



**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA**

MARK HOWARD
CHIEF OF PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY

KEITH OSWALD
CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER (INTERIM)

DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH, EVALUATION, AND ASSESSMENT
3300 FOREST HILL BOULEVARD, SUITE B-250
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33406-5813

PHONE: 561-434-8850 / FAX: 561-434-8903

WWW.PALMBEACHSCHOOLS.ORG/DRE

MEMORANDUM

October 27, 2014

TO: School Board Members

FROM: Keith Oswald, Chief Academic Officer (Interim) 

THROUGH: E. Wayne Gent, Superintendent 

SUBJECT: **FY14 SAT RESULTS**

The College Board has recently released the results of the FY14 SAT Reasoning Test (SAT) for seniors in the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC).¹ The SAT 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.²

In FY14, the SDPBC demonstrated historic participation rates (91%) and significantly increased participation for traditionally under-represented populations. By offering the SAT to all high school juniors and administering it during the school day, a number of 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.

A preliminary analysis of the results showed the following:

- From FY13 to FY14, the SDPBC:
 - Participation rate increased for all students by 25 percentage points, for Black and Hispanic students by 27 percentage points, and for White students by 19 percentage points.
 - Average scores decreased in reading (476 to 452), mathematics (478 to 449), and writing (461 to 437) while some of the National average scores decreased slightly as well. (See Table 3)

¹ The report includes the SAT results of FY14 seniors who took the test at any time during high school.

² In addition, some students take the SAT in order to meet their reading or mathematics testing graduation requirement.

- From FY10 to FY14:
 - The SDPBC participation rate increased by 38 percentage points (53% to 91%).
 - Participation rates increased for Black students (34% to 83%), for Hispanic students (46% to 86%), and for White students (62% to 88%).³

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. This caution particularly applies to comparing results for the SDPBC across years, since the group of students taking the SAT has varied from year to year.

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

If you have questions about interpreting the SAT results, please contact Mark Howard, Chief of Performance Accountability, at 561-434-8850; about instruction and the SAT, contact Karen Whetsell, Assistant Superintendent, Teaching and Learning, at 561-357-1113; or about individual school efforts and the SAT, the appropriate area superintendent.

EWG/KO/MH/RP/BS:pp/jb/du
Attachments

cc: Division Chiefs
Area/Assistant Superintendents
Academic Directors
Principals

Table 1. FY2010-FY2014 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				
	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014
Alexander W. Dreyfoos	291	337	290	307	319	88%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Atlantic	301	567	362	377	457	47%	97%	73%	78%	100%
Boca Raton	468	667	562	582	753	73%	98%	79%	74%	93%
Boynton Beach	84	328	337	346	387	27%	96%	100%	89%	100%
Forest Hill	151	405	169	191	486	35%	92%	50%	42%	100%
Glades Central	102	221	242	230	202	40%	87%	100%	100%	100%
John I. Leonard	150	464	260	229	545	34%	90%	54%	41%	89%
Jupiter	486	684	510	545	605	69%	95%	76%	73%	100%
Lake Worth	228	411	442	398	434	53%	95%	99%	100%	100%
Olympic Heights	270	422	318	365	434	72%	100%	72%	66%	94%
Pahokee Middle/Senior	33	99	41	97	99	24%	85%	37%	84%	92%
Palm Beach Central	475	670	464	442	689	69%	98%	70%	66%	100%
Palm Beach Gardens	266	613	402	390	571	47%	98%	73%	70%	100%
Palm Beach Lakes	108	440	317	350	370	23%	92%	85%	76%	97%
Park Vista	544	695	516	494	729	77%	96%	78%	75%	100%
Royal Palm Beach	202	453	229	240	488	38%	93%	50%	49%	100%
Santaluces	227	519	379	484	538	42%	92%	80%	90%	100%
Seminole Ridge	349	544	350	308	605	59%	96%	60%	54%	95%
Spanish River	379	534	433	446	513	75%	100%	83%	79%	92%
Suncoast	287	335	341	325	366	90%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Village Academy	NA	NA	NA	NA	42	NA	NA	NA	NA	100%
Wellington	416	521	383	385	566	78%	95%	76%	67%	100%
West Boca Raton	380	473	359	345	505	70%	95%	77%	72%	100%
William T. Dwyer	193	405	286	319	520	44%	91%	61%	62%	100%
SDPBC	6,724	11,412	8,344	8,591	11,874	53%	89%	69%	66%	91%
Florida	78,985	94,700	92,281	112,554	115,437	59%	62%	64%	67%	NA
Nation	1,114,273	1,267,239	1,284,459	1,660,047	1,672,395	47%	NA	NA	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 estimated only. SDPBC = School District of Palm Beach County. NA = not available.

