

MEMORANDUM

August 30, 2005

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 2005 COLLEGE BOARD SAT I RESULTS

On August 30, 2005, at 10:30 a.m., the College Board released the 2005 national, state and district results for the *SAT I: Reasoning Test* for the graduating class of 2005. A copy of the College Board press release is attached for your information.

The *SAT I: Reasoning Test* is designed to assess many of the verbal and mathematics skills that are important to a student's success in college. Nationally, more than one million seniors in the Class of 2005 took the SAT I. In Florida, 67% of graduates took the SAT I, an increase from the 61% of test-takers in 2004. Over 10,800 Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) students participated in the SAT I. This represents 52% of the Class of 2005, a 5% increase in the participation rate from the 47% in 2004.

Highlights of the SAT results include:

- M-DCPS experienced an all-time record of students participating in the SAT I, a 5% increase from the previous year. Both the total number and the relative percentage of M-DCPS test takers from minority racial-ethnic groups increased.
- In 2005, minority students in the District constituted 87% of the District's test-taking population, compared to only 44% in the state and 38% nationally.
- The District's average verbal score declined from 2004 to 2005, while the average mathematics score remained constant. In Florida, average SAT scores declined in both verbal and mathematics.
- Minority students in the Class of 2005 outperformed their counterparts in 2004, most notably in mathematics.

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

1. Average scores for 2003, 2004, and 2005, and the difference from 2004 to 2005.
2. The ethnic composition of test takers.
3. Two-year comparisons of results by ethnicity.
4. 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 I scores alone is invalid and strongly discouraged by the College Board and by M-DCPS.

Should you have any questions about the 2005 SAT I 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
Dr. Natalie Roca
Senior High School Principals
Assessment & Data Analysis Staff