



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL

SANDRA RAYMOND ROBERTS, Ed.D.
DIRECTOR

DAVID W. CHRISTIANSEN, Ed.D.
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT/CHIEF OF SCHOOLS

DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION
3300 FOREST HILL BLVD, SUITE B-246
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33406

KEITH OSWALD
CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

MARK HOWARD
CHIEF OF PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY

PHONE: 561-434-8469 FAX: 561-357-7608
WWW.PALMBEACHSCHOOLS.ORG/DRE/

MEMORANDUM

September 18, 2015

TO: School Board Members

FROM: David W. Christiansen, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent/Chief of Schools

THROUGH: Dr. Robert Avossa, Superintendent

SUBJECT: **FY2015 SAT I RESULTS**

The College Board has recently released the results of the FY2015 SAT Reasoning Test (SAT I) for seniors in the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC).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.²

Overall, the average score for Mathematics was similar and the average scores in Reading and Writing have decreased from FY2014 to FY2015. The SDPBC initiative to offer SAT tests during the day at no cost to our students helped remove barriers of affordability, transportation, and access.

A preliminary analysis of the results showed the following:

- From FY2014 to FY2015,
 - Overall, SDPBC average scores in Mathematics remained similar (from 449 to 449), however; the average scores in reading (from 452 to 449), and writing (from 437 to 434) decreased. The Florida and national average scores decreased in all subjects (Table 3),
 - Overall, the SDPBC participation rates decreased (from 91% to 85%)³ and for subgroups, the participation rates also decreased for Black and Hispanic while the participation rate for White remained similar (Tables 1 and 5), and
 - For all subgroups, the average scores of Black, Hispanic, and White students have decreased in Reading, Mathematics, and Writing (Table 5).

¹ The report includes the SAT I results of FY2015 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.

³ The 6% decrease in District participation rate is likely due to a change in the Student Progression Policy regarding student mid-year promotion criteria, which caused an increase in the FY2015 denominator (1,601 students were promoted to Grade 12 mid-year).

- From FY2011 to FY2015
 - For SDPBC, the average scores increased in Reading (from 445 to 449), remained similar in Writing (from 433 to 434), and decreased in Mathematics (from 452 to 449). For most of the subgroups, the average scores decreased (Tables 3 and 5),
 - Participation rates increased significantly for Black (from 68% to 80%), Hispanic (from 80% to 84%), and White students (from 85% to 89%)⁴ (Table 5), and
 - The overall participation rate for SDPBC (from 89% to 85%) decreased (Table 1).

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

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, Chief of Performance Accountability, at 434-8851. If you have questions about instruction and the SAT I, please contact Karen Whetsell, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Teaching and Learning Support, at 357-1113. If you have questions about individual school efforts and the SAT I, please contact the appropriate area superintendent.

RMA/DWC/KO/MH/SRR/RP/BS/wl

Attachments

- C: Division Chiefs
- Area/Assistant Superintendents
- Academic Directors
- Principals

⁴ In FY2011, 1,067 SAT test takers (or 9%) declined to complete racial identification or checked “I do not wish to respond to race”. In FY2015, 1,499 SAT test takers (or 12%) did the same. Therefore, further match to TERMS identified all but 98 (or 1%) of FY2015 SAT test takers without racial identification.

Table 1. FY2011-FY2015 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				
	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015
Alexander W. Dreyfoos	337	290	307	319	324	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Atlantic	567	362	377	457	537	97%	73%	78%	100%	100%
Boca Raton	667	562	582	753	729	98%	79%	74%	93%	94%
Boynton Beach	328	337	346	387	389	96%	100%	89%	100%	100%
Forest Hill	405	169	191	486	442	92%	50%	42%	100%	90%
Glades Central	221	242	230	202	230	87%	100%	100%	100%	100%
John I. Leonard	464	260	229	545	619	90%	54%	41%	89%	94%
Jupiter	684	510	545	605	684	95%	76%	73%	100%	95%
Lake Worth	411	442	398	434	508	95%	99%	100%	100%	96%
Olympic Heights	422	318	365	434	477	100%	72%	66%	94%	93%
Pahokee Middle/Senior	99	41	97	99	80	85%	37%	84%	92%	89%
Palm Beach Central	670	464	442	689	660	98%	70%	66%	100%	96%
Palm Beach Gardens	613	402	390	571	550	98%	73%	70%	100%	95%
Palm Beach Lakes	440	317	350	370	398	92%	85%	76%	97%	98%
Park Vista	695	516	494	729	673	96%	78%	75%	100%	98%
Royal Palm Beach	453	229	240	488	507	93%	50%	49%	100%	96%
Santaluces	519	379	484	538	566	92%	80%	90%	100%	97%
Seminole Ridge	544	350	308	605	596	96%	60%	54%	95%	92%
Spanish River	534	433	446	513	583	100%	83%	79%	92%	93%
Suncoast	335	341	325	366	361	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Village Academy	NA	NA	NA	42	43	NA	NA	NA	100%	100%
Wellington	521	383	385	566	601	95%	76%	67%	100%	97%
West Boca Raton	473	359	345	505	503	95%	77%	72%	100%	90%
William T. Dwyer	405	286	319	520	472	91%	61%	62%	100%	92%
SDPBC	11,412	8,344	8,591	11,874	12,184	89%	69%	66%	91%	85%
Florida	94,700	92,281	112,554	115,437	122,939	62%	64%	67%	NA	NA
Nation	1,267,239	1,284,459	1,660,047	1,672,395	1,698,521	NA	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. FY2011-FY2015 Number of Senior SAT I Test Takers and Participation Rates for Charter High Schools

