

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA  
RESEARCH, EVALUATION, ASSESSMENT & BOUNDARIES**

**Katherine Blasik, Ph.D., Associate Superintendent**

December 5, 2006

TO: High School Principals

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

VIA: James F. North, Interim Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: **A SUPPLEMENT TO RISING PARTICIPATION AND PERFORMANCE,  
AP, PSAT/NMSQT, SAT**

Student Assessment & School Performance staff completed a summary of Broward County Public Schools data to supplement the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) report "Rising Participation and Performance, AP, PSAT/NMSQT, SAT." The supplement and the FLDOE report illustrate upward trends in student participation on these important tests and discuss changes in student performance over time. The FLDOE report is available online at [http://www.firm.cdu/doc/evaluation/pdf/ap\\_psat\\_sat\\_2006.pdf](http://www.firm.cdu/doc/evaluation/pdf/ap_psat_sat_2006.pdf).

Review of attached supplement revealed that over a period of four years, the number of minority students taking the SAT in Broward County has increased by 61.8%. The number of Hispanic students taking the test nearly doubled. However, for all students, in the period from 2002 to 2006, SAT mean scores remained flat in Broward County, Florida, and across the nation. Since 2002, the number of students participating in the PSAT in Broward County has nearly tripled. Minority student achievement has increased greatly for this test. The PSAT is an invaluable experience for students who plan to take the SAT; on average, their mean SAT scores are up to 65 points higher than those students who did not take the PSAT. In Broward County, student enrollment in AP courses has increased by more than 10 percentage points every year for the last several years. As with participation in the SAT and PSAT instruments, the number of minority students participating in AP courses has been consistently increasing over time. If you have any questions regarding this memorandum, please contact **Dr. Russell Clement, Director, Student Assessment and School Performance at 754-321-4250.**

JFN/KAB/RWC:tje  
Attachment

cc: School Board Members  
Senior Management

**A Supplement to:  
Rising Participation and Performance, AP, PSAT/NMSQT, SAT**

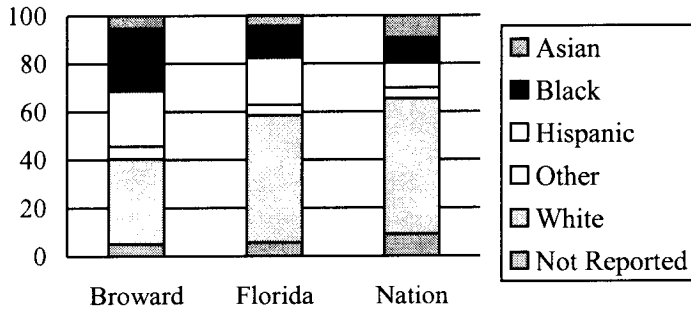
This document was prepared as a supplement to the Florida Department of Education's (FLDOE) report, "Rising Participation and Performance, AP, PSAT/NMSQT, SAT" available at [http://www.firn.edu/doe/evaluation/pdf/ap\\_psat\\_sat\\_2006.pdf](http://www.firn.edu/doe/evaluation/pdf/ap_psat_sat_2006.pdf). Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) data were integrated with the state-reported data to enable comparison of student performance. National data were also provided whenever available.

The following figures and tables present information regarding participation and performance on the SAT, Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), and Advanced Placement (AP) exams. The SAT is a widely used assessment for college admission decisions. The PSAT/NMSQT is a practice examination designed to prepare students for the actual SAT. It is also used as a determinant of eligibility by many scholarship programs, including the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Advanced Placement courses expose high school students to college-level academic rigor; a passing score on end-of-course AP examinations yields college credits for successfully completing the class.

**A note about data summary procedures.** In some instances, the data reporting methods employed for this document differed from the processes used in the FLDOE report. For example, the FLDOE report used the students' self-reported demographics to disaggregate SAT data. Broward student data, however, were summarized according to the student demographics on record in the Data Warehouse. Because of this difference in source data, the FLDOE report excluded students who did not self-report their information, which resulted in the exclusion of thousands of students. The FLDOE report excluded several groups (e.g., Asian, Native American, and Multiracial students) in analyses of minorities. Other data in the DOE report were based on a report from the College Board that did not include Mexican or Puerto Rican students in the Hispanic demographic group. All of the following figures and data were critically examined, and where possible the reporting methods commonly used by BCPS were applied to the available data sets. Thus, the caveat is provided that some of the following figures may not exactly match those provided in the original FLDOE report.

