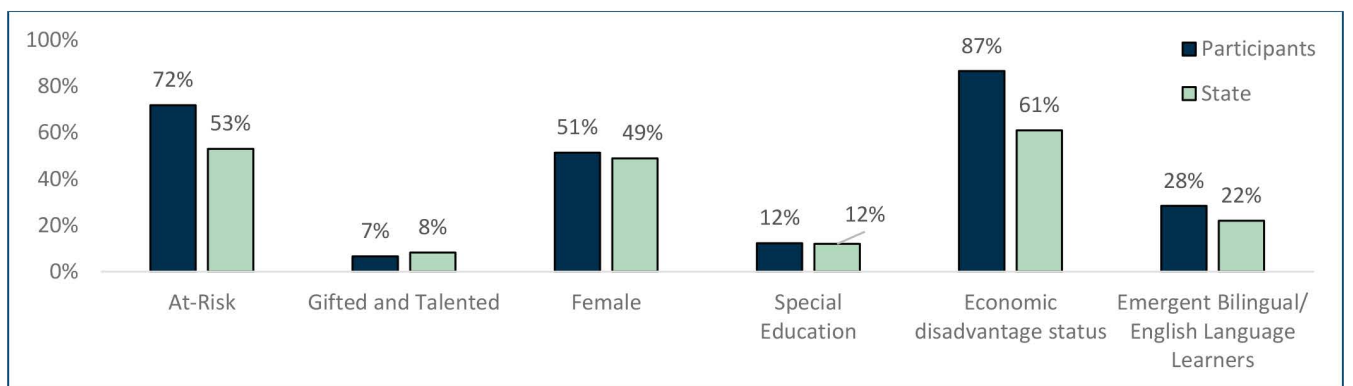
	Texas ACE program participants		Statewide student population	
PreK–Grade 2	9,729	26.7%	1,141,572	22.0%
Grades 3–5	14,566	40.0%	1,160,854	22.4%
Grades 6–8	8,252	22.6%	1,243,779	24.0%
Grades 9–12	3,902	10.7%	1,636,057	31.6%

Figure 3. Percentage of Students Enrolled in Texas ACE Program and State Schools by Race and Ethnicity, Fall 2021



As Figure 3 shows, Hispanic students accounted for nearly 73% of students attending fall 2021 Cycle 11 Texas ACE programs while 53% of students enrolled in public schools across the state were Hispanic. Just over 16% of fall 2021 Texas ACE program participants were Black while 13% of students enrolled in Texas public schools were Black. While 26% of the students enrolled in Texas public schools were White, 9% of the students participating in the Texas ACE program in fall 2021 were White.

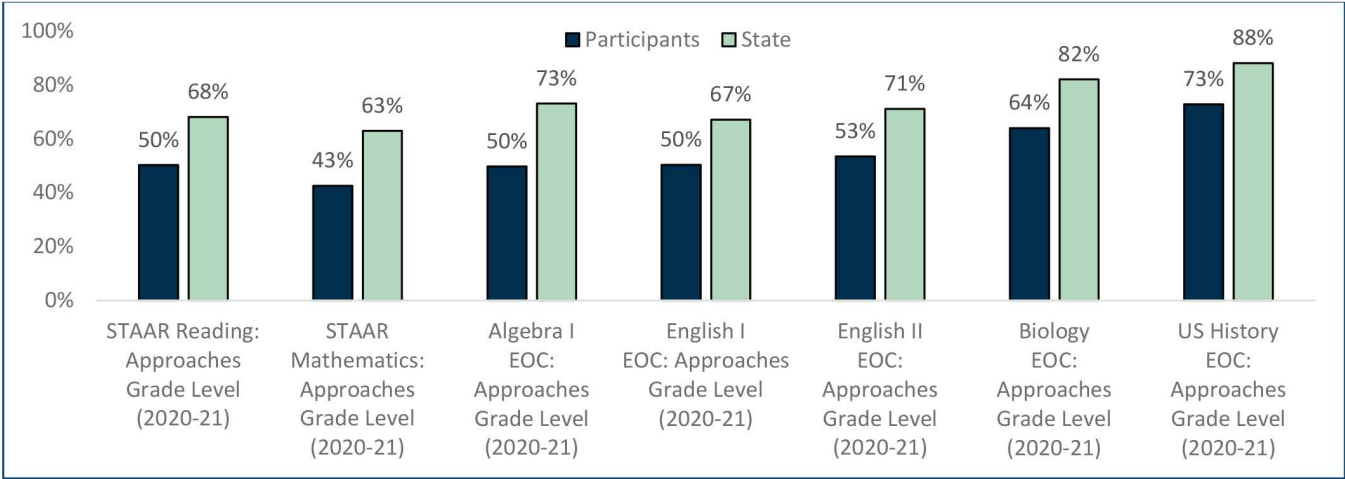
Figure 4. Percentage of Students in Texas ACE Program and State Schools by Gender and Program Enrollment, Fall 2021



As Figure 4 shows, most students participating in Texas ACE programming in fall 2021 were students who were economically disadvantaged (87%) and who were in at-risk⁵ situations (72%). Just over half of participating students were female (51%), 28% were emergent bilingual students/English learners (EBs/ELs), 12% were students who received special education services, and almost 7% were in gifted and talented programs. Compared to the statewide population of students in Texas, those participating in the Texas ACE program in fall 2021 were more likely to be at risk (72% vs. 53%), to be economically disadvantaged (87% vs. 61%), and to be EBs/ELs (28% vs. 22%).

Figure 5 compares the percentage of students participating in the Texas ACE program who met the “Approaches Grade Level” standard on the 2021 STARR (state assessment) with statewide results. For each of the STAAR results presented for Grades 3–8 and EOC exams, a substantially lower percentage of students participating in the Cycle 11 Texas ACE program in fall 2021 met the Approaches Grade Level standard compared with students across the state.

Figure 5. Percentage of Students Enrolled in Texas ACE Program and State Schools Who Achieved a STARR Passing Score in Reading, Mathematics, and EOC Examinations, Spring 2021



Results presented in this report suggest that Texas ACE programs are serving students who are most in need of additional academic and enrichment supports (e.g., at-risk students, students identified as economically disadvantaged, EBs/ELs, and low-performing students) as evidenced by the proportion of Texas ACE program participants who are substantially exceeding the statewide averages by student subgroups.

⁵ At-risk refers to a student who is identified as being at-risk for dropping out of school using state-defined criteria only (TEC §29.081, 2001). A total of 16 criteria to define at-risk conditions are defined in the statute. For further details, please refer to <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/ED/htm/ED.29.htm#29.081>.