

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

**DR. FRANK TILL
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Telephone: (754) 321-2600

Facsimile: (754) 321-2701

Approved memorandum with signatures is on file.

October 5, 2005

TO: School Board Members

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

VIA: Frank Till
Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: **2005 SAT ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

On August 30, 2005, 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 County's 2004-05 high school seniors participated in SAT testing (9,190 students), **representing an 11 percent increase from the previous year.**
- African American/Black students and Hispanic or Latino students comprise a higher proportion of SAT test takers in Broward, as compared to Florida and across the nation.
- Broward African American/Black students earned mean SAT Mathematics scores equal to African American/Black students in Florida, but lower Verbal scores than African American/Black students across the state.
- Broward African American/Black students posted lower SAT Verbal and Mathematics scores than African American/Black students across the nation.
- Broward Hispanic or Latino students recorded higher mean SAT Verbal and Mathematics scores than Hispanic or Latino students across the nation.
- Broward Hispanic or Latino students posted mean SAT Verbal scores lower than Hispanic or Latino students across the state, but earned higher SAT Mathematics scores than Hispanic or Latino students in Florida.
- Broward White students recorded mean SAT Verbal scores lower than White students across the state, while posting mean Mathematics scores greater than White students across Florida.
- Broward White students posted lower mean SAT Verbal and Mathematics scores than White students across the nation.

- The gap between African American/Black students and White students **decreased** on both the Verbal (3 points) and Mathematics (6 points) portions of the SAT in the three-year period from 2003 to 2005. However, the gap between Hispanic or Latino students and White students increased on both the Verbal (2 points) and Mathematics (4 points) portions of the SAT in the same time period.
- Of the 33 Broward high school programs with reported data for two years, over three-fifths (20) increased student participation in the SAT in 2005, as compared to 2004.
- Nearly three-fifths (59%) of Broward high school programs with reported data for two years earned higher average scores in at least one section of the SAT. Fourteen Broward high schools (44%) posted higher scores in both the Verbal and Mathematics portions of the SAT.

As indicated in the attached report, the 2004-05 school year evidenced a significant increase in the number of Broward County Public School students participating in standardized, comprehensive college entrance exams. Specifically, the number of 2004-05 Broward high school seniors participating in SAT testing increased by 11 percent over the previous year (9,190 students). The increase in student participation in SAT testing in Broward surpassed both the national participation rate increase of four percent and the Florida student statewide SAT participation rate increase of seven percent over 2004. In addition, the highest proportional increase in Broward SAT participation occurred among Hispanic or Latino students, where an additional 500 students participated in testing representing a 33% increase over the number of participants in 2004. White student participation increased by 700 students (26%), and African American/Black student participation rose by 416 students (22%). According to 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.

Broward staff members strive to provide the best education available to all students. These most recent SAT results speak well of Broward's efforts to increase student achievement and expand the educational opportunities available to all students. This memorandum and the attached report can be accessed on the Student Assessment & School Performance website located at: <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/studentassessment/reports.htm>. 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.**

FT/KB/KEK/DG:sjm

Attachment

cc: Senior Management
Area Directors
High School Principals
Diane Carr, Executive Director, Core Curriculum
Frank Vodolo, Executive Director, Educational Programs
Cynthia Park, Director, Advanced Academic Programs

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA



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

2005 SAT ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

The SAT I: Reasoning Test is a comprehensive, standardized college entrance examination 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. SAT 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 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 2004-05 high school seniors (9,190 students) took the SAT.**

Although a new SAT was administered for the first time in March of 2005, SAT results for the graduating class of 2005 are reported using the former version of the SAT. According to College Board, test results summarize information for seniors who took the SAT I: Reasoning Test any time during their high school years through March 2005. If a student took a test more than once, the most recent score is used (College Board, 2005).

