



SCHOOL DISTRICT
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

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September 14, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: School Board Members
School District of Palm Beach County

FROM: Judith Klinek *JK*
Chief Academic Officer

SUBJECT: FY2011 SAT I RESULTS

The College Board has recently released the results of the FY2011 SAT Reasoning Test (SAT I) for college-bound seniors. The report includes the SAT I results of FY2011 seniors who took the test at any time during high school.¹

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 performance because not all students in a high school, a school district, or a state take the SAT I.

This caution is all the more important when understanding this year's results because in FY2010, for the first time, at its own expense, the SDPBC, offered the SAT I to all FY2010 high school juniors during the school day at every high school. The SAT I results of these students are included in the FY2011 SAT I report of college-bound seniors.

By offering the SAT I to all FY2010 high school juniors and administering it during the school day, potential barriers such as the cost of the test, transportation to a test center, and lack of knowledge about preparing for and taking the test were eliminated. Consequently, access and equity were increased and more students will see college as a viable option and opportunity.

As noted by the College Board, it is common for average scores to decline when the number of students taking an exam increases because more students of varied academic backgrounds are represented in the test-taking pool. As emphasis on college readiness continues to progress, we expect our student performance on the SAT I and other college readiness tests to improve.

Summary

In FY2011, 89% of our seniors took the SAT I, a participation rate that is substantially higher than SDPBC historical participation rates, which range from 46% to 57%. The participation rates for Black, Hispanic and White seniors also were substantially higher than their historical rates. The FY2011 SDPBC participation rate is considerably higher than that of Florida and the Nation. In contrast, from FY2010 to FY2011, the average SAT I scores decreased substantially for the SDPBC and for Black, Hispanic and White seniors.

¹ For example, the results of FY2010 high school juniors who took the SAT I in FY2010 and were seniors in FY2011 are included in this report.

A more detailed analysis follows.

Participation Rate

- From FY2010 to FY2011, the SDPBC participation rate increased by 36 percentage points (53% to 89%).
 - Participation rates increased for Black students (34% to 68%); for Hispanic students (46% to 80%), and for White students (62% to 85%).
- The FY2011 SDPBC participation rate (89%) was substantially higher than that of Florida (62%) and that of the Nation (50%), the first time such a large difference has occurred.

Critical Reading, Mathematics, and Writing Average Scores²

- From FY2010 to FY2011, SDPBC average scores decreased in reading (491 to 445), mathematics (496 to 452), and writing (474 to 433).
 - Average reading scores decreased for Black (427 to 390), Hispanic (481 to 434), and White (520 to 500) seniors.
 - Average math scores decreased for Black (424 to 392), Hispanic (480 to 441), and White (530 to 508) seniors.
 - Average writing scores decreased for Black (409 to 381), Hispanic (462 to 424), and White (504 to 487) seniors.

Tables 1 through 4 report data regarding the number of test takers, participation rates, and average scores for the SDPBC, its schools, 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 results about their SAT I test takers and use these results in their school improvement planning.

If you have questions about interpreting the SAT I results, please contact Mark Howard, Director of Research, Evaluation and Assessment at 432-6376. If you have questions about instruction and the SAT I, please contact Dr. Janis Andrews, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Curriculum, at 357-1113. If you have questions about college readiness initiatives and the SAT I, please contact Keith Oswald, Assistant Superintendent, Safety and Learning Environment, at 434-8847. If you have questions about individual school efforts and the SAT I, please contact the appropriate area superintendent.

WFM/JK/MB/MH/bs

c/attachments

Division Chiefs
Area/Assistant Superintendents
Academic Directors
Principals

² As a result of the substantial differences in SAT I participation rates between SDPBC and Florida and the Nation, SAT I scores are not compared between SDPBC and Florida and the Nation.

Table 1. FY2007-FY2011 Number of Senior SAT I Test-Takers and Participation Rates for Comprehensive High Schools, the SDPBC, Florida, and the Nation

High School	Number of Students Tested					Participation Rates				
	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011
Dreyfoos School of Arts	258	287	253	291	337	86%	88%	76%	88%	100%
Atlantic	340	331	281	301	567	70%	62%	47%	47%	97%
Boca Raton	356	356	330	468	667	74%	71%	61%	73%	98%
Boynton Beach	98	93	62	84	328	32%	30%	24%	27%	96%
Forest Hill	180	195	154	151	405	54%	54%	38%	35%	92%
Glades Central	67	58	66	102	221	35%	29%	29%	40%	87%
John I. Leonard	162	145	133	150	464	40%	35%	32%	34%	90%
Jupiter	435	469	398	486	684	67%	67%	59%	69%	95%
Lake Worth	213	223	170	228	411	43%	46%	36%	53%	95%
Olympic Heights	190	226	169	270	422	65%	65%	47%	72%	100%
Pahokee Middle/Senior	11	25	29	33	99	12%	23%	26%	24%	85%
Palm Beach Central	362	322	282	475	670	62%	58%	49%	69%	98%
Palm Beach Gardens	298	277	214	266	613	54%	54%	43%	47%	98%
Palm Beach Lakes	176	137	96	108	440	43%	33%	25%	23%	92%
Park Vista	385	484	496	544	695	73%	63%	62%	77%	96%
Royal Palm Beach	299	236	184	202	453	57%	50%	36%	38%	93%
Santaluces	190	173	140	227	519	45%	36%	31%	42%	92%
Seminole Ridge	223	228	266	349	544	53%	50%	47%	59%	96%
Spanish River	423	357	291	379	534	81%	74%	64%	75%	100%
Suncoast	274	290	240	287	335	96%	94%	85%	90%	100%
William T. Dwyer	223	221	185	193	405	55%	58%	46%	44%	91%
Wellington	477	406	319	416	521	84%	75%	60%	78%	95%
West Boca Raton	350	390	340	380	473	78%	76%	64%	70%	95%
SDPBC	6,134	6,143	5,311	6,724	11,412	57%	54%	46%	53%	89%
Florida	97,366	98,578	100,179	102,741	114,769	61%	60%	58%	57%	62%
Nation	1,494,531	1,518,859	1,530,128	1,547,990	1,647,123	46%	45%	46%	47%	50%*

