



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

3300 FOREST HILL BLVD., C-316
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33406-5813
Ph: 561-649-6888 Fx: 561-649-6837
www.palmbeach.k12.fl.us


ANN KILLETS
CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

ARTHUR C. JOHNSON, Ph.D.
SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: School Board Members
School District of Palm Beach County

FROM: Ann Killets *AK*
Chief Academic Officer

THROUGH: Arthur C. Johnson, Ph.D.
Superintendent 

DATE: September 1, 2006

SUBJECT: FY2002-FY2006 SAT I Results

The SAT Reasoning Test (SAT I) is an objective multiple-choice test measuring verbal and mathematical reasoning abilities. It is designed to be used with secondary school records and other information about the student in assessing readiness for college-level work.

In FY2006, the SAT reported for the first time results of the new writing section that measures student ability to develop and express ideas effectively.

SAT I results from multiple years can reveal trends in the demographic characteristics of the test takers and their academic preparation and can provide individual schools and districts with one way of self-evaluation and self-comparison. However, as indicated by the College Board (publisher of the SAT), caution should be used in making comparisons between local, state, and national results. Results may differ because not all students in a high school, school district, or a state take the SAT I.

Tables 1 and 2 contain information about the participation rate and mean scores for the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC), Florida, and the Nation. Table 3 contains the data for Black, Hispanic, and White seniors in the SDPBC.

SAT I performance and participation is a Key Result for the SDPBC. Statistically significant highlights of the SAT I results are presented below.

Participation Rate

- In FY2006, there were 5,647 SDPBC seniors who took the SAT I.
- The FY2006 SDPBC participation rate was higher than the nation's but lower than Florida's.
- The FY2006 SDPBC participation rates for all students and for White students were significantly higher than in FY2005.
- The participation rate for Black students has shown a significant upward trend from FY2002 to FY2005 and has remained stable in FY2006.

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Verbal, Mathematics, and Writing Mean Scores

- The FY2006 SDPBC mathematics mean score was higher than Florida's but lower than the nation's;
- The FY2006 SDPBC verbal mean score was about the same as Florida's but lower than the nation's.
- The FY2006 SDPBC writing mean score was lower than Florida's and the nation's.
- The District continues to perform at a higher level in mathematics than in verbal and writing.
- The FY2006 verbal mean score for Black students was significantly higher than in FY2005.
- The FY2006 verbal and mathematics mean scores for the District and White students were significantly lower than in FY2005.

These results will be shared with appropriate staff to provide direction for improvements in curriculum and instruction. Also, schools have received information about their SAT test takers and will use this information in the school improvement planning process.

If you have questions about the SAT I results, please contact Dean Stecker, Director of Research and Evaluation at 432-6376. If you have questions about instruction and the SAT, please contact Brenda Magee, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Learning Support, at 963-3899. If you have questions about individual school efforts and the SAT I, please contact the appropriate area superintendent.

AJ:AK:MB:DS:jl

c/attachments : Chief Academic Officer
Chief Operating Officer
Chief of Performance Accountability
Chief Public Information Officer
Chief, Safety & Learning Environment
Area/Assistant Superintendents
Academic Executive Directors/Directors
High School Principals

Table 1.

FY2002-FY2006 Number of Senior SAT I Test-Takers and Participation Rate by High School, the SDPBC, Florida, and the Nation

FISCAL YEAR	Number of Students Tested					Participation Rates				
	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006
Atlantic	320	282	307	261	256	62%	67%	70%	70%	66%
Boca Raton	241	244	261	272	291	59%	63%	66%	77%	77%
Boynton Beach	a	167	127	168	92	a	46%	36%	42%	30%
Dreyfoos School of the Arts	268	258	274	268	244	88%	84%	90%	94%	79%
Forest Hill	86	93	88	101	114	37%	40%	37%	40%	48%
Glades Central	42	49	66	101	93	16%	23%	38%	48%	45%
John I. Leonard	218	271	261	219	174	48%	50%	50%	51%	43%
Jupiter	252	277	277	305	361	67%	72%	72%	69%	67%
Lake Worth	239	257	197	218	208	50%	50%	39%	44%	43%
Olympic Heights	357	388	381	399	227	71%	74%	72%	77%	72%
P.B. Central	.	.	a	208	237	.	.	a	56%	54%
P. B. Gardens	299	261	261	299	256	64%	60%	54%	62%	52%
P. B. Lakes	208	194	204	185	231	43%	39%	46%	47%	58%
Pahokee	16	29	33	18	25	13%	22%	33%	19%	26%
Park Vista	.	.	.	a	276	.	.	.	a	65%
Royal Palm Beach	230	286	297	318	355	52%	52%	52%	54%	58%
Santaluces	290	274	300	325	196	48%	53%	51%	57%	45%
Seminole Ridge	.	.	.	.	a	.	.	.	.	a
Spanish River	417	473	467	453	443	67%	68%	69%	77%	94%
Suncoast	286	310	311	306	309	98%	99%	98%	98%	93%
W. T. Dwyer	237	256	248	278	299	57%	58%	59%	69%	68%
Wellington	462	526	487	462	544	72%	71%	67%	74%	79%
West Boca	.	.	.	.	279	.	.	.	.	81%
SDPBC	4,520	5,016	4,954	5,330	5,647	56%	56%	55%	57%	59%
Florida	75,664	83,397	87,290	93,505	94,601	58%	60%	61%	65%	63%
Nation	1,327,831	1,406,324	1,419,007	1,475,623	1,465,744	46%	48%	48%	49%	48%