High School	Number of Students Tested					Participation Rates				
	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015
G-Star	185	108	131	164	173	100%	71%	70%	78%	73%
Inlet Grove	134	107	133	105	102	100%	74%	91%	100%	67%
Leadership Academy West	28	6	5	5	1	88%	26%	NA	15%	3%
Mavericks	NA	NA	1	4	6	NA	NA	1%	3%	2%
Quantum	NA	NA	2	1	4	NA	NA	2%	1%	2%
Renaissance Learning Academy	NA	NA	NA	NA	3	NA	NA	NA	NA	6%
Riviera Beach Maritime	NA	10	18	13	27	NA	40%	41%	43%	59%
South Tech	258	110	96	118	130	63%	27%	25%	34%	37%
Toussaint L'Ouverture	NA	11	4	3	1	NA	12%	4%	4%	1%
Worthington	NA	NA	4	7	NA	NA	NA	5%	9%	NA

NA = not available at this time.

Table 3. FY2011-FY2015 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				
	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015
Alexander W. Dreyfoos	575	579	579	574	575	546	552	546	543	547	563	571	566	557	559
Atlantic	447	499	454	462	449	446	496	456	453	456	435	478	451	453	436
Boca Raton	474	518	513	496	494	479	521	523	499	493	471	509	506	491	486
Boynton Beach	347	362	382	382	358	353	376	382	371	361	333	360	366	372	351
Forest Hill	414	469	464	388	385	415	459	450	389	397	402	437	439	376	371
Glades Central	349	352	359	367	359	363	377	376	386	371	356	350	355	365	358
John I. Leonard	401	443	460	402	390	409	443	460	405	388	387	412	423	385	375
Jupiter	492	530	527	493	501	503	536	523	489	497	484	517	515	479	487
Lake Worth	388	388	389	371	384	403	396	400	370	382	374	379	379	358	370
Olympic Heights	444	494	491	451	462	450	495	485	451	458	424	481	467	434	443
Pahokee Middle/Senior	377	404	380	364	354	393	417	416	389	374	380	397	382	371	367
Palm Beach Central	460	496	500	461	463	465	502	495	449	455	440	472	480	440	442
Palm Beach Gardens	414	453	454	429	417	429	465	456	426	422	403	434	436	414	398
Palm Beach Lakes	368	372	377	369	363	372	385	379	354	370	355	364	375	353	350
Park Vista	473	500	512	478	480	481	508	514	474	480	455	484	487	458	465
Royal Palm Beach	404	454	438	412	414	407	451	441	405	410	399	427	416	391	393
Santaluces	401	422	407	408	404	418	433	414	411	409	388	407	393	389	390
Seminole Ridge	439	495	500	456	453	443	491	494	451	453	420	460	462	429	428
Spanish River	504	539	542	523	511	524	560	556	530	513	504	539	540	519	497
Suncoast	570	583	589	580	591	586	595	602	593	608	556	566	568	561	569
Village Academy	NA	NA	NA	377	337	NA	NA	NA	386	359	NA	NA	NA	374	334
Wellington	486	511	499	491	481	499	518	507	490	486	471	495	489	479	465
West Boca Raton	486	516	513	490	486	500	533	527	497	492	478	499	504	478	474
William T. Dwyer	434	479	484	455	462	446	488	487	453	455	425	458	472	444	455
SDPBC	445	478	476	452	449	452	484	478	449	449	433	463	461	437	434
Florida	483	489	492	491	486	486	490	490	485	480	466	472	475	472	468
Nation	493	491	496	497	495	506	505	514	513	511	482	481	488	487	484

NA = Not available.

Table 4. FY2011-FY2015 SAT I Average Scores of College-Bound Seniors for Charter High Schools

High School	Critical Reading Average Score					Mathematics Average Score					Writing Average Score				
	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015
G-Star	464	509	511	499	502	427	481	471	441	455	445	495	504	477	475
Inlet Grove	398	427	425	418	456	411	427	416	411	426	394	402	397	397	414
Leadership Academy West	333	*	*	*	*	322	*	*	*	*	325	*	*	*	*
Mavericks	NA	NA	*	*	373	NA	NA	*	*	350	NA	NA	*	*	355
Riviera Beach Maritime	NA	*	*	509	494	NA	*	*	469	474	NA	*	*	417	447
South Tech	382	426	431	425	448	384	401	430	415	424	365	400	402	401	410
Quantum	NA	NA	*	*	*	NA	NA	*	*	*	NA	NA	*	*	*
Toussaint L'Ouverture	NA	*	*	*	*	NA	*	*	*	*	NA	*	*	*	*
Worthington	NA	NA	*	367	NA	NA	NA	*	367	NA	NA	NA	*	339	NA

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

Table 5. FY2011-FY2015 SAT I SDPBC Results for Black, Hispanic, and White Seniors

	Black					Hispanic					White				
	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Number of Test Takers	2,564	2,034	2,138	3,053	3,391	2,427	1,768	1,949	2,904	3,240	4,415	3,609	3,577	4,572	4,741
Participation Rate	68%	59%	56%	83%	80%	80%	62%	59%	86%	84%	85%	72%	69%	88%	89%
Critical Reading Average Score	390	405	404	394	384	434	469	463	438	435	500	524	524	503	500
Mathematics Average Score	392	405	402	386	379	441	472	469	438	436	508	531	526	500	498
Writing Average Score	381	389	388	381	371	424	453	452	424	422	487	509	510	488	482

Notes. (a) 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; (b) For FY2015, student race is identified based on match to TERMS.