



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT of
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

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October 5, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: School Board Members

FROM: E. Wayne Gent
Superintendent 

SUBJECT: SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PALM BEACH COUNTY (SDPBC) FY2012 SAT I RESULTS

The College Board has recently released the results of the FY2012 SAT Reasoning Test (SAT I) for college-bound seniors. The report includes the SAT I results of FY2012 seniors who took the test at any time during high school.¹

Summary of Results

- From FY2011 to FY2012, the SDPBC Critical Reading, Mathematics, and Writing scores increased significantly for Black, Hispanic and White seniors while maintaining historically high participation rates.
- The FY2012 SDPBC participation rate is the second highest rate historically and higher than Florida for the second consecutive year.
- The FY2012 class is historically one of the most diverse classes of SAT I test takers, underscoring the SDPBC's continued emphasis on access and equity.

Access and Equity

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. The SAT was established to democratize access to higher education and ensure that students who did not attend the most exclusive high schools had the opportunity to go to college.

In FY2010, the SAT I was offered to all juniors in the SDPBC during the school day, reducing 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. Consequently, access and equity were increased and more students were able to see college as a viable option resulting in an unprecedented participation rate. Due to a lack of funding in FY2011, all juniors did not have this same opportunity, which is reflected in the class of FY2012 participation rate.

Comparisons

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 considering in FY2010, when the SDPBC offered the SAT I to all juniors. The SAT I results of these students are reported as FY2011.

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.

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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. A detailed analysis of the SDPBC SAT I results follows.

Critical Reading, Mathematics, and Writing Average Scores

- From FY2011 to FY2012, SDPBC average scores increased in reading (445 to 478), mathematics (452 to 484), and writing (433 to 463).
 - Average reading scores increased for Black (390 to 405), Hispanic (434 to 469), and White (500 to 524) seniors.
 - Average math scores increased for Black (392 to 405), Hispanic (441 to 472), and White (508 to 531) seniors.
 - Average writing scores increased for Black (381 to 389), Hispanic (424 to 453), and White (487 to 509) seniors.

Participation Rate

- The FY2012 SDPBC participation rate (69%) was higher than that of Florida (64%) for the second consecutive year.
- From FY2011 to FY2012, the SDPBC participation rate decreased by 20 percentage points (89% to 69%).
 - Participation rates decreased for Black students (68% to 59%), for Hispanic students (80% to 62%), and for White students (85% to 72%).

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 434-8781. If you have questions about instruction and the SAT I, please contact Keith Oswald, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Curriculum and Learning Support, at 357-1113. If you have questions about college readiness initiatives and the SAT I, please contact Joseph Lee, Assistant Superintendent, Safety and Learning Environment, at 434-8813. If you have questions about individual school efforts and the SAT I, please contact the appropriate area superintendent.

EWG/JA/FR/MH/RP/RW/ts

c/attachments

Division Chiefs
Area/Assistant Superintendents
Academic Directors
Principals

Table 1. FY2008-FY2012 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				
	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012
Alexander W. Dreyfoos	287	253	291	337	290	88%	76%	88%	100%	100%
Atlantic	331	281	301	567	362	62%	47%	47%	97%	73%
Boca Raton	356	330	468	667	562	71%	61%	73%	98%	79%
Boynton Beach	93	62	84	328	337	30%	24%	27%	96%	100%
Forest Hill	195	154	151	405	169	54%	38%	35%	92%	50%
Glades Central	58	66	102	221	242	29%	29%	40%	87%	100%
John I. Leonard	145	133	150	464	260	35%	32%	34%	90%	54%
Jupiter	469	398	486	684	510	67%	59%	69%	95%	76%
Lake Worth	223	170	228	411	442	46%	36%	53%	95%	99%
Olympic Heights	226	169	270	422	318	65%	47%	72%	100%	72%
Pahokee Middle/Senior	25	29	33	99	41	23%	26%	24%	85%	37%
Palm Beach Central	322	282	475	670	464	58%	49%	69%	98%	70%
Palm Beach Gardens	277	214	266	613	402	54%	43%	47%	98%	73%
Palm Beach Lakes	137	96	108	440	317	33%	25%	23%	92%	85%
Park Vista	484	496	544	695	516	63%	62%	77%	96%	78%
Royal Palm Beach	236	184	202	453	229	50%	36%	38%	93%	50%
Santaluces	173	140	227	519	379	36%	31%	42%	92%	80%
Seminole Ridge	228	266	349	544	350	50%	47%	59%	96%	60%
Spanish River	357	291	379	534	433	74%	64%	75%	100%	83%
Suncoast	290	240	287	335	341	94%	85%	90%	100%	100%
William T. Dwyer	221	185	193	405	383	58%	46%	44%	91%	76%
West Boca Raton	390	340	380	473	359	76%	64%	70%	95%	77%
William T. Dwyer	221	185	193	405	286	58%	46%	44%	91%	61%
SDPBC	6,143	5,311	6,724	11,412	8,344	54%	46%	53%	89%	69%
Florida	78,187	72,178	78,985	94,700	92,281	54%	59%	59%	62%	64%
Nation	1,167,849	1,093,374	1,114,273	1,267,239	1,284,459	45%	46%	47%	NA	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, 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. NA = not available.

