

The background of the slide features a blue-tinted photograph of three young children smiling and looking towards the right. The text is overlaid on this image.

# Advancing Academic Rigor

Frisco Independent School District



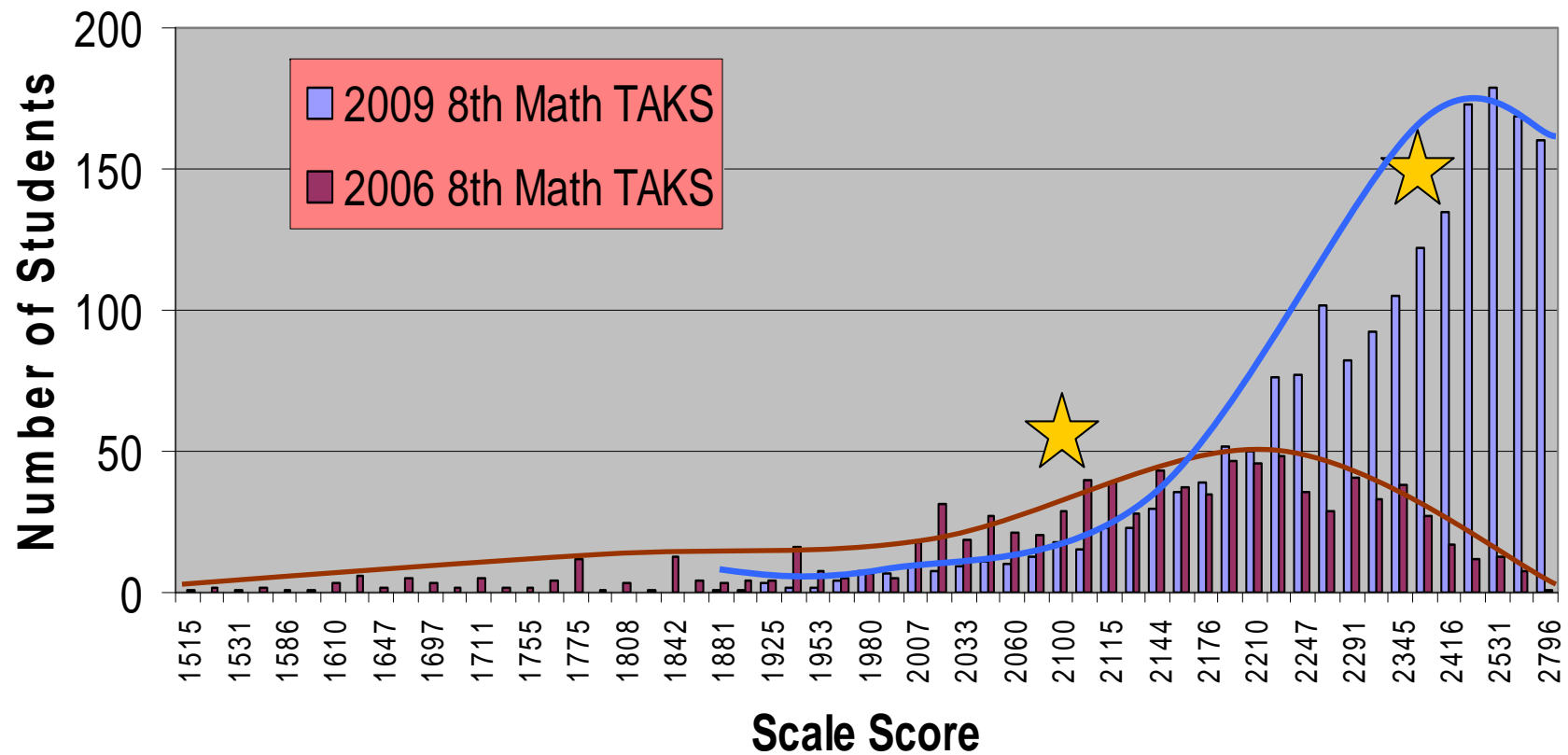
# Advancing Academic Rigor

- How are we doing now?
- What are the major barriers?
- Our most capable students....where are they?
- Next Steps!



