

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

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September 7, 2004

TO: School Board Members

FROM: Katherine Blasik, Ph.D., Associate Superintendent
Research, Evaluation, Assessment, & Boundaries

VIA: Frank Till
Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: **2004 SAT ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

On August 31, 2004, The College Board released the report of SAT national, state, district, and school results. The SAT is a comprehensive, standardized college entrance test used to provide information for college admission. The SAT measures verbal and mathematical abilities deemed critical for successful college academic performance and is administered at various times throughout the year. Students elect to take the SAT and/or ACT based on personal preference or requirements of the college(s) of their choice.

Highlights of the report indicate:

- **A record number of Broward students participated in SAT testing in 2004 (8,266), representing an increase of six percent over the previous year.**
- Even with a substantial increase in participation rates, Broward mean scores in Verbal and Mathematics remained stable in 2004.
- The number of Broward students participating in SAT testing increased among all ethnic groups in 2004, with the exception of American Indian/Alaskan Native students.
- Average scores for Broward African American/Black and American Indian/Alaskan Native students increased in both the Verbal and Mathematics portions of the SAT in 2004.
- Broward African American/Black students earned mean SAT Verbal and Mathematics scores equal to or higher than African American/Black students in Florida and across the nation.
- Broward Hispanic or Latino students earned higher SAT Verbal scores than students across the nation and higher Mathematics scores than students in Florida and across the nation.

- With regard to school-by-school results, of the 32 Broward high school programs with reported data for two years, almost two-thirds (20) increased student participation in the SAT in 2004, as compared to 2003.
- More than half (56%) of Broward high school programs with two years of reported data earned higher average scores in at least one section of the SAT. Eleven Broward high schools (34%) posted higher scores in **both** the Verbal and Mathematics portions of the SAT.

As indicated in the attached report, the 2003-04 school year evidenced the greatest number of Broward County Public School student participating in standardized, comprehensive college entrance exams. Specifically, the number of Broward students participating in SAT testing in 2004 (8,266) increased by six percent over the previous year. The Broward increase in student participation in SAT testing surpassed both the national participation rate increase of one percent and the Florida student statewide SAT participation rate increase of five percent over 2003. In addition, the highest proportional increase in Broward SAT participation occurred among Hispanic or Latino students, where an additional 379 students participated in testing representing a 34% increase over the number of participants in 2003. Other ethnic groups posted increases which were comparable to the increase in participation rates among White students (12%), including African American/Black students (11%) and Asian students (11%). According to The College Board, the most important factor affecting the interpretation of college admission test scores is the participation rate. In some states, a limited number of college-bound seniors take the SAT or ACT. Typically, these students have strong academic backgrounds and are applicants to the nation's most selective colleges and scholarship programs. In Broward, however, school staffs do not focus on select students but encourage all students to take college entrance examinations.

While student achievement gains continue to be threatened by expanding areas of poverty, burgeoning student mobility, an increasingly diverse population of limited English speaking students, and continued overcrowding, Broward staff strive to provide the best education available to all students. As a result, Broward students continue to stabilize and/or increase their gains across a variety of assessments. If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact **me at 754-321-2470 or Kimberley Kraft, Director of Student Assessment & School Performance, at 754-321-4257.**

FJT/KAB/KEK/DG:sjm

Attachment

cc: Senior Management

Area Directors

Diane Carr, Executive Director, Core Curriculum

Frank Vodolo, Executive Director, Educational Programs

Cynthia Park, Director, Advanced Academic Programs

High School Principals

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA



Research, Evaluation, Assessment & Boundaries Student Assessment & School Performance

2004 SAT ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

The SAT I: Reasoning Test is a comprehensive, standardized college entrance test used to provide information for college admission. The instrument is designed to assess many of the skills that are important to students' success in college. The SAT is administered at various times throughout the year. Students elect to take the SAT and/or ACT based on the entrance requirements of the college(s) of their choice. Scaled scores range from 200 to 800 in each content area (Verbal and Mathematics).

Information supplied in the SAT report is useful for providing a different perspective on student achievement and for initiating educational plans for high school students. Broward high school guidance counselors use individual SAT results to assist students in making appropriate, timely, and realistic post-secondary plans. School-based staff members examine individual and school results and review other testing measures in a continuing effort to provide the most meaningful transition from school to career for all Broward students.

SAT Assessment Participation

A significant increase in the number of Broward County Public Schools students taking standardized, comprehensive college entrance exams was evidenced again this year. According to The College Board, the most important factor affecting the interpretation of college admission test scores is the participation rate. In some states, a limited number of college-bound seniors take the SAT or ACT. Typically, these students have strong academic backgrounds and are applicants to the nation's most selective colleges and scholarship programs. In Broward, however, school staff members do not focus on select students but encourage all students to take college entrance examinations. **A record number of Broward County's 2003-04 high school seniors (8,266) took the SAT.**

According to The College Board, test results summarize information for seniors who took the SAT I: Reasoning Test any time during their high school years through April 2004. If a student took a test more than once, the most recent score is used (The College Board, 2004).

