



**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL**

**PAUL HOUCHENS
DIRECTOR**

**DAVID W. CHRISTIANSEN, Ed.D.
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT/CHIEF OF SCHOOLS**

**DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH, EVALUATION,
& STATE ASSESSMENTS**


3300 FOREST HILL BLVD, SUITE B-246
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33406
PHONE: 561-434-8469 FAX: 561-357-7608
WWW.PALMBEACHSCHOOLS.ORG/DRE/


**MARK HOWARD
CHIEF OF PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

November 3, 2016

TO: School Board Members

FROM: David W. Christiansen, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent/Chief of Schools 

THROUGH: Robert M. Avossa, Ed.D., Superintendent 

SUBJECT: **FY16 COLLEGE READINESS BASED ON SAT AND ACT TEST RESULTS**

The FY16 ACT and SAT results for the District were released recently. The criteria of meeting college readiness benchmarks for District students are determined based on their ACT and SAT scores in Reading and Mathematics.¹ The ACT and SAT assessments help students monitor academic progress and prepare students to achieve their college and career goals. Graduating high school students who meet college readiness benchmarks are more likely to succeed in college level courses.

Table 1 provides the nationwide criteria for meeting college readiness benchmarks by subjects.

Table 1. Nationwide Criteria for Meeting College Readiness Benchmarks by Subjects for FY16

Subject	SAT scores required to meet college readiness benchmark	ACT scores required to meet college readiness benchmark
Reading	480	22
Mathematics	530	22

This report also provides ACT and SAT participation rates based on grades 11 and 12 enrollment. Although the ACT and SAT executive summaries use only grade 12 cohort students, we have considered grades 11 and 12 test-takers here to provide a snapshot of FY16 participation and performance. Table 2 shows the number of test takers and participation rates in SAT and ACT for FY16.

¹ Table 1 provides the criteria of meeting college readiness benchmarks for students in ACT and SAT related subjects.

Table 2. Number Test Takers and Participation Rates in SAT and ACT for FY16

Ethnicity	SAT		ACT	
	Number of Test-Takers	Participation Rate	Number of Test-Takers	Participation Rate
DISTRICT	11,585	40%	7,788	27%
Asian	415	47%	281	32%
Black	3,135	39%	2,528	32%
Hispanic	3,285	40%	2,048	25%
White	4,372	41%	2,709	26%

Note: The test-takers are from grades 11 and 12 in both SAT and ACT. Participation rates are computed by total test-takers divided by total student enrollment in grades 11 and 12.

Overall, college readiness rates for DISTRICT and all racial/ethnic subgroups were found higher based on ACT scores than on SAT scores. The analysis results revealed the following:

- The rate of students meeting the college readiness benchmarks in Mathematics was found higher for ACT (32%) than for SAT (24%); however, meeting the readiness benchmark in Reading for ACT (41%) was similar to SAT (40%).
- The percentage of students meeting the college readiness benchmark in both Reading and Mathematics was higher for ACT (26%) than for SAT (22%).
- The rates of meeting the college readiness benchmarks for DISTRICT and most of the subgroups were higher in Reading than in Mathematics for both ACT and SAT.
- The rates of meeting the college readiness benchmarks remained high for Asian and White students and remained low for Black students in Reading and Mathematics for both ACT and SAT.
- The participation rates in ACT are found higher than in SAT for DISTRICT and all subgroups.

Table 3 provides the number and percentages of students meeting college readiness benchmarks (college readiness rates) in Reading and Mathematics based on ACT and SAT results for the District.

Table 3. Number and Percent of Students Meeting College Readiness Benchmarks in SAT and ACT for FY16

Ethnicity	College Readiness in Reading		College Readiness in Mathematics		College Readiness in Reading and Mathematics	
	Number of Students	Percent	Number of Students	Percent	Number of Students	Percent
SAT						
DISTRICT	4,678	40%	2,822	24%	2,525	22%
Asian	254	60%	219	52%	188	45%
Black	578	18%	211	7%	182	6%
Hispanic	1,109	34%	609	18%	519	16%
White	2,553	58%	1,672	38%	1,536	35%
ACT						
DISTRICT	3,185	41%	2,549	32%	2,061	26%
Asian	163	58%	183	65%	140	49%
Black	563	22%	257	10%	179	7%
Hispanic	682	33%	552	27%	418	20%
White	1,681	62%	1,479	54%	1,260	46%
SAT or ACT						
DISTRICT	5,600	44%	3,646	29%	3,162	25%
Asian	282	64%	260	60%	217	50%
Black	883	25%	343	10%	264	7%
Hispanic	1,302	37%	802	23%	653	18%
White	2,931	63%	2,112	45%	1,915	41%

RMA/DWC/MH/PH/RP:wI

C: Division Chiefs
Regional/Instructional Superintendents
Academic Directors
Principals