



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

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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: August 29, 2007

SUBJECT: FY2003-FY2007 SAT I Results

The College Board has recently released the results of the FY2007 SAT Reasoning Test (SAT I) for college-bound seniors who took the test. The SAT I measures verbal, mathematics, and writing abilities, and is designed to be used with secondary school records and other information in assessing student readiness for college-level work.

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

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

Overall, in FY2007 the SDPBC showed the greatest improvements in writing. A statistical analysis of the SAT I results are presented below.

Participation Rate

- The FY2007 SDPBC participation rate (57%) remained higher than the Nation's (48%) but lower than Florida's (60%).
- From FY2006 to FY2007, the participation rate for the SDPBC declined slightly (59% to 57%). The participation rate for SDPBC Black students also declined slightly (37% to 35%).

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Verbal, Mathematics, and Writing Mean Scores

- The FY2007 SDPBC mathematics mean score (502) was higher than Florida's (496) and lower than the Nation's (515). SDPBC verbal and writing mean scores (496 and 479) were similar to Florida's (497 and 479) and lower than the Nation's (502 and 494).
- From FY2006 to FY2007, while the SDPBC verbal and mathematics mean scores stayed about the same (495 to 496 and 501 to 502 respectively), the writing mean score increased three points (476 to 479). In addition,
 - Writing mean scores for Black, Hispanic, and White students increased (406 to 408, 456 to 461, and 501 to 503 respectively);
 - The verbal mean score for Black students increased (424 to 428), while the score for Hispanic students decreased (484 to 478);
 - The mathematics mean score for White students increased (527 to 529), while the score for Black students decreased (422 to 419).

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 Constance Tuman-Rugg, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum, at 434-8549. 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/ Operating Officers
Chief of Performance Accountability
Chief Public Information Officer
Chief, Safety & Learning Environment
Transition Chief Technology Officer
Area/Assistant Superintendents
Academic Executive Directors/Directors
High School Principals

Table 1.

FY2003-FY2007 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				
	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007
Atlantic	282	307	261	256	340	67%	70%	70%	66%	70%
Boca Raton	244	261	272	291	356	63%	66%	77%	77%	74%
Boynton Beach	167	127	168	92	98	46%	36%	42%	30%	32%
Dreyfoos School of the Arts	258	274	268	244	258	84%	90%	94%	79%	86%
Forest Hill	93	88	101	114	180	40%	37%	40%	48%	54%
Glades Central	49	66	101	93	67	23%	38%	48%	45%	35%
John I. Leonard	271	261	219	174	162	50%	50%	51%	43%	40%
Jupiter	277	277	305	361	435	72%	72%	69%	67%	67%
Lake Worth	257	197	218	208	213	50%	39%	44%	43%	43%
Olympic Heights	388	381	399	227	190	74%	72%	77%	72%	65%
P.B. Central	.	a	208	237	362	.	a	56%	54%	62%
P. B. Gardens	261	261	299	256	298	60%	54%	62%	52%	54%
P. B. Lakes	194	204	185	231	176	39%	46%	47%	58%	43%
Pahokee	29	33	18	25	11	22%	33%	19%	26%	12%
Park Vista	.	.	a	276	385	.	.	a	65%	73%
Royal Palm Beach	286	297	318	355	299	52%	52%	54%	58%	57%
Santaluces	274	300	325	196	190	53%	51%	57%	45%	45%
Seminole Ridge	.	.	.	a	223	.	.	.	a	53%
Spanish River	473	467	453	443	423	68%	69%	77%	94%	81%
Suncoast	310	311	306	309	274	99%	98%	98%	93%	96%
W. T. Dwyer	256	248	278	299	223	58%	59%	69%	68%	55%
Wellington	526	487	462	544	477	71%	67%	74%	79%	84%
West Boca	.	.	.	279	350	.	.	.	81%	78%
SDPBC	5,016	4,954	5,330	5,647	6,134	56%	55%	57%	59%	57%
Florida	83,397	87,290	93,505	94,601	97,366	60%	61%	65%	63%	60%
Nation	1,406,324	1,419,007	1,475,623	1,465,744	1,494,531	48%	48%	49%	48%	48%

Note. The SDPBC and Florida participation rates are determined by dividing the number of seniors who took the SAT I by the total number of seniors at the end of the first semester; therefore, the Florida data may not agree with State-released results which divide the number of test takers by the number of graduates. 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.
 FY2003-FY2007 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	
	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2006	FY2007
Atlantic	520	528	533	524	497	526	527	539	519	500	499	484
Boca Raton	484	487	491	475	488	483	487	492	473	496	453	471
Boynton Beach	416	437	443	439	429	441	447	447	442	441	417	418
Dreyfoos School of the Arts	554	569	562	564	575	527	540	540	536	543	543	554
Forest Hill	458	475	481	477	482	456	471	478	483	483	448	460
Glades Central	373	381	360	375	386	400	399	389	384	383	378	380
John I. Leonard	475	476	489	487	482	482	481	494	487	488	451	461
Jupiter	508	509	512	508	510	515	516	525	524	531	491	495
Lake Worth	481	488	487	491	486	490	509	492	496	489	465	459
Olympic Heights	504	512	515	513	518	520	514	519	509	512	490	488
P.B. Central	.	a	471	494	485	.	a	474	498	489	467	466
P. B. Gardens	499	493	488	469	487	516	509	507	499	497	452	462
P. B. Lakes	446	433	424	426	432	445	438	425	420	429	400	421
Pahokee	394	372	427	378	447	416	388	446	381	465	389	474
Park Vista	.	.	.	480	485	.	.	.	480	485	454	462
Royal Palm Beach	470	471	485	474	462	475	463	474	476	460	449	442
Santaluces	492	483	483	481	483	486	477	475	476	495	465	458
Seminole Ridge	.	.	.	397	474	.	.	.	403	480	368	456
Spanish River	532	521	533	537	533	542	535	548	549	546	524	526
Suncoast	550	549	563	559	575	565	569	582	587	589	546	562
W. T. Dwyer	497	490	497	492	486	517	507	515	505	511	473	469
Wellington	510	504	518	502	512	525	519	534	512	521	493	501
West Boca	.	.	.	500	496	.	.	.	518	513	480	487
SDPBC	498	499	500	495	496	506	504	506	501	502	476	479
Florida	498	499	498	496	497	498	499	498	497	496	480	479
Nation	507	508	508	503	502	519	518	520	518	515	497	494

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

Table 3.
FY2003-FY2007 SAT I SDPBC Results for Black, Hispanic, and White Seniors

	Black					Hispanic					White				
Fiscal Year	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Number of Test Takers	656	752	904	933	1001	507	546	741	807	967	2284	2319	2893	3117	3309
Participation Rate	28%	32%	37%	37%	35%	35%	37%	47%	47%	47%	49%	49%	61%	64%	63%
Verbal Mean Score	421	416	417	424	428	470	478	484	484	478	525	521	528	519	519
Mathematics Mean Score	421	421	422	422	419	480	480	487	485	484	531	526	534	527	529
Writing Mean Score	.	.	.	406	408	.	.	.	456	461	.	.	.	501	503

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.