


MEMORANDUM

August 31, 2006

TO: The Honorable Chair and Members of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

FROM: Rudolph F. Crew, Superintendent of Schools 

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF THE 2006 COLLEGE BOARD SAT REASONING TEST RESULTS

On August 29, 2006, the College Board released the 2006 national, state and District results for the *SAT Reasoning Test* (SAT) for the graduating class of 2006. A copy of the College Board press release is attached for your information.

The SAT is designed to assess many of the verbal and mathematics skills that are important to a student's success in college. A new format of the SAT was administered beginning in March 2005. The new version has enhanced mathematics content, more critical reading, and a new writing section. Although the version of the SAT being administered has changed, the scales remain the same, from 200 to 800 for each test, to allow for comparison of the old and new versions. The old mathematics and verbal scores can be compared with the new mathematics and critical reading scores, respectively. The writing section, however, is completely new.

Nationally, almost one and one-half million seniors in the Class of 2006 took the SAT, representing 48% of the graduating class. Statewide, over 94,600 seniors participated, representing 65% of the graduating class. In Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), more than 10,500 students participated in the SAT, representing 49% of the District's Class of 2006.

Highlights of the SAT results include:

- The District's average Verbal/Critical Reading score remained stable from 2005 to 2006, while state and national scores declined.
- Average Mathematics scores declined at all levels.
- In all three areas tested, Critical Reading, Mathematics, and the new Writing section, average scores for District students lag behind those for the state and nation.

The attached report provides the following results for the District, state, and nation:

1. Average scores for 2004, 2005, and 2006, and the difference from 2005 to 2006.
2. Average scores for participating M-DCPS schools.

The population tested consists of self-selected students who participate on a voluntary basis. As a result, student demographic characteristics and the numbers and percent of students tested at each school may vary greatly both between districts and schools, as well as between years. Therefore, comparing or ranking districts and/or schools on the basis of SAT scores alone is invalid and strongly discouraged by the College Board and by M-DCPS.

Should you have any questions about the 2006 SAT results, please contact Ms. Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent, Curriculum, Instruction, and School Improvement, at 305 995-1451, or Ms. Gisela Feild, Administrative Director, Assessment and Data Analysis, at 305 995-7512.

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Attachments

cc: Superintendent's Senior Staff
School Board Attorney
Assessment & Data Analysis Staff