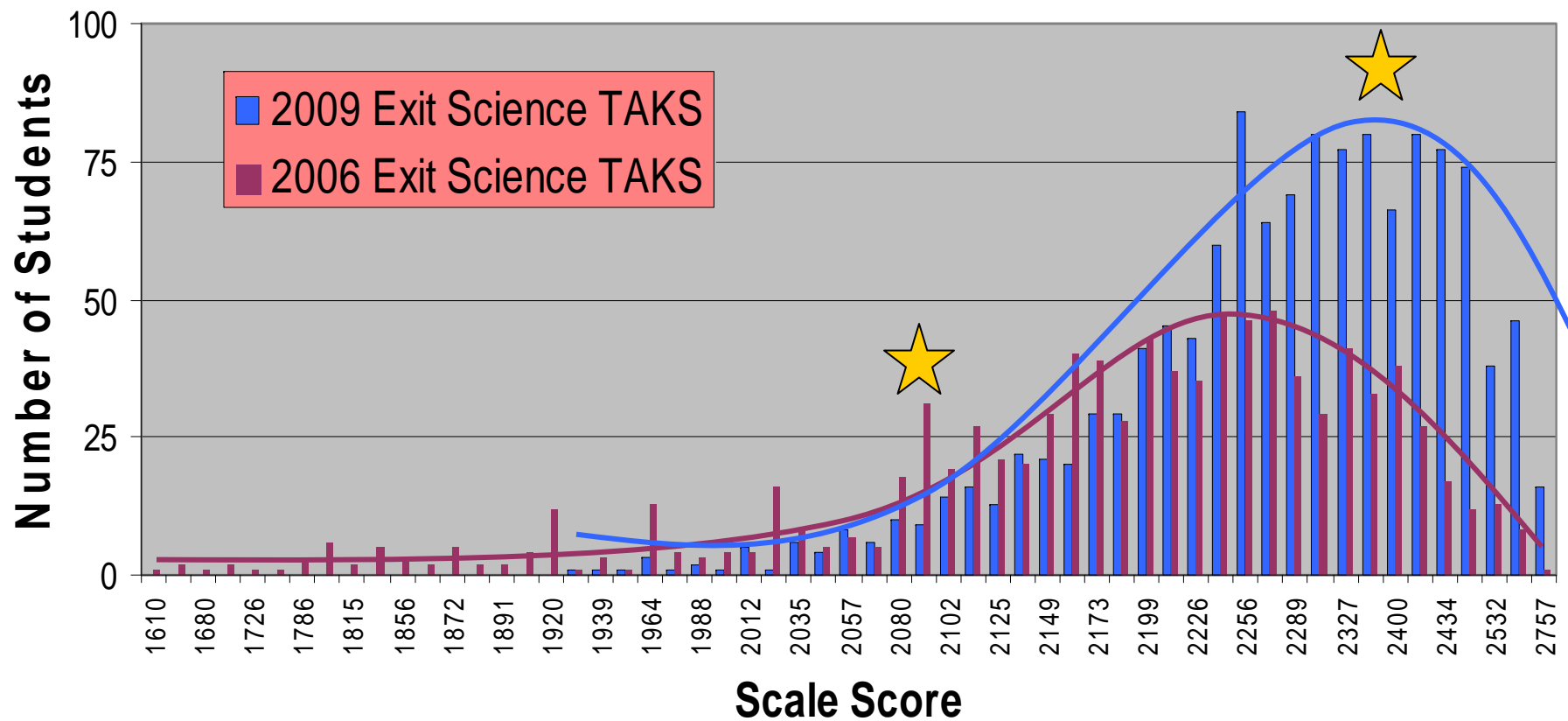
# Distribution of TAKS Scores

## 8th Math Score Distributions 2006 v. 2009



# Distribution of TAKS Scores

## Exit Science Scores Distribution 2006 vs. 2009



# Student Groups and AP

Major increases in sitting for exams,  
as well as performance

- All sophomores took the PSAT in October
- AP Testing
- 74.4% of AP Exams taken in 2009 earned a 3 or better