# SAT

## Percentage of SAT Test Takers By Race, 2006

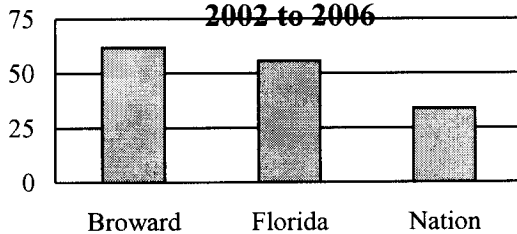


Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) registered larger proportions of Black and Hispanic SAT test takers than did Florida or the nation. Conversely, BCPS registered a smaller proportion of White test takers. This is primarily a function of Broward County's population demographics.

Race	Broward	Florida	Nation
Asian	5.3	4.3	9.4
Black	26.0	13.3	10.3
Hispanic	23.1	19.6	10.4
Other	5.2	4.5	4.4
White	35.3	52.6	56.3
Not Reported	5.1	5.8	9.2

Figure 1. Percentage of SAT test takers by race, 2006.

## Percentage Increase in Minority SAT Test Takers - 2002 to 2006

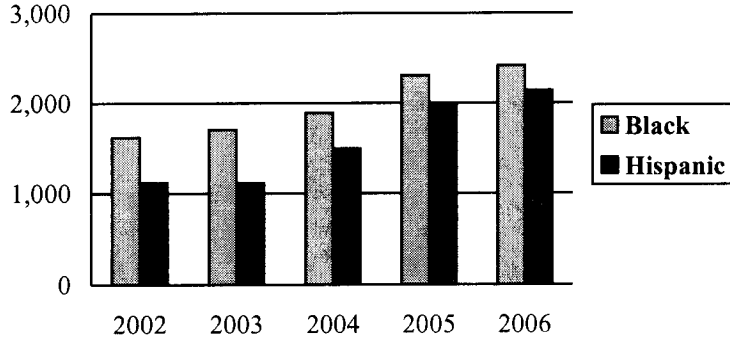


During the period from 2002 to 2006, the proportion of minority students taking the SAT increased in BCPS more than for Florida, and much more than for the nation.

	2002	2006	% Change
Broward	3,418	5,531	61.8
Florida	25,312	39,385	55.6
Nation	376,554	504,477	34.0

Figure 2. Percentage increase in minority SAT test takers, 2002 to 2006.

**Number of Black and Hispanic SAT Test Takers - Broward**

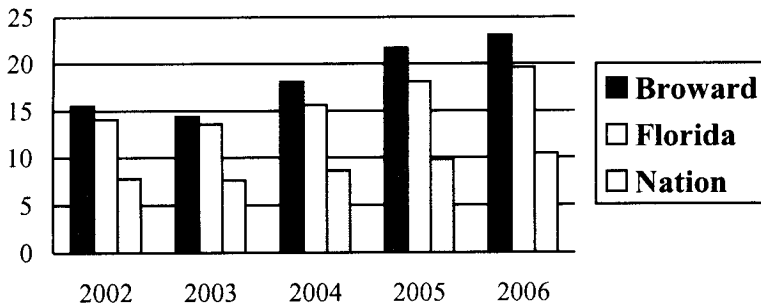


The numbers of Black and Hispanic SAT test takers increased annually in Broward County. The number of Hispanic SAT takers nearly doubled in the period from 2002 to 2006. The number of Black SAT test takers rose by approximately 50% in the same period.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Black	1,619	1,704	1,893	2,309	2,414
Hispanic	1,118	1,116	1,495	1,995	2,143

Figure 3. Number of minority SAT test takers, 2002 to 2006.

**Percentage of Hispanic SAT Test Takers**

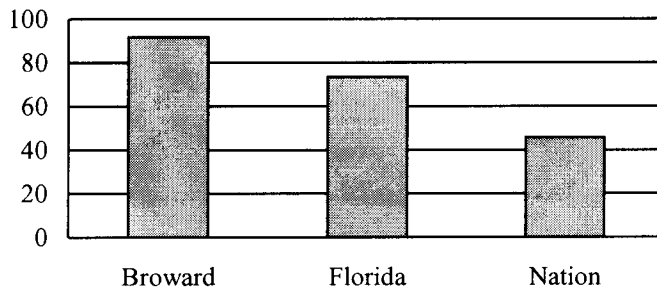


An increasing trend in the percentage of Hispanic SAT test takers was evident in the period of 2002 to 2006 in BCPS, Florida, and the nation. BCPS consistently tested the highest proportion of Hispanic students. In 2006, nearly one quarter of the SAT test takers in BCPS were Hispanic.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Broward	15.5	14.4	18.1	21.7	23.1
Florida	14.1	13.6	15.6	18.1	19.6
Nation	7.8	7.6	8.6	9.8	10.4

Figure 4. Percentage of Hispanic SAT test takers, 2002 to 2006.