Table 2. FY2008-FY2012 Number of Senior SAT I Test Takers and Participation Rates for Charter High Schools

High School	Number of Students Tested					Participation Rates				
	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012
G-Star	65	54	96	185	108	62%	47%	59%	100%	71%
Inlet Grove	96	75	106	134	107	64%	55%	83%	100%	74%
Leadership Academy West	NA	NA	25	28	6	NA	NA	56%	88%	26%
Riviera Beach Maritime	NA	NA	NA	NA	10	NA	NA	NA	NA	40%
South Tech	51	78	107	258	110	14%	20%	25%	63%	27%
Toussaint L'Ouverture	NA	NA	NA	NA	11	NA	NA	NA	NA	12%

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. NA = not available at this time.

Table 3. FY2008-FY2012 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				
	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012
Alexander W. Dreyfoos	576	575	565	575	579	544	546	537	546	552	563	558	550	563	571
Atlantic	530	522	530	447	499	527	530	529	446	496	512	503	514	435	478
Boca Raton	485	500	495	474	518	489	505	508	479	521	472	478	479	471	509
Boynton Beach	443	444	405	347	362	438	436	408	353	376	417	423	385	333	360
Forest Hill	483	480	470	414	469	479	475	464	415	459	464	457	454	402	437
Glades Central	403	398	381	349	352	409	405	396	363	377	410	403	381	356	350
John I. Leonard	467	463	439	401	443	459	462	449	409	443	438	437	412	387	412
Jupiter	515	529	517	492	530	530	538	531	503	536	498	507	499	484	517
Lake Worth	480	482	426	388	388	491	482	430	403	396	464	458	409	374	379
Olympic Heights	490	488	466	444	494	504	503	470	450	495	471	473	449	424	481
Pahokee Middle/Senior	*	*	426	377	404	*	*	437	393	417	*	*	425	380	397
Palm Beach Central	483	488	488	460	496	489	497	490	465	502	458	471	466	440	472
Palm Beach Gardens	486	472	479	414	453	498	495	495	429	465	463	456	461	403	434
Palm Beach Lakes	439	441	443	368	372	436	429	435	372	385	422	423	422	355	364
Park Vista	493	497	497	473	500	497	510	506	481	508	476	479	474	455	484
Royal Palm Beach	474	466	463	404	454	462	464	463	407	451	448	456	444	399	427
Santaluces	473	473	439	401	422	475	472	436	418	433	459	457	426	388	407
Seminole Ridge	474	500	484	439	495	482	494	493	443	491	447	466	463	420	460
Spanish River	540	536	529	504	539	555	542	548	524	560	536	535	525	504	539
Suncoast	588	573	578	570	583	610	588	593	586	595	568	559	566	556	566
Wellington	513	514	501	486	511	523	526	502	499	518	504	502	476	471	495
West Boca Raton	508	512	499	486	516	533	539	518	500	533	497	500	492	478	499
William T. Dwyer	496	490	492	434	479	499	509	509	446	488	471	472	474	425	458
SDPBC	501	501	491	445	478	506	507	496	452	484	484	484	474	433	463
Florida	496	497	496	483	489	497	498	498	486	490	481	480	479	466	472
Nation	502	501	501	493	491	515	515	516	506	505	494	493	492	482	481

* = fewer than 30 students.

Table 4. FY2008-FY2012 SAT I Average Scores of College-Bound Seniors for Charter High Schools

High School	Critical Reading Average Score					Mathematics Average Score					Writing Average Score				
	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012
G-Star	502	505	491	464	509	482	468	463	427	481	482	481	478	445	495
Inlet Grove	471	445	417	398	427	456	434	390	411	427	426	421	392	394	402
Leadership Academy West	NA	NA	*	333	*	NA	NA	*	322	*	NA	NA	*	325	*
Riviera Beach Maritime	NA	NA	NA	NA	*	NA	NA	NA	NA	*	NA	NA	NA	NA	*
South Tech	420	403	420	382	426	408	392	409	384	401	388	394	399	365	400
Toussaint L'Ouverture	NA	NA	NA	NA	*	NA	NA	NA	NA	*	NA	NA	NA	NA	*

NA = Not available. * = fewer than 30 students.

Table 5. FY2008-FY2012 SAT I SDPBC Results for Black, Hispanic, and White Seniors

	Black					Hispanic					White				
	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Number of Test Takers	1,016	983	1,224	2,564	2,034	1,049	966	1,343	2,427	1,768	3,256	2,810	3,292	4,415	3,609
Participation Rate	34%	31%	34%	68%	59%	47%	42%	46%	80%	62%	61%	53%	62%	85%	72%
Critical Reading Average Score	440	438	427	390	405	484	489	481	434	469	525	526	520	500	524
Mathematics Average Score	434	435	424	392	405	488	490	480	441	472	533	535	530	508	531
Writing Average Score	423	423	409	381	389	467	472	462	424	453	508	507	504	487	509

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.