SAT Assessment Results

Table 1 provides SAT participation rates and results for the Broward, Florida, and the Nation. As three years of data are necessary to determine trends, results are provided for 2002 through 2004. The number of students participating, as well as their overall average for the Verbal and Mathematics sections, are reflected in the table.

As indicated in Table 1, the number of Broward students participating in SAT testing in 2004 (8,266) increased by six percent over the previous year. This six percent increase in Broward student participation in SAT testing surpassed both the national participation rate increase of one percent and the statewide participation rate increase of five percent in Florida over 2003.

Although Broward students' average Verbal and Mathematics (480/487) scores do not meet those of students across Florida (499/499) and the nation (508/518), Broward mean Verbal and Mathematics scores remained stable in 2004 as compared to 2003 even with the increase in participation rates. Broward Verbal mean scores increased by five points in 2003 over the previous year and remained stable in 2004 (475, 480, 480). Broward Mathematics mean scores remained relatively stable for the three-year period depicted in the table, decreasing by two points in 2003 and holding steady in 2004 (489, 487, 487).

Table 1: Broward, Florida and National Mean SAT Scores 2002-2004			
Year	Number Tested	Verbal	Mathematics
Broward			
2002	7,236	475	489
2003	7,776	480	487
2004	8,266	480	487
Florida			
2002	75,664	496	499
2003	83,397	498	498
2004	87,290	499	499
Nation			
2002	1,327,831	504	516
2003	1,406,324	507	519
2004	1,419,007	508	518

Results by Ethnicity

As reported in Table 2, the number of Broward students participating in SAT testing increased among all ethnic groups in 2004, with the exception of American Indian/Alaskan Native students. The highest proportional increase in Broward SAT participation occurred among Hispanic or Latino students, where an additional 379 students participated in testing representing a 34% increase over the number of participants in 2003. Other ethnic groups posted increases which were comparable to the increase in participation rates among White students (12%), including African American/Black students (11%) and Asian students (11%).

In terms of test results, Broward African American/Black and American Indian/Alaskan Native students earned higher average scores in both the Verbal and Mathematics portions of the SAT in 2004 than in 2003. Average scores for Broward Asian, Hispanic or Latino, and White students decreased in 2004 as compared to 2003.

Ethnicity	Number of Students			Verbal			Mathematics		
	2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004
African American/Black	1,619	1,704	1,893	422	420	430	427	418	430
American Indian/Alaskan Native	10	20	16	458	461	494	492	439	458
Asian	349	347	384	483	504	491	534	538	532
Hispanic or Latino	1,118	1,116	1,495	469	475	470	480	484	476
White	2,510	2,386	2,661	511	514	508	526	524	518
Other	322	302	393	473	475	480	479	477	483
No Response*	1,308	1,901	1,424	476	490	498	492	498	506

*Note: "No Response" indicates that students did not designate an ethnic category when they completed their Student Descriptive Questionnaire (SDQ).

While Table 2 illustrates three years of Broward data by ethnicity, Appendix A presents the percent of test takers and the average scores by ethnicity for the district, state, and the nation in 2004. As indicated in the appendix, Broward student demographics by ethnicity differ from the state and the nation.

- African American/Black students comprise over one-fourth (28%) of SAT test takers in Broward, compared to 15 percent in Florida and 12 percent across the nation.
- Hispanic or Latino students also comprise a higher proportion of SAT test takers in Broward (22%), as compared to Florida (19%) and the nation (11%).
- Broward African American/Black students earned average SAT Verbal and Mathematics scores equal to or higher than African American/Black students in Florida and across the nation.
- Broward Hispanic or Latino students earned higher SAT Verbal scores than students across the nation and higher Mathematics scores than students in Florida and across the nation.
- An achievement gap continues to be noted for both Black and Hispanic students' SAT mean scores when compared to the Verbal and Mathematics performance of White participants in Broward, Florida, and across the nation.

Individual School Results

Appendix B provides school-by-school SAT results for 29 Broward County public high school programs and four charter schools. Only two years of data are reported for Cypress Bay High School and Parkway Academy Charter High School, as these schools did not have seniors participating in SAT assessment prior to 2003. Only one year of data is reported for Everglades High School, as this school did not have seniors participating in SAT assessment prior to 2004.

A review of individual school results finds that:

- Of the 32 Broward high school programs with reported data for two years, almost two-thirds (20) increased student participation in the SAT in 2004, as compared to 2003.

- More than half (56%) of Broward high school programs with reported data for two years earned higher average scores in at least one section of the SAT. Eleven Broward high schools (34%) posted higher scores in both the Verbal and Mathematics portions of the SAT.

The Profile of College-Bound Seniors, which is sent to every high school, presents data for high school graduates who participated in the SAT Program during their high school years. The data in the report can be used to:

- Interpret scores of individual students within the broader context of data aggregated across groups of college-bound seniors;
- Study changes over time in the characteristics of students taking SAT I tests; and
- Look at year-to-year educational and demographic changes in student population, along with changes in test performance.