SAT Assessment Results

Table 1 provides SAT participation rates and results for Broward, Florida, and the Nation. As three years of data are necessary to evaluate trends in data, results are provided for 2003

through 2005. 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 2005 (9,190 students) increased by 11 percent over the previous year. This 11 percent increase in Broward student participation in SAT testing surpassed both the national participation rate increase of four percent and the statewide participation rate increase of seven percent in Florida over 2004.

Although Broward students' average Verbal and Mathematics (479/488) scores are below those of students across Florida (498/498) and the nation (508/520), Broward mean Verbal and Mathematics scores remained relatively stable in 2005 as compared to 2004, decreasing one point on the Verbal portion of the test and increasing one point on the Mathematics portion. Broward Verbal and Mathematics mean scores, similar to those in Florida and across the nation, have remained stable for the three-year period depicted in the table.

Table 1: Broward, Florida and National Mean SAT Scores 2003-2005			
Year	Number Tested	Verbal	Mathematics
Broward			
2003	7,776	480	487
2004	8,266	480	487
2005	9,190	479	488
Florida			
2003	83,397	498	498
2004	87,290	499	499
2005	93,505	498	498
Nation			
2003	1,406,324	507	519
2004	1,419,007	508	518
2005	1,475,623	508	520

Results by Ethnicity

As reported in Table 2, the number of Broward students participating in SAT testing increased among all ethnic groups in 2005, with the exception of students who did not designate an ethnic category. The ethnic categories listed in the table are those identified by College Board and are based on student self-reported information at the time of testing. For the three largest ethnic groups, the highest proportional increase in Broward SAT participation for two consecutive years occurred among Hispanic or Latino students, where an additional 500 students participated in testing, representing a 33% increase over the number of participants in 2004. White student participation increased by 700 students (26%), and African American/Black student participation rose by 416 students (22%).

In terms of test results, Broward Hispanic or Latino and White students earned higher average scores in both the Verbal and Mathematics portions of the SAT in 2005 than in 2004. Average scores for Broward African American/Black students decreased in 2005 as compared to 2004.

Ethnicity	Number of Students			Verbal			Mathematics		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
African American/Black	1,704	1,893	2,309	420	430	424	418	430	427
Amer. Indian/Alaskan Native	20	16	39	461	494	487	439	458	469
Asian	347	384	480	504	491	514	538	532	553
Hispanic or Latino	1,116	1,495	1,995	475	470	474	484	476	483
White	2,386	2,661	3,361	514	508	515	524	518	527
Other	302	393	486	475	480	481	477	483	480
No Response*	1,901	1,424	520	490	498	475	498	506	476

*Note: "No Response" indicates that students did not designate an ethnic category when completing the 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 2005 and differences between SAT scores by the major ethnic groups in Broward for the three-year period 2003 through 2005. As indicated in the Table A1, Broward student demographics by ethnicity differ from the state and the nation. Specifically, African American/Black students comprise one-fourth (25%) of SAT test takers in Broward, compared to 13 percent in Florida and 10 percent across the nation and Hispanic or Latino students represent a higher proportion of SAT test takers in Broward (22%), as compared to Florida (18%) and the nation (10%). In contrast, White students account for approximately 37% of the SAT test-takers in Broward, compared to more than half of students in Florida (52%) and nationwide (56%).

Highlights of the findings presented in Table A1 are as follows:

- Broward African American/Black students earned mean SAT Mathematics scores equal to African American/Black students in Florida, but lower Verbal scores than African American/Black students across the state.
- Broward African American/Black students posted lower SAT Verbal and Mathematics scores than African American/Black students across the nation.
- Broward Hispanic or Latino students recorded higher mean SAT Verbal and Mathematics scores than Hispanic or Latino students across the nation.
- Broward Hispanic or Latino students posted mean SAT Verbal scores lower than Hispanic or Latino students across the state, but earned higher SAT Mathematics scores than Hispanic or Latino students in Florida.
- Broward White students recorded mean SAT Verbal scores lower than White students across the state, while posting mean Mathematics scores greater than White students across Florida.
- Broward White students posted lower mean SAT Verbal and Mathematics scores than White students 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.

