

For Immediate Release
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Cobb's SAT Results Strong – But Incomplete Scores Improve, But Data From College Board Omits 500 Students

The Cobb County School District, along with several other districts in the state, is unable to report accurate SAT results at this time because of incomplete data from College Board, the New York-based company that administers the SAT and compiles results.

The school district has identified a large number of data inaccuracies on the College Board 2009 SAT report. Because of these inaccuracies, scores do not accurately reflect comprehensive school or district averages. The scores of approximately 500 students were not included in the results provided by College Board to the district. The missing scores account for about 7 percent of the graduating class of 2009.

The inaccuracies were discovered when district officials noticed a significant decline in the participation rate of students on the exam. Overall district participation decreased from 80 percent in 2008 to 66 percent in 2009. The decline was so unusual that schools were asked to compare the rosters of students tested provided by the College Board to their list of graduating seniors to ensure that all students who took the SAT had scores included. When the schools finished checking their lists, nearly every high school in the district showed students who had received individual scores, but were not included on the school report submitted by College Board.

The school district has submitted information about the missing scores to the College Board to correct the errors. The results received by the district show Cobb's total combined average SAT scores improved 10 points over 2008 to 1534. The combined average is 74 points above the state average (1460), and 25 points above the national average (1509). The district's average Critical Reading score of 515 topped the national (501) and state (490) averages by 14 points and 25 points respectively. Cobb's average Math score of 519 is four points above the national average (515) and 28 points above the state average (491). Cobb's average writing score of 500 is also higher than both the state (479) and national averages (493) by 21 and seven points respectively.

"The data we received is very encouraging – but incomplete," said Superintendent Fred Sanderson. "We were cautiously optimistic that our SAT results would show improvement this year because of the efforts our teachers and administrators have made, particularly to address the performance of subgroups of students. These results indicate a great deal of progress in that area. We are also in the second year of Project 2400, a program that provides SAT preparation for students, and the results have been tremendous. I'm impressed to see that, as a whole, Cobb students continue to widen the gap over state and national results. We hope to get the issue of missing scores resolved soon so that we can provide a complete report."

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**A FIVE YEAR COMPARISON OF SCHOLASTIC ASSESSMENT TEST (SAT)
SCORES FOR COLLEGE BOUND SENIORS*
2005 to 2009**

READING

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NATIONAL</u>	<u>COBB COUNTY</u>	<u>GEORGIA</u>
2009	501	515	490
2008	502	511	491
2007	502	515	494
2006	503	517	494
2005	508	525	497

MATHEMATICS

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NATIONAL</u>	<u>COBB COUNTY</u>	<u>GEORGIA</u>
2009	515	519	491
2008	515	514	493
2007	515	517	495
2006	518	517	496
2005	520	522	496

WRITING

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NATIONAL</u>	<u>COBB COUNTY</u>	<u>GEORGIA</u>
2009	493	500	479
2008	494	499	482
2007	494	502	483
2006	497	504	487

Scale: 200 - 800

Percentage of Students Taking the SAT:

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
NATIONAL	49%	48%	48%	48%	46%
GEORGIA	75%	70%	70%	69%	71%
COBB COUNTY	81%	77%	77%	80%	66%

* All scores are reported on the recentered SAT score scale.

** Estimated percentage of Georgia graduating seniors.

Data Source: 2009 College Board Highlights

**COBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOLASTIC ASSESSMENT TESTS (SAT) SCORES*
2007 to 2009**

AREA/ SCHOOL	PERCENTAGE TESTED**			Critical Reading Scores			Mathematics Scores			Reading & Math Total			Writing Scores***			New Total		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
NATIONAL	48%	48%	46%	502	502	501	515	515	515	1017	1017	1016	494	494	493	1511	1511	1509
COBB COUNTY	77%	80%	66%	515	511	515	517	514	519	1032	1025	1034	502	499	500	1534	1524	1534
GEORGIA	70%	69%	71%	494	491	490	495	493	491	989	984	981	483	482	479	1472	1466	1460
CAMPBELL	71%	69%	62%	496	497	498	491	486	491	987	983	989	480	488	486	1467	1471	1475
HARRISON	83%	85%	73%	528	529	536	529	528	541	1057	1057	1077	513	514	519	1570	1571	1596
HILLGROVE	--	70%	70%	--	487	488	--	482	492	--	969	980	--	473	482	--	--	1462
KELL	80%	79%	62%	509	513	502	511	525	512	1020	1038	1014	494	499	486	1514	1537	1500
KENNESAW MTN.	82%	82%	69%	521	519	523	515	520	523	1036	1039	1046	500	503	505	1536	1542	1551
LASSITER	96%	92%	77%	544	545	555	560	560	567	1104	1105	1122	532	530	536	1636	1635	1658
MCEACHERN	81%	73%	62%	481	483	468	473	467	466	954	950	934	465	463	452	1419	1413	1386
NORTH COBB	68%	70%	61%	495	477	485	475	469	480	970	946	965	484	467	467	1454	1413	1432
OSBORNE	54%	53%	45%	431	411	429	429	418	437	860	829	866	417	408	419	1277	1237	1285
PEBBLEBROOK	58%	62%	52%	455	436	441	437	427	427	892	863	868	439	432	432	1331	1295	1300
POPE	100%	93%	80%	545	545	550	553	559	568	1098	1104	1118	536	542	538	1634	1646	1656
SOUTH COBB	57%	64%	50%	460	443	453	458	442	451	918	885	904	447	432	444	1365	1317	1348
SPRAYBERRY	76%	75%	58%	506	500	489	506	492	493	1012	992	982	496	489	477	1508	1481	1459
WALTON	100%	98%	85%	562	564	575	580	586	589	1142	1150	1164	555	562	558	1697	1712	1722
WHEELER	79%	74%	63%	533	525	550	550	538	555	1083	1063	1105	519	511	535	1602	1574	1640

Score range 200-800 for all tests

-- No scores for Hillgrove prior to 2008

* All Scores are reported on the recentered SAT score scale.

** Estimated percentage of Georgia graduating seniors.

*** No Writing scores are available prior to 2006. New Total include Reading, Math, and Writing.

Data Source: 2009 College Board Highlights
2009 College Board Profile