References

College Entrance Examination Board (2004). *2004 College-Bound Seniors: A Profile of SAT Program Test-Takers*, New York, NY: The College Board.

College Entrance Examination Board (2004). *2004 College-Bound Seniors District/Group Highlights Report 2000-2004*, New York, NY: The College Board.

APPENDIX A

Broward, Florida, and National SAT Results by Ethnicity: Percent of Test-Takers Responding and Mean Scores, 2004				
Ethnic Group	Number	Percent	Verbal	Mathematics
Broward				
African American/Black	1,893	28%	430	430
American Indian/Alaskan Native	16	<1%	494	458
Asian	384	6%	491	532
Hispanic or Latino	1,495	22%	470	476
White	2,661	39%	508	518
Other	393	6%	480	483
Florida				
African American/Black	10,890	15%	429	427
American Indian/Alaskan Native	328	<1%	496	494
Asian	3,102	4%	502	539
Hispanic or Latino	13,604	19%	479	474
White	40,862	57%	519	517
Other	3,297	5%	487	481
Nation				
African American/Black	137,953	12%	430	427
American Indian/Alaskan Native	8,219	1%	483	488
Asian	112,542	10%	507	577
Hispanic or Latino	122,380	11%	456	460
White	719,753	63%	528	531
Other	46,615	4%	494	508

APPENDIX B

Table A: 2002-2004 School-by-School Mean SAT Results for North Area				
School	Year	Number Tested	Verbal Score	Math Score
Coconut Creek	2002	166	445	452
	2003	197	443	449
	2004	166	464	470
Coral Springs	2002	400	485	507
	2003	397	492	512
	2004	414	490	498
Deerfield Beach	2002	281	466	472
	2003	280	472	478
	2004	246	467	482
Blanche Ely	2002	194	461	477
	2003	205	450	459
	2004	236	454	458
Pompano Beach	2002	116	435	419
	2003	71	475	465
	2004	154	476	474
Stoneman Douglas	2002	603	513	532
	2003	622	520	529
	2004	617	518	533
Taravella	2002	517	503	531
	2003	548	505	527
	2004	478	502	522

Table B: 2002-2004 School-by-School Mean SAT Results for North Central Area				
School	Year	Number Tested	Verbal Score	Math Score
Anderson, Boyd	2002	207	442	444
	2003	272	448	448
	2004	197	431	434
William T. McFatter Technical	2002	63	464	480
	2003	89	482	502
	2004	107	506	509
Northeast	2002	227	444	448
	2003	239	468	463
	2004	280	462	455
Nova	2002	352	524	542
	2003	360	505	525
	2004	325	510	517
Piper	2002	338	459	466
	2003	345	456	457
	2004	349	457	460
Sheridan Technical	2002	9	*	*
	2003	10	406	386
	2004	10	378	442
The College Academy at BCC	2002	16	511	509
	2003	103	556	556
	2004	153	578	568
*No data are reported when fewer than 10 students tested.				

Table C: 2002-2004 School-by-School Mean SAT Results for South Central Area				
School	Year	Number Tested	Verbal Score	Math Score
Cypress Bay	2003	11	410	424
	2004	585	496	511
Dillard	2002	186	402	420
	2003	215	410	413
	2004	203	430	431
Fort Lauderdale	2002	192	460	466
	2003	158	462	448
	2004	173	459	447
Plantation	2002	298	466	480
	2003	303	472	472
	2004	278	473	484
South Plantation	2002	274	481	491
	2003	312	465	474
	2004	286	468	478
Stranahan	2002	218	478	485
	2003	183	479	478
	2004	233	470	468
Western	2002	576	494	518
	2003	573	504	519
	2004	249	496	509

Table D: 2002-2004 School-by-School Mean SAT Results for South Area				
School	Year	Number Tested	Verbal Score	Math Score
Cooper City	2002	404	511	528
	2003	419	513	526
	2004	392	511	525
Everglades	2004	6	*	*
Flanagan, Charles	2002	696	477	487
	2003	623	487	496
	2004	721	483	494
Hallandale	2002	123	415	417
	2003	105	425	416
	2004	117	414	415
Hollywood Hills	2002	196	463	482
	2003	201	476	475
	2004	210	471	483
McArthur	2002	184	429	433
	2003	221	449	459
	2004	246	437	448
Miramar	2002	177	428	431
	2003	209	416	408
	2004	239	450	447
South Broward	2002	156	456	465
	2003	168	467	469
	2004	183	452	450
*No data are reported when fewer than 10 students tested.				

Table E: 2002-2004 School-by-School Mean SAT Results for Charter Schools				
School	Year	Number Tested	Verbal Score	Math Score
City of Coral Springs	2002	44	465	448
	2003	61	468	448
	2004	77	497	478
City of Pembroke Pines	2002	2	*	*
	2003	224	488	487
	2004	231	482	476
North Lauderdale Academy	2002	32	414	425
	2003	47	427	409
	2004	74	417	403
Parkway Academy	2003	15	385	364
	2004	31	381	405
*No data are reported when fewer than 10 students tested.				