### Percentage Increase in Hispanic SAT Test Takers, 2002-2006

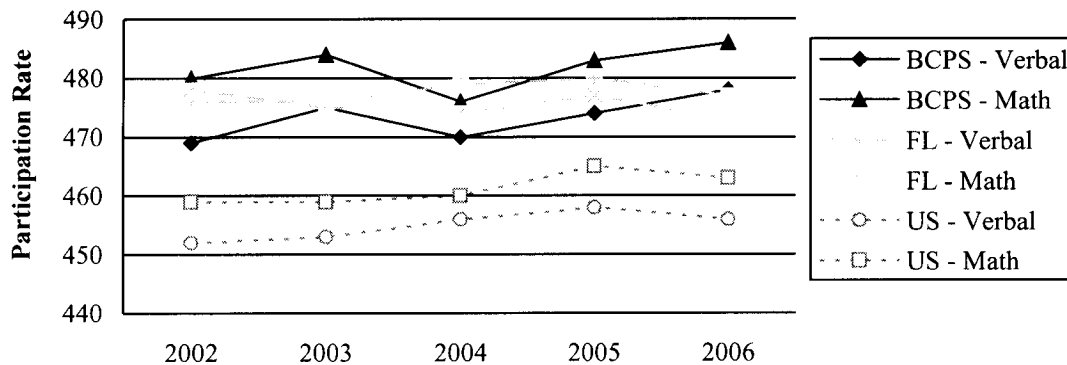


In the period from 2002 to 2006, the number of Hispanic SAT test takers nearly doubled in Broward County. There was a nearly 75% increase in Hispanic SAT test takers in Florida during the same period, and a nearly 50% increase at the national level.

	2002	2006	% Increase
Broward	1,118	2,143	91.7
Florida	10,700	18,553	73.4
Nation	104,155	151,761	45.7

Figure 5. Increase in Hispanic SAT test takers, 2002 to 2006.

### Hispanic SAT Scores

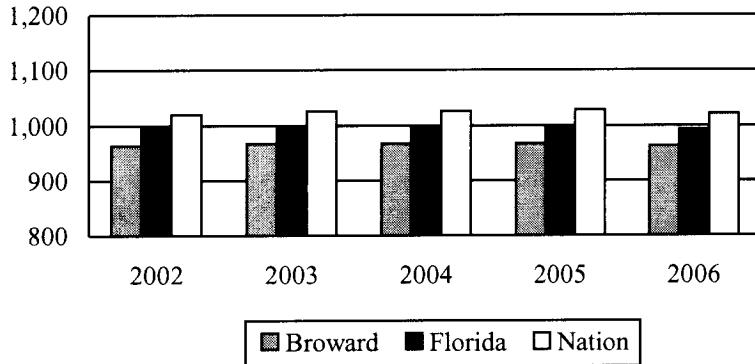


<b>Broward</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>
Verbal	469	475	470	474	478
Mathematics	480	484	476	483	486
<b>Florida</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>
Verbal	476	476	479	480	477
Mathematics	478	475	474	477	473
<b>Nation</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>
Verbal	452	453	456	458	456
Mathematics	459	459	460	465	463

From 2002 to 2006, Hispanic student achievement on the Verbal and Mathematics portions of the SAT increased in BCPS and in the nation. Hispanic students in BCPS scored much higher than those in the nation overall. In Florida, achievement actually decreased.

Figure 6. Hispanic SAT scores in BCPS, Florida, and the nation.