Table A2 depicts the differences between White students and the two other major ethnic groups in Broward: African American/Black and Hispanic or Latino students. As seen in the table,

differences still remain evident when comparing the SAT scores of White students and the other major ethnic groups.

- On the Verbal portion of the SAT, while the gap between African American/Black students and White students declined by 16 points from 2003 to 2004 (94 to 78), the gap increased this year from the previous year by 13 points (to 91). However, the change in the gap over the three-year period from 2003 through 2005 is a **decrease** of three points overall.
- Similarly, on the Mathematics portion of the SAT, the gap between African American/Black students and White students declined by 18 points from 2003 to 2004 (106 to 88), the gap increased this year from the previous year by 12 points (to 100). However, the change in the gap over the three-year period from 2003 through 2005 is a **decrease** of six points overall.
- On the Verbal Portion of the SAT, the gap between Hispanic or Latino and White students increased by three points this year, but has remained relatively constant over the three-year period (39 to 38 to 41).
- On the Mathematics portion of the SAT, the gap between Hispanic or Latino and White students has increased steadily over the three-year period from 2003 to 2005 (40 to 42 to 44), for a total increase of 4 points overall.

While the gap between African American/Black students and White students has decreased over the three-year period from 2003 to 2005, the size of the gap between these groups (91 points on Verbal and 100 points on Mathematics in 2005) is substantially greater than that between Hispanic or Latino students and White students (41 points on Verbal and 44 points on Mathematics in 2005). Substantial work still remains to be done to close the achievement gap between African American/Black students and White students on the SAT.

Individual School Results

Appendix B provides school-by-school SAT results for 31 Broward County public high school programs and four charter schools. Only one year of data is reported for Coral Glades High School and Monarch High School, as these schools did not have seniors participating in SAT assessment prior to 2005. Only two years of data are 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 33 Broward high school programs with reported data for two years, over three-fifths (20) increased student participation in the SAT in 2005, as compared to 2004.
- Nearly three-fifths (59%) of Broward high school programs with reported data for two years earned higher average scores on at least one section of the SAT. Fourteen Broward high schools (44%) posted higher scores on 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 Board (2005). *2005 College-Bound Seniors: District Profile Report*, New York, NY: College Board.

College Board (2005). *2005 College-Bound Seniors District/Group Highlights Report 2005*, New York, NY: College Board.

APPENDIX A

Table A1: Broward, Florida, and National SAT Results by Ethnicity: Percent of Test-Takers and Mean Scores, 2005				
Ethnic Group	Number	Percent	Verbal	Mathematics
Broward				
African American/Black	2,309	25%	424	427
American Indian/Alaskan Native	39	<1%	487	469
Asian	480	5%	514	553
Hispanic or Latino	1,995	22%	474	483
White	3,361	37%	515	527
Other	486	5%	481	480
No Response	520	6%	475	476
Florida				
African American/Black	12,575	13%	429	427
American Indian/Alaskan Native	415	<1%	494	493
Asian	3,826	4%	513	549
Hispanic or Latino	16,970	18%	480	478
White	48,617	52%	522	521
Other	4,239	5%	489	485
No Response	6,863	7%	503	500
Nation				
African American/Black	153,132	10%	433	431
American Indian/Alaskan Native	8,916	1%	489	493
Asian	134,996	9%	511	580
Hispanic or Latino	144,196	10%	458	464
White	824,776	56%	532	536
Other	58,167	4%	495	513
No Response	151,440	10%	511	525

Table A2: Differences in Broward Average SAT Scores by Major Ethnic Groups 2003 through 2005								
	Verbal				Mathematics			
	2003	2004	2005	Change in Gap 2003 through 2005	2003	2004	2005	Change in Gap 2003 through 2005
African American/Black	420	430	424		418	430	427	
Gap between African American/Black and White	94	78	91	- 3	106	88	100	- 6
White	514	508	515		524	518	527	
Gap between Hispanic or Latino and White	39	38	41	+ 2	40	42	44	+ 4
Hispanic or Latino	475	470	474		484	476	483	

