



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

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SUPERINTENDENT

August 25, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: School Board Members

FROM: Jeffrey Hernandez
Chief Academic Officer

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

SUBJECT: FY2005-FY2009 SAT I RESULTS

The College Board has recently released the results of the FY2009 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.¹ 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. The results can also 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.

Results

From FY2008 to FY2009, average scores for the SDPBC remained about the same,² while the participation rate decreased.³

Participation Rate

- From FY2008 to FY2009, the participation rate for the SDPBC declined (54% to 46%).
 - Participation rates decreased eight percentage points for White students (61% to 53%), three points for Black students (34% to 31%), and five points for Hispanic students (47% to 42%).

¹ The SAT Writing test did not exist until FY2006.

² Using SDPBC effect sizes, changes in SAT average scores of four points or more indicate a significant change.

³ It is likely that SAT participation has decreased because more students are taking the ACT.

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Critical Reading, Mathematics, and Writing Average Scores

- In FY2009 average scores in the SDPBC were higher than those of the State in reading (501 vs. 497), mathematics (507 vs. 498), and writing (484 vs. 480). SDPBC average scores were the same as the Nation in reading (501 vs. 501), but lower in mathematics (507 vs. 515) and writing (484 vs. 493).
- From FY2008 to FY2009, SDPBC average scores remained about the same in reading (501 to 501), mathematics (506 to 507), and writing (484 to 484).
 - Average scores for White and Black students remained about the same in reading (White: 525 to 526, Black: 440 to 438), mathematics (White: 533 to 535, Black: 434 to 435), and writing (White: 508 to 507, Black: 423 to 423).
 - Average scores for Hispanic students increased by five points in reading (484 to 489) and writing (467 to 472), and remained about the same in mathematics (488 to 490).

Tables 1 – 6 contain information about the number of test takers, participation rates, and average scores for the SDPBC, its schools, the State, and the Nation. Table 7 contains data for Black, Hispanic, and White seniors in the SDPBC. Schools that have no data for five years and schools that have closed are not reported.

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 I, please contact Constance Tuman-Rugg, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Curriculum, at 357-1113. If you have questions about individual school efforts and the SAT I, please contact the appropriate area superintendent.

ACJ/JH/MB/DS/RJ:rj

Attachments

- c: Chief of Staff
- Chief Operating Officer
- Chief, Human Resources
- Chief, Performance Accountability
- Chief Public Information Officer
- Chief, Safety & Learning Environment
- Chief Technology Officer
- Area/Assistant Superintendents
- Academic Executive Directors and Directors
- All Principals

Table 1. FY2005-FY2009 Number of Senior SAT I Test-Takers and Participation Rate for Comprehensive High Schools, the SDPBC, Florida, and the Nation

High School	Number of Students Tested					Participation Rates				
	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009
Dreyfoos School of Arts	268	244	258	287	253	94%	79%	86%	88%	76%
Atlantic	261	256	340	331	281	70%	66%	70%	62%	47%
Boca Raton	272	291	356	356	330	77%	77%	74%	71%	61%
Boynton Beach	168	92	98	93	62	42%	30%	32%	30%	24%
Forest Hill	101	114	180	195	154	40%	48%	54%	54%	38%
Glades Central	101	93	67	58	66	48%	45%	35%	29%	29%
John I. Leonard	219	174	162	145	133	51%	43%	40%	35%	32%
Jupiter	305	361	435	469	398	69%	67%	67%	67%	59%
Lake Worth	218	208	213	223	170	44%	43%	43%	46%	36%
Olympic Heights	399	227	190	226	169	77%	72%	65%	65%	47%
Pahokee Middle/Senior	18	25	11	25	29	19%	26%	12%	23%	26%
Palm Beach Central	208	237	362	322	282	56%	54%	62%	58%	49%
Palm Beach Gardens	299	256	298	277	214	62%	52%	54%	54%	43%
Palm Beach Lakes	185	231	176	137	96	47%	58%	43%	33%	25%
Park Vista	a	276	385	484	496	a	65%	73%	63%	62%
Royal Palm Beach	318	355	299	236	184	54%	58%	57%	50%	36%
Santaluces	325	196	190	173	140	57%	45%	45%	36%	31%
Seminole Ridge	.	a	223	228	266	.	a	53%	50%	47%
Spanish River	453	443	423	357	291	77%	94%	81%	74%	64%
Suncoast	306	309	274	290	240	98%	93%	96%	94%	85%
William T. Dwyer	278	299	223	221	185	69%	68%	55%	58%	46%
Wellington	462	544	477	406	319	74%	79%	84%	75%	60%
West Boca Raton	.	279	350	390	340	.	81%	78%	76%	64%
SDPBC	5,330	5,647	6,134	6,143	5,311	57%	59%	57%	54%	46%
Florida	93,505	94,601	97,366	98,578	100,179	63%	62%	61%	60%	NA
Nation	1,475,623	1,465,744	1,494,531	1,518,859	1,530,128	48%	46%	46%	45%	NA

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. NA = not available at this time.