**SAT Mean Scores for Broward, Florida, and the Nation**



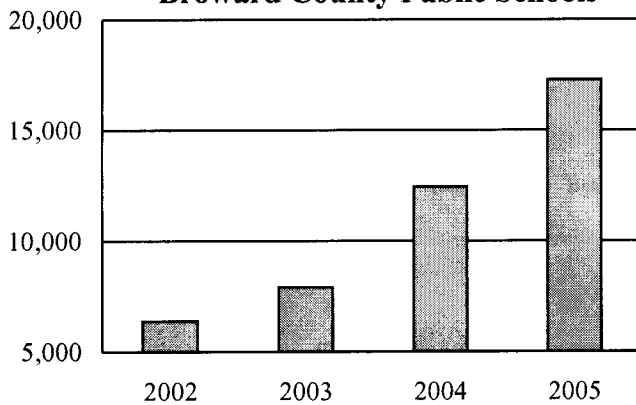
Mean SAT composite scores remained flat over the period from 2002 to 2006. A slight increase was observed in 2003, 2004, and 2005, but in 2006 mean scores had declined back to 2002 levels. This pattern was evident at the district, state, and national level. Mean composite scores in BCPS were lower than state or national scores.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Broward	964	967	967	967	963
Florida	995	996	998	996	993
Nation	1,020	1,026	1,026	1,028	1,021

Figure 7. Mean SAT composite scores for BCPS, Florida, and the nation.

**PSAT/NMSQT**

**Number of PSAT/NMSQT Test Takers  
Broward County Public Schools**

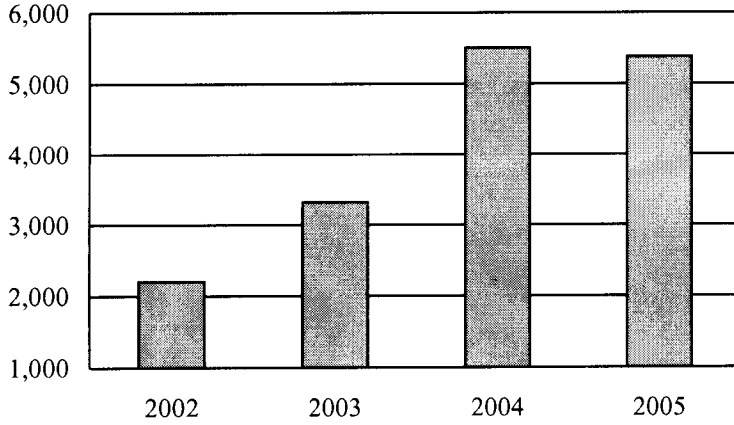


The number of students taking the PSAT/NMSQT test increased over the period of 2002 to 2005. In BCPS, the number of students taking the test nearly tripled. Prior to the 2000-01 school year, students had to pay to take the PSAT; however, since that year, Florida has provided funds to cover student expenses resulting from the test. In following years, the number of students taking the PSAT/NMSQT has increased substantially at both the local and state level.

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Broward	6,392	7,919	12,421	17,283
Florida	101,047	116,237	135,521	141,685

Figure 8. Number of 10th grade PSAT/NMSQT test takers.

**Number of Black PSAT/NMSQT Test Takers  
Broward County Public Schools**

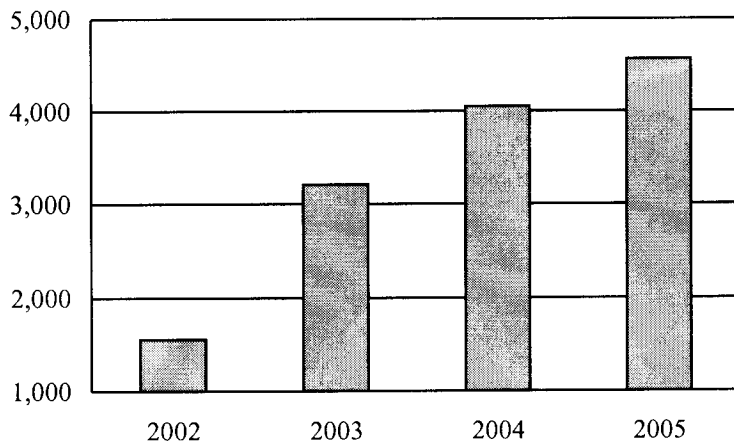


The number of Black students taking the PSAT/NMSQT in BCPS nearly doubled in the period from 2002 to 2005. The number of Black students in Florida taking the test also increased considerably in the same time period, though not at the same high proportion as in Broward.

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Broward	2,205	3,318	5,505	5,377
Florida	18,353	22,314	28,962	27,566

Figure 9. Number of Black 10th grade PSAT/NMSQT test takers.