Note. The SDPBC participation rates are determined by dividing the number of seniors who took the SAT I by the total number of seniors in the second nine weeks. Florida and national participation rates are determined by dividing the number of seniors who took the SAT I by the estimated number of graduating seniors, as reported by the Florida Department of Education. SDPBC = School District of Palm Beach County. '.' = School not in existence. a = No senior class.

Table 2.
 FY2002-FY2006 SAT I Mean Scores of College-Bound Seniors by High School, the SDPBC, Florida, and the Nation

FISCAL YEAR	Verbal Mean Scores					Mathematics Mean Score					Writing Mean Score
	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2006
Atlantic	518	520	528	533	524	519	526	527	539	519	499
Boca Raton	504	484	487	491	475	504	483	487	492	473	453
Boynton Beach	a	416	437	443	439	a	441	447	447	442	417
Dreyfoos School of the Arts	545	554	569	562	564	523	527	540	540	536	543
Forest Hill	461	458	475	481	477	472	456	471	478	483	448
Glades Central	381	373	381	360	375	387	400	399	389	384	378
John I. Leonard	468	475	476	489	487	488	482	481	494	487	451
Jupiter	496	508	509	512	508	504	515	516	525	524	491
Lake Worth	459	481	488	487	491	480	490	509	492	496	465
Olympic Heights	513	504	512	515	513	529	520	514	519	509	490
P.B. Central	.	.	a	471	494	.	.	a	474	498	467
P. B. Gardens	482	499	493	488	469	493	516	509	507	499	452
P. B. Lakes	450	446	433	424	426	451	445	438	425	420	400
Pahokee	382	394	372	427	378	398	416	388	446	381	389
Park Vista	.	.	.	.	480	.	.	.	.	480	454
Royal Palm Beach	474	470	471	485	474	482	475	463	474	476	449
Santaluces	474	492	483	483	481	471	486	477	475	476	465
Seminole Ridge	.	.	.	.	397	.	.	.	.	403	368
Spanish River	522	532	521	533	537	538	542	535	548	549	524
Suncoast	572	550	549	563	559	588	565	569	582	587	546
W. T. Dwyer	491	497	490	497	492	507	517	507	515	505	473
Wellington	510	510	504	518	502	524	525	519	534	512	493
West Boca	.	.	.	.	500	.	.	.	.	518	480
SDPBC	500	498	499	500	495	508	506	504	506	501	476
Florida	496	498	499	498	496	499	498	499	498	497	480
Nation	504	507	508	508	503	516	519	518	520	518	497

SDPBC = School District of Palm Beach County. '.' = School not in existence. a = No senior class.

Table 3.
FY2002-FY2006 SAT I SDPBC Results for Black, Hispanic, and White Seniors

	Black					Hispanic					White				
Fiscal Year	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
Number of Test Takers	608	656	752	904	933	463	507	546	741	807	2294	2284	2319	2893	3117
Participation Rate	30%	28%	32%	37%	37%	38%	35%	37%	47%	47%	52%	49%	49%	61%	64%
Verbal Mean Score	427	421	416	417	424	477	470	478	484	484	522	525	521	528	519
Math Mean Score	434	421	421	422	422	487	480	480	487	485	529	531	526	534	527
Writing Mean Score	.	.	.	.	406	.	.	.	.	456	.	.	.	.	501

Note. The participation rate for a disaggregated group is determined by dividing the number of seniors in a group who took the SAT I by the total number of district seniors in the group in the second nine weeks. The verbal and mathematics mean scores are calculated for college-bound seniors.