# Major Barriers

- “Exclusive” instead of “Inclusive”
- Support Mechanisms
- Underrepresented Student Groups
- “Rigorous” work vs “More” work
- Tolerance to Struggling



## Capable Students not in Advanced Courses

Scored 2345 or higher on the 2009 TAKS Math Test:

1183 of 2989, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> graders

395 of 1046, 8<sup>th</sup> graders

580 of 1049, 9<sup>th</sup> graders

394 of 917, 10<sup>th</sup> graders

**\*\*TEA defines “college readiness” as 2300 or above on TAKS.**



# Capable Students not in Advanced Courses

Scored 2350 or higher on the 2009 TAKS Science Test:

965 of 2270, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders

382 of 1036, 9<sup>th</sup> graders

307 of 670, 11<sup>th</sup> graders



# Capable Students not in Advanced Courses

Scored 2350 or higher on the 2009 TAKS Reading Test:

645 of 1340 , 9<sup>th</sup> graders

201 of 600, 10<sup>th</sup> graders

264 of 550, 11<sup>th</sup> graders



# Action Plan

- Departmental Collaboration
- Instructional Resource Guides
- Identify, Embrace and Encourage
- Support Mechanisms
- PreAP/AP Teacher Training
- “Rigorous” work vs. “More” work
- Instructional Leadership Meetings
- PreAP Alg 1
- Vertical Teaming
- Review Programs of Successful ISD’s
- An Expanded Role with Academic Counseling



# FISD Counselor's Role

- Educating Parents
- Encouraging Students
- Collaboration with Colleagues



# Educating Parents

- All Levels
  - AP Extravaganza – Jan. 11 and Jan. 25
  - AP PowerPoint, Video, Pamphlets
  - Distinguished Achievement Program Brochure
  - Websites and Newsletters
  - Coffee with the Counselors



# Benefits of AP Program for Students

*Students who complete AP courses are:*

- likely to complete more college level work
- More likely to take additional college courses within the discipline of their AP coursework
- more likely to graduate with a double major
- twice as likely to go into advanced study

Willingham & Morris, 1986; UT Study 1988



# Benefits of AP Program for Students

- Taking AP increases eligibility for scholarships and makes candidates more attractive to colleges.
- 31 percent of colleges and universities consider student's AP experience when making decisions about which students will receive scholarships.
- 85 percent of selective colleges and universities report that a student's AP experience favorably impacts admissions decisions.

