

SCHOOL DISTRICT
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

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October 7, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: School Board Members
School District of Palm Beach County

FROM: Ann Killets 
Chief Learning Officer

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

SUBJECT: FY2010 SAT I RESULTS

The College Board has recently released the results of the FY2010 SAT Reasoning Test (SAT I) for college-bound seniors who took the test at least once during high school. 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. 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 FY2009 to FY2010, the SDPBC experienced a large increase in participation rate after three years of decline, most pronounced among White students.¹ Conversely the average scores have decreased in all subject areas during that same time period. A more detailed analysis follows.

Participation Rate²

- From FY2009 to FY2010, the SDPBC participation rate increased by seven percentage points (46% to 53%).
 - Participation rates increased by nine points for White students (53% to 62%), four points for Hispanic students (42% to 46%), and three points for Black students (31% to 34%).
- The FY2010 SDPBC participation rate (53%) was lower than that of Florida (57%).

¹ The participation rate in FY2011 will likely show a large increase again because in FY2010 all high school juniors were encouraged to take the SAT at the expense of the SDPBC.

² FY2010 participation rates for the State and the Nation are not available as of this date.

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Critical Reading, Mathematics, and Writing Average Scores

- From FY2009 to FY2010, SDPBC average scores decreased in reading (501 to 491), mathematics (507 to 496), and writing (484 to 474).
 - Average scores for White students remained similar in writing (507 to 504), however, decreased in reading (526 to 520), and mathematics (535 to 530).
 - Average scores for Black and Hispanic students decreased in reading (Black: 438 to 427, Hispanic: 489 to 481), mathematics (Black: 435 to 424, Hispanic: 490 to 480), and writing (Black: 423 to 409, Hispanic: 472 to 462).
- In FY2010, average scores for the SDPBC were similar to that of the State in mathematics (496 vs. 498), and lower than those of the State in reading (491 vs. 496) and writing (474 vs. 479).

Tables 1 through 4 report data regarding the number of test takers, participation rates, and average scores for the SDPBC, its schools³, the State, and the Nation. Table 5 reports disaggregated 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 which can be used with 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/AK/MB/DS/bs

c/attachments

Chief Operating Officer
Division Chiefs
Area/Assistant Superintendents
Academic Directors
Principals

³ Schools that have no data for five years and schools that have closed are not reported.

Table 1. FY2006-FY2010 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				
	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010
Dreyfoos School of Arts	244	258	287	253	291	79%	86%	88%	76%	88%
Atlantic	256	340	331	281	301	66%	70%	62%	47%	47%
Boca Raton	291	356	356	330	468	77%	74%	71%	61%	73%
Boynton Beach	92	98	93	62	84	30%	32%	30%	24%	27%
Forest Hill	114	180	195	154	151	48%	54%	54%	38%	35%
Glades Central	93	67	58	66	102	45%	35%	29%	29%	40%
John I. Leonard	174	162	145	133	150	43%	40%	35%	32%	34%
Jupiter	361	435	469	398	486	67%	67%	67%	59%	69%
Lake Worth	208	213	223	170	228	43%	43%	46%	36%	53%
Olympic Heights	227	190	226	169	270	72%	65%	65%	47%	72%
Pahokee Middle/Senior	25	11	25	29	33	26%	12%	23%	26%	24%
Palm Beach Central	237	362	322	282	475	54%	62%	58%	49%	69%
Palm Beach Gardens	256	298	277	214	266	52%	54%	54%	43%	47%
Palm Beach Lakes	231	176	137	96	108	58%	43%	33%	25%	23%
Park Vista	276	385	484	496	544	65%	73%	63%	62%	77%
Royal Palm Beach	355	299	236	184	202	58%	57%	50%	36%	38%
Santaluces	196	190	173	140	227	45%	45%	36%	31%	42%
Seminole Ridge	a	223	228	266	349	a	53%	50%	47%	59%
Spanish River	443	423	357	291	379	94%	81%	74%	64%	75%
Suncoast	309	274	290	240	287	93%	96%	94%	85%	90%
William T. Dwyer	299	223	221	185	193	68%	55%	58%	46%	44%
Wellington	544	477	406	319	416	79%	84%	75%	60%	78%
West Boca Raton	279	350	390	340	380	81%	78%	76%	64%	70%
SDPBC	5,647	6,134	6,143	5,311	6,724	59%	57%	54%	46%	53%
Florida	94,601	97,366	98,578	100,179	102,741	62%	61%	60%	58%	57%
Nation	1,465,744	1,494,531	1,518,859	1,530,128	1,547,990	46%	46%	45%	46%	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. a = No senior class. NA = not available at this time.