**Number of Hispanic PSAT Test Takers  
Broward County Public Schools**



The number of Hispanic students taking the PSAT/NMSQT in BCPS nearly tripled in the period from 2002 to 2005. The number of Hispanic students in Florida taking the test also increased in the same time period, at a somewhat lower proportion than BCPS.

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Broward	1,556	3,207	4,050	4,565
Florida	22,218	27,312	29,491	35,112

Figure 10. Number of Hispanic 10th grade PSAT/NMSQT test takers.

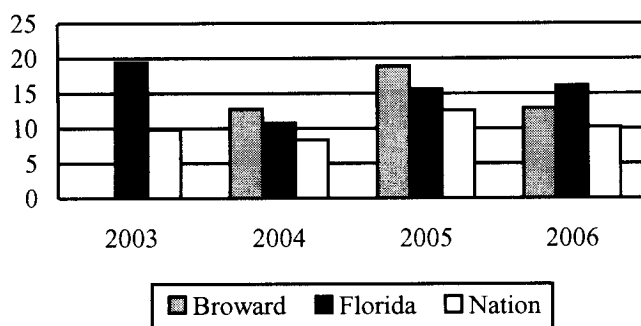
Table 1  
*Mean SAT Scores of Students Who Did and Did Not Take the PSAT/NMSQT, 2006*

	<b>Did take the PSAT/NMSQT</b>	<b>Did not take the PSAT/NMSQT</b>
<b>Broward</b>		
Grade 11		
Critical Reading	497	468
Mathematics	510	452
Writing	484	435
Grade 12		
Critical Reading	484	419
Mathematics	488	423
Writing	465	400
<b>Florida</b>		
Grade 12		
Critical Reading	542	444
Mathematics	546	445
Writing	526	426

Table 1 provides mean SAT scores, by subject, for two groups of students – those who had previously taken the PSAT/NMSQT, and those who had not. Students who took the PSAT/NMSQT scored better on the SAT than students who had not taken the practice exam. At the state level, students who took the PSAT/NMSQT scored about 100 points higher on each SAT subtest. In Broward, students who took the practice exam scored 30 to 65 points higher.

**AP**

**Percentage Increase in Number of AP Test Takers - Broward, Florida and the Nation**



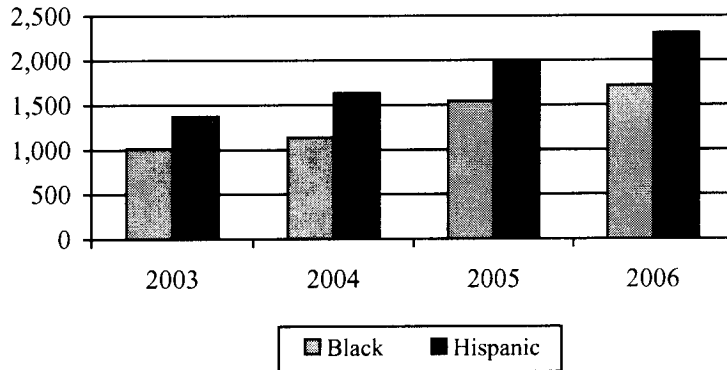
The number of students taking AP exams has been increasing in BCPS, Florida, and the nation for several years. BCPS registered double-digit percentage point increases in the number of students taking AP exams for the past three years. Proportionately, these gains were greater than those seen throughout the nation in each corresponding year.

	2003	2004	2005	2006
Broward	*	12.8	18.9	12.9
Florida	19.4	10.8	15.6	16.1
Nation	9.8	8.4	12.6	10.2

Figure 11. Percentage Increase in Number of AP Test Takers, Broward, Florida and the Nation, 2003-2006

\*Data for 2002 were not in the Data Warehouse at time of publication, therefore a percent change could not be computed.

**Number of Black and Hispanic AP Test Takers, Broward County Public Schools**



The number of Black and Hispanic students taking AP exams increased every year in the period from 2003 to 2006. This trend occurred in both BCPS and the state. In BCPS, the number of Black AP exam takers rose 70%, while the increase was 57% for the state. In BCPS, Hispanic participation rose 68%; the corresponding state increase for the same period was 64%.

	2003	2004	2005	2006
Black				
Broward	1,013	1,139	1,546	1,722
Florida	5,613	6,038	7,270	8,788
Hispanic				
Broward	1,376	1,634	1,981	2,308
Florida	12,466	14,710	17,233	20,421

*Figure 12.* Increase in Black and Hispanic AP test takers, Broward and Florida, 2003-2006