



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
Chief Academic Officer

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

DATE: August 26, 2008

SUBJECT: FY2004-FY2008 SAT I Results

The College Board has recently released the results of the FY2008 SAT Reasoning Test (SAT I) for college-bound seniors who took the test. The SAT I measures critical reading, 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 performance and participation is a Key Result for the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC).

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.

Overall, in FY2008, the SDPBC showed increases in all three testing areas (critical reading, mathematics, and writing) and for all testing student groups (Black, Hispanic, and White). A statistical analysis of the SAT I results is presented below.

Critical Reading, Mathematics, and Writing Mean Scores

- From FY2007 to FY2008, SDPBC mean scores increased in reading (496 to 501), mathematics (502 to 506), and writing (479 to 484). In addition,
 - Mean scores for Black students showed large increases of 15 points in both mathematics (419 to 434) and writing (408 to 423), and 12 points in reading (428 to 440);
 - Mean scores for Hispanic students showed increases of six points in reading (478 to 484) and writing (461 to 467), and four points in mathematics (484 to 488);
 - Mean scores for White students showed increases of six points in reading (519 to 525), five points in writing (503 to 508), and four points in mathematics (529 to 533).
- In FY2008 mean scores in the SDPBC were higher than the State in reading (501 vs. 496), mathematics (506 vs. 497), and writing (484 vs. 481).

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Participation Rate

- The FY2008 SDPBC participation rate (54%) remained higher than the Nation's (45%) but lower than the State's (60%).
- From FY2007 to FY2008, the participation rate for the SDPBC declined (57% to 54%).

Supporting tables 1 and 2 contain information about the number of test takers, participation rates, and mean scores for the SDPBC, the State, and the Nation. Table 3 contains data for Black, Hispanic, and White seniors in the SDPBC.

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 357-1113. If you have questions about individual school efforts and the SAT I, please contact the appropriate area superintendent.

ACJ:AK:MB:DS:jl

c/attachments: Chief Academic/ Operating Officers
Chief Human Resources
Chief of Performance Accountability
Chief Public Information Officer
Chief Technology Officer
Chief, Safety & Learning Environment
Area/Assistant Superintendents
Academic Associate and Administrative Directors/Directors
All Principals

Table 1.
 FY2004-FY2008 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				
	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008
Atlantic	307	261	256	340	331	70%	70%	66%	70%	62%
Boca Raton	261	272	291	356	356	66%	77%	77%	74%	71%
Boynton Beach	127	168	92	98	93	36%	42%	30%	32%	30%
Dreyfoos School of the Arts	274	268	244	258	287	90%	94%	79%	86%	88%
Forest Hill	88	101	114	180	195	37%	40%	48%	54%	54%
Glades Central	66	101	93	67	58	38%	48%	45%	35%	29%
John I. Leonard	261	219	174	162	145	50%	51%	43%	40%	35%
Jupiter	277	305	361	435	469	72%	69%	67%	67%	67%
Lake Worth	197	218	208	213	223	39%	44%	43%	43%	46%
Olympic Heights	381	399	227	190	226	72%	77%	72%	65%	65%
P.B. Central	a	208	237	362	322	a	56%	54%	62%	58%
P. B. Gardens	261	299	256	298	277	54%	62%	52%	54%	54%
P. B. Lakes	204	185	231	176	137	46%	47%	58%	43%	33%
Pahokee	33	18	25	11	25	33%	19%	26%	12%	23%
Park Vista	.	a	276	385	484	.	a	65%	73%	63%
Royal Palm Beach	297	318	355	299	236	52%	54%	58%	57%	50%
Santaluces	300	325	196	190	173	51%	57%	45%	45%	36%
Seminole Ridge	.	.	A	223	228	.	.	a	53%	50%
Spanish River	467	453	443	423	357	69%	77%	94%	81%	74%
Suncoast	311	306	309	274	290	98%	98%	93%	96%	94%
W. T. Dwyer	248	278	299	223	221	59%	69%	68%	55%	58%
Wellington	487	462	544	477	406	67%	74%	79%	84%	75%
West Boca	.	.	279	350	390	.	.	81%	78%	76%
SDPBC	4,954	5,330	5,647	6,134	6,143	55%	57%	59%	57%	54%
Florida	87,290	93,505	94,601	97,366	98,578	59%	63%	62%	61%	60%
Nation	1,419,007	1,475,623	1,465,744	1,494,531	1,518,859	46%	48%	46%	46%	45%

Note. The SDPBC 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. State 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.
FY2004-FY2008 SAT I Mean Scores of College-Bound Seniors by High School, the SDPBC, Florida, and the Nation

FISCAL YEAR	Critical Reading Mean Scores					Mathematics Mean Score					Writing Mean Score		
	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008
Atlantic	528	533	524	497	530	527	539	519	500	527	499	484	512
Boca Raton	487	491	475	488	485	487	492	473	496	489	453	471	472
Boynton Beach	437	443	439	429	443	447	447	442	441	438	417	418	417
Dreyfoos School of the Arts	569	562	564	575	576	540	540	536	543	544	543	554	563
Forest Hill	475	481	477	482	483	471	478	483	483	479	448	460	464
Glades Central	381	360	375	386	403	399	389	384	383	409	378	380	410
John I. Leonard	476	489	487	482	467	481	494	487	488	459	451	461	438
Jupiter	509	512	508	510	515	516	525	524	531	530	491	495	498
Lake Worth	488	487	491	486	480	509	492	496	489	491	465	459	464
Olympic Heights	512	515	513	518	490	514	519	509	512	504	490	488	471
P.B. Central	a	471	494	485	483	a	474	498	489	489	467	466	458
P. B. Gardens	493	488	469	487	486	509	507	499	497	498	452	462	463
P. B. Lakes	433	424	426	432	439	438	425	420	429	436	400	421	422
Pahokee	372	427	378	447	404	388	446	381	465	408	389	474	405
Park Vista	.	.	480	485	493	.	.	480	485	497	454	462	476
Royal Palm Beach	471	485	474	462	474	463	474	476	460	462	449	442	448
Santaluces	483	483	481	483	473	477	475	476	495	475	465	458	459
Seminole Ridge	.	.	397	474	474	.	.	403	480	482	368	456	447
Spanish River	521	533	537	533	540	535	548	549	546	555	524	526	536
Suncoast	549	563	559	575	588	569	582	587	589	610	546	562	568
W. T. Dwyer	490	497	492	486	496	507	515	505	511	499	473	469	471
Wellington	504	518	502	512	513	519	534	512	521	523	493	501	504
West Boca	.	.	500	496	508	.	.	518	513	533	480	487	497
SDPBC	499	500	495	496	501	504	506	501	502	506	476	479	484
Florida	499	498	496	497	496	499	498	497	496	497	480	479	481
Nation	508	508	503	502	502	518	520	518	515	515	497	494	494

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

Table 3.
FY2004-FY2008 SAT I SDPBC Results for Black, Hispanic, and White Seniors

	Black					Hispanic					White				
Fiscal Year	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Number of Test Takers	752	904	933	1001	1016	546	741	807	967	1049	2319	2893	3117	3309	3256
Participation Rate	32%	37%	37%	35%	34%	37%	47%	47%	47%	47%	49%	61%	64%	63%	61%
Critical Reading Mean Score	416	417	424	428	440	478	484	484	478	484	521	528	519	519	525
Mathematics Mean Score	421	422	422	419	434	480	487	485	484	488	526	534	527	529	533
Writing Mean Score	.	.	406	408	423	.	.	456	461	467	.	.	501	503	508

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 reading and mathematics mean scores are calculated for college-bound seniors.