APPENDIX B

Table B1: 2003-2005 School-by-School Mean SAT Results for North Area				
School	Year	Number Tested	Verbal Score	Math Score
Coconut Creek	2003	197	443	449
	2004	166	464	470
	2005	219	435	433
Coral Glades	2005*	5	**	**
Coral Springs	2003	397	492	512
	2004	414	490	498
	2005	388	494	505
Deerfield Beach	2003	280	472	478
	2004	246	467	482
	2005	264	463	476
Blanche Ely	2003	205	450	459
	2004	236	454	458
	2005	228	434	450
Monarch	2005*	94	442	453
Pompano Beach	2003	71	475	465
	2004	154	476	474
	2005	162	496	489
Stoneman Douglas	2003	622	520	529
	2004	617	518	533
	2005	727	522	539
Taravella	2003	548	505	527
	2004	478	502	522
	2005	592	506	521
*First year of participation.				
**No data are reported when fewer than 10 students tested.				

Table B2: 2003-2005 School-by-School Mean SAT Results for North Central Area				
School	Year	Number Tested	Verbal Score	Math Score
Anderson, Boyd	2003	272	448	448
	2004	197	431	434
	2005	273	437	449
William T. McFatter Technical	2003	89	482	502
	2004	107	506	509
	2005	112	526	529
Northeast	2003	239	468	463
	2004	280	462	455
	2005	238	463	461
Nova	2003	360	505	525
	2004	325	510	517
	2005	330	506	530
Piper	2003	345	456	457
	2004	349	457	460
	2005	289	457	463
Sheridan Technical	2003	10	406	386
	2004	10	378	442
	2005	10	450	436
The College Academy at BCC	2003	103	556	556
	2004	153	578	568
	2005	130	598	605

Table B3: 2003-2005 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
	2005	853	501	521
Dillard	2003	215	410	413
	2004	203	430	431
	2005	196	409	418
Fort Lauderdale	2003	158	462	448
	2004	173	459	447
	2005	167	474	461
Plantation	2003	303	472	472
	2004	278	473	484
	2005	301	468	471
South Plantation	2003	312	465	474
	2004	286	468	478
	2005	292	476	488
Stranahan	2003	183	479	478
	2004	233	470	468
	2005	211	471	481
Western	2003	573	504	519
	2004	249	496	509
	2005	215	497	505

Table B4: 2003-2005 School-by-School Mean SAT Results for South Area				
School	Year	Number Tested	Verbal Score	Math Score
Cooper City	2003	419	513	526
	2004	392	511	525
	2005	465	519	529
Everglades	2004*	6	**	**
	2005	366	464	471
Flanagan, Charles	2003	623	487	496
	2004	721	483	494
	2005	489	482	493
Hallandale	2003	105	425	416
	2004	117	414	415
	2005	150	412	406
Hollywood Hills	2003	201	476	475
	2004	210	471	483
	2005	210	459	460
McArthur	2003	221	449	459
	2004	246	437	448
	2005	255	446	453
Miramar	2003	209	416	408
	2004	239	450	447
	2005	286	432	431
South Broward	2003	168	467	469
	2004	183	452	450
	2005	202	465	460
*First year of participation.				
**No data are reported when fewer than 10 students tested.				

Table B5: 2002-2004 School-by-School Mean SAT Results for Charter Schools				
School	Year	Number Tested	Verbal Score	Math Score
City of Coral Springs	2003	61	468	448
	2004	77	497	478
	2005	104	472	472
City of Pembroke Pines	2003	224	488	487
	2004	231	482	476
	2005	247	469	474
North Lauderdale Academy	2003	47	427	409
	2004	74	417	403
	2005	53	394	382
Parkway Academy	2003	15	385	364
	2004	31	381	405
	2005	62	400	382