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, including students at all SDPBC schools. Florida's participation rate is determined by dividing the number of seniors who took the SAT I by the number of graduating seniors, as determined by the Florida Department of Education. SDPBC = School District of Palm Beach County. a = No senior class. NA = not available at this time. * The only available participation rate reported for the Nation at this time includes public and private school students.

Table 2. FY2007-FY2011 Number of Senior SAT I Test-Takers and Participation Rates for Charter High Schools

High School	Number of Students Tested					Participation Rates				
	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011
G-Star	a	65	54	96	185	a	62%	47%	59%	100%
Inlet Grove	83	96	75	106	134	63%	64%	55%	83%	100%
Leadership Academy West	NA	NA	NA	25	28	NA	NA	NA	56%	88%
South Tech	61	51	78	107	258	18%	14%	20%	25%	63%

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, including students at all SDPBC schools. Florida's participation rate is determined by dividing the number of seniors who took the SAT I by the number of graduating seniors, as determined by the Florida Department of Education. a = No senior class. NA = Not available.

Table 3. FY2007-FY2011 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				
	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011
Dreyfoos School of Arts	575	576	575	565	575	543	544	546	537	546	554	563	558	550	563
Atlantic	497	530	522	530	447	500	527	530	529	446	484	512	503	514	435
Boca Raton	488	485	500	495	474	496	489	505	508	479	471	472	478	479	471
Boynton Beach	429	443	444	405	347	441	438	436	408	353	418	417	423	385	333
Forest Hill	482	483	480	470	414	483	479	475	464	415	460	464	457	454	402
Glades Central	386	403	398	381	349	383	409	405	396	363	380	410	403	381	356
John I. Leonard	482	467	463	439	401	488	459	462	449	409	461	438	437	412	387
Jupiter	510	515	529	517	492	531	530	538	531	503	495	498	507	499	484
Lake Worth	486	480	482	426	388	489	491	482	430	403	459	464	458	409	374
Olympic Heights	518	490	488	466	444	512	504	503	470	450	488	471	473	449	424
Pahokee Middle/Senior	*	*	*	426	377	*	*	*	437	393	*	*	*	425	380
Palm Beach Central	485	483	488	488	460	489	489	497	490	465	466	458	471	466	440
Palm Beach Gardens	487	486	472	479	414	497	498	495	495	429	462	463	456	461	403
Palm Beach Lakes	432	439	441	443	368	429	436	429	435	372	421	422	423	422	355
Park Vista	485	493	497	497	473	485	497	510	506	481	462	476	479	474	455
Royal Palm Beach	462	474	466	463	404	460	462	464	463	407	442	448	456	444	399
Santaluces	483	473	473	439	401	495	475	472	436	418	458	459	457	426	388
Seminole Ridge	474	474	500	484	439	480	482	494	493	443	456	447	466	463	420
Spanish River	533	540	536	529	504	546	555	542	548	524	526	536	535	525	504
Suncoast	575	588	573	578	570	589	610	588	593	586	562	568	559	566	556
W. T. Dwyer	486	496	490	492	434	511	499	509	509	446	469	471	472	474	425
Wellington	512	513	514	501	486	521	523	526	502	499	501	504	502	476	471
West Boca Raton	496	508	512	499	486	513	533	539	518	500	487	497	500	492	478
SDPBC	496	501	501	491	445	502	506	507	496	452	479	484	484	474	433
Florida	497	496	497	496	487	496	497	498	498	489	479	481	480	479	471
Nation	502	502	501	501	497	515	515	515	516	514	494	494	493	492	489

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

Table 4. FY2007-FY2011 SAT I Average Scores of College-Bound Seniors for Charter High Schools

High School	Critical Reading Average Score					Mathematics Average Score					Writing Average Score				
	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011
G-Star	a	502	505	491	464	a	482	468	463	427	a	482	481	478	445
Inlet Grove	447	471	445	417	398	439	456	434	390	411	422	426	421	392	394
Leadership Academy West	NA	NA	NA	*	333	NA	NA	NA	*	322	NA	NA	NA	*	325
South Tech	404	420	403	420	382	389	408	392	409	384	382	388	394	399	365

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

Table 5. FY2007-FY2011 SAT I SDPBC Results for Black, Hispanic, and White Seniors

	Black					Hispanic					White				
	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Number of Test Takers	1001	1016	983	1224	2564	967	1049	966	1343	2427	3309	3256	2810	3292	4415
Participation Rate	35%	34%	31%	34%	68%	47%	47%	42%	46%	80%	63%	61%	53%	62%	85%
Critical Reading Average Score	428	440	438	427	390	478	484	489	481	434	519	525	526	520	500
Mathematics Average Score	419	434	435	424	392	484	488	490	480	441	529	533	535	530	508
Writing Average Score	408	423	423	409	381	461	467	472	462	424	503	508	507	504	487

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.