Table 2. FY2006-FY2010 Number of Senior SAT I Test-Takers and Participation Rate for Charter High Schools

High School	Number of Students Tested					Participation Rates				
	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010
G-Star	a	a	65	54	96	a	a	62%	47%	59%
Inlet Grove	67	83	96	75	106	54%	63%	64%	55%	83%
Leadership Academy West	NA	NA	NA	NA	25	NA	NA	NA	NA	56%
South Tech	59	61	51	78	107	16%	18%	14%	20%	25%

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.

Table 3. FY2006-FY2010 SAT I Average Scores of College-Bound Seniors for Comprehensive High Schools, the SDPBC, Florida, and the Nation

High School	Critical Reading Average Score					Mathematics Average Score					Writing Average Score				
	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010
Dreyfoos School of Arts	564	575	576	575	565	536	543	544	546	537	543	554	563	558	550
Atlantic	524	497	530	522	530	519	500	527	530	529	499	484	512	503	514
Boca Raton	475	488	485	500	495	473	496	489	505	508	453	471	472	478	479
Boynton Beach	439	429	443	444	405	442	441	438	436	408	417	418	417	423	385
Forest Hill	477	482	483	480	470	483	483	479	475	464	448	460	464	457	454
Glades Central	375	386	403	398	381	384	383	409	405	396	378	380	410	403	381
John I. Leonard	487	482	467	463	439	487	488	459	462	449	451	461	438	437	412
Jupiter	508	510	515	529	517	524	531	530	538	531	491	495	498	507	499
Lake Worth	491	486	480	482	426	496	489	491	482	430	465	459	464	458	409
Olympic Heights	513	518	490	488	466	509	512	504	503	470	490	488	471	473	449
Pahokee Middle/Senior	*	*	*	*	426	*	*	*	*	437	*	*	*	*	425
Palm Beach Central	494	485	483	488	488	498	489	489	497	490	467	466	458	471	466
Palm Beach Gardens	469	487	486	472	479	499	497	498	495	495	452	462	463	456	461
Palm Beach Lakes	426	432	439	441	443	420	429	436	429	435	400	421	422	423	422
Park Vista	480	485	493	497	497	480	485	497	510	506	454	462	476	479	474
Royal Palm Beach	474	462	474	466	463	476	460	462	464	463	449	442	448	456	444
Santaluces	481	483	473	473	439	476	495	475	472	436	465	458	459	457	426
Seminole Ridge	a	474	474	500	484	a	480	482	494	493	a	456	447	466	463
Spanish River	537	533	540	536	529	549	546	555	542	548	524	526	536	535	525
Suncoast	559	575	588	573	578	587	589	610	588	593	546	562	568	559	566
W. T. Dwyer	492	486	496	490	492	505	511	499	509	509	473	469	471	472	474
Wellington	502	512	513	514	501	512	521	523	526	502	493	501	504	502	476
West Boca Raton	500	496	508	512	499	518	513	533	539	518	480	487	497	500	492
SDPBC	495	496	501	501	491	501	502	506	507	496	476	479	484	484	474
Florida	496	497	496	497	496	497	496	497	498	498	480	479	481	480	479
Nation	503	502	502	501	501	518	515	515	515	516	497	494	494	493	492

a = No senior class. * = fewer than 30 students.

Table 4. FY2006-FY2010 SAT I Average Scores of College-Bound Seniors for Charter High Schools

High School	Critical Reading Average Score					Mathematics Average Score					Writing Average Score				
	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010
G-Star	a	a	502	505	491	a	a	482	468	463	a	a	482	481	478
Inlet Grove	439	447	471	445	417	420	439	456	434	390	423	422	426	421	392
Leadership Academy West	NA	NA	NA	NA	*	NA	NA	NA	NA	*	NA	NA	NA	NA	*
South Tech	423	404	420	403	420	415	389	408	392	409	401	382	388	394	399

a = No senior class. NA = Not available. * = fewer than 30 students.

Table 5. FY2006-FY2010 SAT I SDPBC Results for Black, Hispanic, and White Seniors

	Black					Hispanic					White				
	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Number of Test Takers	933	1001	1016	983	1224	807	967	1049	966	1343	3117	3309	3256	2810	3292
Participation Rate	37%	35%	34%	31%	34%	47%	47%	47%	42%	46%	64%	63%	61%	53%	62%
Critical Reading Average Score	424	428	440	438	427	484	478	484	489	481	519	519	525	526	520
Mathematics Average Score	422	419	434	435	424	485	484	488	490	480	527	529	533	535	530
Writing Average Score	406	408	423	423	409	456	461	467	472	462	501	503	508	507	504

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. This includes seniors enrolled in comprehensive high schools and charter schools.