



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL

RESEARCH & EVALUATION
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

August 19, 2022

TO: School Board Members

THROUGH: Michael J. Burke, Superintendent *MJB*

FROM: John-Anthony Boggess, Chief of Staff *AB*
Adam Miller, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent, Performance Accountability *AM*

SUBJECT: **FY18-FY22 COLLEGE READINESS BASED ON SAT AND ACT TEST RESULTS**

The SAT and ACT assessments help students monitor academic progress and prepare students to achieve their college and career goals. Graduating high school students who meet College Readiness Benchmarks are more likely to succeed in college-level courses. The criteria for meeting College Readiness Benchmarks for District students are determined based on their SAT and ACT scores in Reading and Mathematics.

The Department of Research & Evaluation (DRE) developed an interactive [SAT and ACT Results Dashboard](#) summarizing assessment data by school and student subgroup from FY18 to FY22.¹ Data includes the number of test-takers, participation rates, and percentage of test-takers meeting College Readiness Benchmarks. Although the annual SAT and ACT District profile reports summarize only Grade 12 cohort students, we have included test-takers in Grades 11 and 12 to provide a snapshot of FY18, FY19, FY20, FY21, and FY22 participation and performance for the District. This document outlines some high-level observations from the Dashboard.

Participation Rates: FY18 to FY22

- From FY18 to FY22, the Grade 11 combined unduplicated SAT or ACT participation rate increased at the District level and across all ethnic subgroups.
- From FY18 to FY22, the Grade 12 combined unduplicated SAT or ACT participation rate increased at the District level and across most ethnic subgroups.
- Overall, SAT participation rates are greater than ACT participation rates. Differences in participation by assessment may be partially attributed to the District's annual SAT day during which the SAT is administered free of charge to all Grade 11 students.

¹ Navigation to the interactive report from District's homepage: The School District of Palm Beach County -> Departments -> Research and Evaluation -> Tests/Survey Reports -> Reports/Graphs -> FY18-FY22 College Readiness Based On Sat and Act Test Results.

College and Career Readiness Benchmarks: FY18 to FY22

- The percentage of students in Grades 11 and 12 meeting College Readiness Benchmarks in Reading on either the SAT or ACT declined from FY18 (62%) to FY20 (58%) and rebounded in FY22 (61%).
- The percentage of students in Grades 11 and 12 meeting College Readiness Benchmarks in Math on either the SAT or ACT declined steadily from FY18 (35%) to FY22 (28%).
- The percentage of students in Grades 11 and 12 meeting College Readiness Benchmarks in both Reading and Math on either the SAT or ACT declined steadily from FY18 (34%) to FY22 (27%).
- Overall, the percentage of students in Grades 11 and 12 meeting College Readiness Benchmarks in Reading, Math, and both Reading and Math is higher on the SAT than the ACT.
- The percentage of students in Grades 11 and 12 meeting College Readiness Benchmarks in Reading, Math, and both Reading and Math remained stable (within 2% percentage points) on the SAT from FY18 to FY22.
- The percentage of students across Grades 11 and 12 meeting College Readiness Benchmarks in Reading, Math, and both Reading and Math declined on the ACT from FY18 to FY22.
- From FY18 to FY22, there were gaps in the percentage of students meeting College Readiness Benchmarks in Reading, Math, and Reading and Math by ELL, ESE, and FRL status. Gaps were also present by ethnic subgroup.

Next Steps

Staff are encouraged to explore test participation and College Readiness data to guide students toward meeting graduation requirements and College Readiness Benchmarks. Several data sources are available to assist principals and staff including:

- 1) Potential Students for College and or Post-Secondary Readiness (Report number: RESQA0440): This EDW report provides a list of potential students for the cohort graduation year along with GPA, SAT scores, and ACT scores. College Readiness and Post-Secondary Readiness flags are also included.
- 2) Individual Student Graduation Status (Report number: RSSOA0549): This EDW report provides in-depth graduation status information for individual students including color-coded College Readiness data to illustrate whether students are “on track” or “not on track.”
- 3) K-12 Reporting Portal k12reports.collegeboard.org This College Board portal, available to select guidance counselors, displays historical SAT score reports by school and student. The Skills Insight page provides student-specific suggestions for improving skills based on test scores and information about linking scores to SAT practice materials.

For questions regarding the SAT and ACT exam results, contact Paul Houchens, Director, Research & Evaluation, 561-434-8780 or Dr. Adam Miller, Assistant Superintendent, Performance Accountability, 561-434-8851. For questions regarding individual school efforts and College Readiness results, please contact the appropriate regional superintendent or school principal.

MJB/JB/AM/PH/RC/MP:wI

c: Academic and Operating Chiefs
Regional/Instructional Superintendents
Assistant Superintendents
Academic Directors
Principals