Table 2. FY2010-FY2014 Number of Senior SAT I Test Takers and Participation Rates for Charter High Schools

High School	Number of Students Tested					Participation Rates				
	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014
G-Star	96	185	108	131	164	59%	100%	71%	70%	78%
Inlet Grove	106	134	107	133	105	83%	100%	74%	91%	100%
Leadership Academy West	25	28	6	5	5	56%	88%	26%	NA	15%
Mavericks	NA	NA	NA	1	4	NA	NA	NA	1%	3%
Quantum	NA	NA	NA	2	1	NA	NA	NA	2%	1%
Riviera Beach Maritime	NA	NA	10	18	13	NA	NA	40%	41%	43%
South Tech	107	258	110	96	118	25%	63%	27%	25%	34%
Toussaint L'Ouverture	NA	NA	11	4	3	NA	NA	12%	4%	4%
Worthington	NA	NA	NA	4	7	NA	NA	NA	5%	9%

NA = not available at this time.

Table 3. FY2010-FY2014 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				
	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014
Alexander W. Dreyfoos	565	575	579	579	574	537	546	552	546	543	550	563	571	566	557
Atlantic	530	447	499	454	462	529	446	496	456	453	514	435	478	451	453
Boca Raton	495	474	518	513	496	508	479	521	523	499	479	471	509	506	491
Boynton Beach	405	347	362	382	382	408	353	376	382	371	385	333	360	366	372
Forest Hill	470	414	469	464	388	464	415	459	450	389	454	402	437	439	376
Glades Central	381	349	352	359	367	396	363	377	376	386	381	356	350	355	365
John I. Leonard	439	401	443	460	402	449	409	443	460	405	412	387	412	423	385
Jupiter	517	492	530	527	493	531	503	536	523	489	499	484	517	515	479
Lake Worth	426	388	388	389	371	430	403	396	400	370	409	374	379	379	358
Olympic Heights	466	444	494	491	451	470	450	495	485	451	449	424	481	467	434
Pahokee Middle/Senior	426	377	404	380	364	437	393	417	416	389	425	380	397	382	371
Palm Beach Central	488	460	496	500	461	490	465	502	495	449	466	440	472	480	440
Palm Beach Gardens	479	414	453	454	429	495	429	465	456	426	461	403	434	436	414
Palm Beach Lakes	443	368	372	377	369	435	372	385	379	354	422	355	364	375	353
Park Vista	497	473	500	512	478	506	481	508	514	474	474	455	484	487	458
Royal Palm Beach	463	404	454	438	412	463	407	451	441	405	444	399	427	416	391
Santaluces	439	401	422	407	408	436	418	433	414	411	426	388	407	393	389
Seminole Ridge	484	439	495	500	456	493	443	491	494	451	463	420	460	462	429
Spanish River	529	504	539	542	523	548	524	560	556	530	525	504	539	540	519
Suncoast	578	570	583	589	580	593	586	595	602	593	566	556	566	568	561
Village Academy	NA	NA	NA	NA	377	NA	NA	NA	NA	386	NA	NA	NA	NA	374
Wellington	501	486	511	499	491	502	499	518	507	490	476	471	495	489	479
West Boca Raton	499	486	516	513	490	518	500	533	527	497	492	478	499	504	478
William T. Dwyer	492	434	479	484	455	509	446	488	487	453	474	425	458	472	444
SDPBC	491	445	478	476	452	496	452	484	478	449	474	433	463	461	437
Florida	496	483	489	492	491	498	486	490	490	485	479	466	472	475	472
Nation	501	493	491	496	497	516	506	505	514	513	492	482	481	488	487

* = Not reported due to fewer than 30 students.

Table 4. FY2010-FY2014 SAT I Average Scores of College-Bound Seniors for Charter High Schools

High School	Critical Reading Average Score					Mathematics Average Score					Writing Average Score				
	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014
G-Star	491	464	509	511	499	463	427	481	471	441	478	445	495	504	477
Inlet Grove	417	398	427	425	418	390	411	427	416	411	392	394	402	397	397
Leadership Academy West	*	333	*	*	*	*	322	*	*	*	*	325	*	*	*
Mavericks	NA	NA	NA	*	*	NA	NA	NA	*	*	NA	NA	NA	*	*
Riviera Beach Maritime	NA	NA	*	*	509	NA	NA	*	*	469	NA	NA	*	*	417
South Tech	420	382	426	431	425	409	384	401	430	415	399	365	400	402	401
Quantum	NA	NA	NA	*	*	NA	NA	NA	*	*	NA	NA	NA	*	*
Toussaint L'Ouverture	NA	NA	*	*	*	NA	NA	*	*	*	NA	NA	*	*	*
Worthington	NA	NA	NA	*	367	NA	NA	NA	*	367	NA	NA	NA	*	339

NA = Not available. * = Not reported due to fewer than 30 students.

Table 5. FY2010-FY2014 SAT I SDPBC Results for Black, Hispanic, and White Seniors

	Black					Hispanic					White				
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Number of Test Takers	1,224	2,564	2,034	2,138	3,053	1,343	2,427	1,768	1,949	2,904	3,292	4,415	3,609	3,577	4,572
Participation Rate	34%	68%	59%	56%	83%	46%	80%	62%	59%	86%	62%	85%	72%	69%	88%
Critical Reading Average Score	427	390	405	404	394	481	434	469	463	438	520	500	524	524	503
Mathematics Average Score	424	392	405	402	386	480	441	472	469	438	530	508	531	526	500
Writing Average Score	409	381	389	388	381	462	424	453	452	424	504	487	509	510	488

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.