



**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL**

RESEARCH & EVALUATION
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

October 25, 2023

TO: School Board Members

THROUGH: Michael J. Burke, Superintendent *MJB*

FROM: Jamie Wyatt, Chief of Staff *JW*
Adam Miller, Ph.D., Chief of Performance Accountability *AM*

SUBJECT: FY19-FY23 COLLEGE READINESS BASED ON SAT AND ACT TEST RESULTS

The SAT and ACT assessments help students monitor academic progress and prepare them 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 FY19 to FY23.¹ 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 also included test-takers in grade 11 to provide a snapshot of FY19, FY20, FY21, FY22, and FY23 participation and performance for the District.

Overall, participation rates have increased from FY19 to FY23 for both SAT and ACT in grades 11 and 12 District-wide, and across all ethnic subgroups. The percentage of students meeting College Readiness Benchmarks in Reading remained similar from FY19 to FY23 overall and across most subgroups. This is notable as an increase in participation typically results in a decrease in performance. This document outlines additional high-level observations from the Dashboard.

Participation Rates: FY19 to FY23

- In FY23, the grade 11 combined participation rate on the SAT or ACT remained similar (within 2 percentage points) to FY19 at the District level and across all ethnic subgroups.
- From FY19 to FY23, the grade 12 combined unduplicated SAT or ACT participation rate increased at the District level and across most ethnic subgroups.

¹ Navigation from District's homepage: The School District of Palm Beach County -> Departments -> Research and Evaluation -> Tests/Survey Results -> National, State, and Local Exam Results -> FY19-FY23 College Readiness Based On SAT and ACT Test Results.

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- 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.

College and Career Readiness Benchmarks: FY19 to FY23

- The percentage of students in grades 11 and 12 meeting College Readiness Benchmarks in Reading on either the SAT or ACT remained similar from FY19 (61%) to FY23 (60%).
- The percentage of students in grades 11 and 12 meeting College Readiness Benchmarks in Math on either the SAT or ACT declined steadily from FY19 (34%) to FY23 (30%).
- 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 from FY19 (33%) to FY23 (29%).
- The percentage of students in grades 11 and 12 meeting the College Readiness Benchmark in Reading on the SAT remained stable (within 2 percentage points) from FY19 to FY23. However, the percentage of students in grades 11 and 12 meeting the College Readiness Benchmarks in Math and both Reading and Math on the SAT decreased from FY19 to FY23.
- 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 FY19 to FY23.
- From FY19 to FY23, gaps in the percentage of students meeting College Readiness Benchmarks in Reading, Math, and Reading and Math persisted across subgroups.

Next Steps

Staff are encouraged to explore these 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 is available to select guidance counselors and 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 Dr. Paul Houchens, Director, Research & Evaluation, 561-434-8780 or Dr. Adam Miller, Chief, 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/JW/AM/PH/RC/MP:wI

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