Table 2. FY2005-FY2009 Number of Senior SAT I Test-Takers and Participation Rate for Charter High Schools

High School	Number of Students Tested					Participation Rates				
	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009
Delray Full Service	1	3	0	2	0	*	*	*	*	*
G-Star	NA	2	85	65	54	NA	*	a	62%	47%
Inlet Grove	68	67	83	96	75	53%	54%	63%	64%	55%
South Tech. Charter	52	59	61	51	78	16%	16%	18%	14%	20%

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. a = No senior class. NA = Not available. * = fewer than 10 students

Table 3. FY2005-FY2009 Number of Senior SAT I Test-Takers and Participation Rate for Alternative High Schools

High School	Number of Students Tested					Participation Rates				
	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009
Gold Coast	1	1	0	0	0	*	*	*	*	*

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. * = fewer than 10 students

Table 4. FY2005-FY2009 SAT I Average Scores of College-Bound Seniors for Comprehensive High Schools, the SDPBC, Florida, and the Nation

High School	Critical Reading Average Scores					Mathematics Average Score					Writing Average Score			
	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009
Dreyfoos School of Arts	562	564	575	576	575	540	536	543	544	546	543	554	563	558
Atlantic	533	524	497	530	522	539	519	500	527	530	499	484	512	503
Boca Raton	491	475	488	485	500	492	473	496	489	505	453	471	472	478
Boynton Beach	443	439	429	443	444	447	442	441	438	436	417	418	417	423
Forest Hill	481	477	482	483	480	478	483	483	479	475	448	460	464	457
Glades Central	360	375	386	403	398	389	384	383	409	405	378	380	410	403
John I. Leonard	489	487	482	467	463	494	487	488	459	462	451	461	438	437
Jupiter	512	508	510	515	529	525	524	531	530	538	491	495	498	507
Lake Worth	487	491	486	480	482	492	496	489	491	482	465	459	464	458
Olympic Heights	515	513	518	490	488	519	509	512	504	503	490	488	471	473
Pahokee Middle/Senior	427	378	447	404	389	446	381	465	408	409	389	474	405	381
Palm Beach Central	471	494	485	483	488	474	498	489	489	497	467	466	458	471
Palm Beach Gardens	488	469	487	486	472	507	499	497	498	495	452	462	463	456
Palm Beach Lakes	424	426	432	439	441	425	420	429	436	429	400	421	422	423
Park Vista	a	480	485	493	497	a	480	485	497	510	454	462	476	479
Royal Palm Beach	485	474	462	474	466	474	476	460	462	464	449	442	448	456
Santaluces	483	481	483	473	473	475	476	495	475	472	465	458	459	457
Seminole Ridge	.	a	474	474	500	.	a	480	482	494	a	456	447	466
Spanish River	533	537	533	540	536	548	549	546	555	542	524	526	536	535
Suncoast	563	559	575	588	573	582	587	589	610	588	546	562	568	559
W. T. Dwyer	497	492	486	496	490	515	505	511	499	509	473	469	471	472
Wellington	518	502	512	513	514	534	512	521	523	526	493	501	504	502
West Boca Raton	.	500	496	508	512	.	518	513	533	539	480	487	497	500
SDPBC	500	495	496	501	501	506	501	502	506	507	476	479	484	484
Florida	498	496	497	496	497	498	497	496	497	498	480	479	481	480
Nation	508	503	502	502	501	520	518	515	515	515	497	494	494	493

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

Table 5. FY2005-FY2009 SAT I Average Scores of College-Bound Seniors for Charter High Schools

High School	Critical Reading Average Scores					Mathematics Average Score					Writing Average Score			
	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009
Delray Full Service	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
G-Star	NA	*	a	502	505	NA	*	a	482	468	*	a	482	481
Inlet Grove	438	439	447	471	445	445	420	439	456	434	423	422	426	421
South Tech. Charter	423	423	404	420	403	428	415	389	408	392	401	382	388	394

a = No senior class. * = fewer than 10 students.

Table 6. FY2005-FY2009 SAT I Average Scores of College-Bound Seniors for Alternative High Schools

High School	Critical Reading Average Scores					Mathematics Average Score					Writing Average Score			
	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009
Gold Coast	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

* = fewer than 10 students.

Table 7. FY2005-FY2009 SAT I SDPBC Results for Black, Hispanic, and White Seniors

	Black					Hispanic					White				
	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Number of Test Takers	904	933	1001	1016	983	741	807	967	1049	966	2893	3117	3309	3256	2810
Participation Rate	37%	37%	35%	34%	31%	47%	47%	47%	47%	42%	61%	64%	63%	61%	53%
Critical Reading Average Score	417	424	428	440	438	484	484	478	484	489	528	519	519	525	526
Mathematics Average Score	422	422	419	434	435	487	485	484	488	490	534	527	529	533	535
Writing Average Score	.	406	408	423	423	.	456	461	467	472	.	501	503	508	507

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 at the end of the first semester. '.' = School not in existence.