■ Source: Crux Research, Inc., March 2007



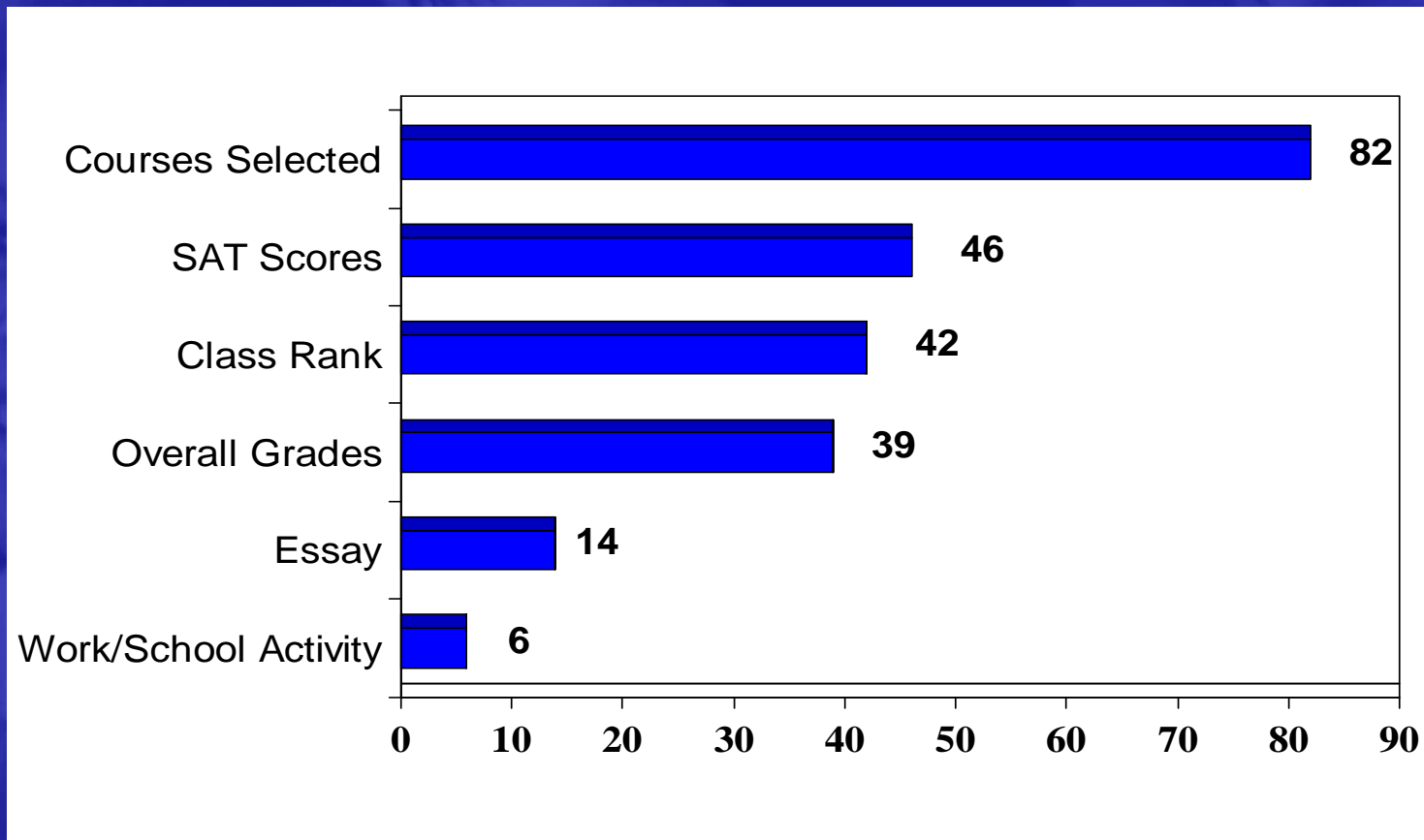
# AP and the Cost of College

- A 2008 study found that AP students had better four-year graduation rates than those who did not take AP. For example, graduation rates for AP English Literature students were 62 percent higher than graduation rates for those who took other English courses in high school.
- The typical college cost per year for a four-year public institution is \$7,662 for in-state students and \$18,629 for out-of-state students. (tuition, fees, and books only)

Source: The College Board, 2008



# WHAT COUNTS IN COLLEGE ADMISSIONS



College Admissions Officials  
1992 NACAC Survey



**% citing “considerably important”**

# Educating Parents

- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Night
- College Ed Information for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Night
- Rising Senior Night
- Family Connection
- Sophomore Conferences



# Encouraging Students

- College Week
- Guidance Lessons
- Transitioning 6<sup>th</sup> Grade
- College Ed 7<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Middle School Career Planner 8<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Sophomore Conferences
- Go Center
- Recognition of AP Scholars
- Board Recognition of National Merit Scholars



# Collaboration with Colleagues

- Vertical Team
- Professional Development
- College Updates
- Partnership with Teachers



# Counseling Summary

- Focus on all levels, elementary, middle and high school
- Educate and encourage students
- Ongoing Education of Parents
- Importance of transition years for both students and parents
- Full implementation of the FUSD Comprehensive Guidance Plan
- New and better strategies to “push” students to challenge themselves academically

