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Cobb Exceeds State and National Scores on New SAT

District Seniors Continue to Gain High Marks

Marietta, GA: Cobb's class of 2017 once again outperformed their peers at both the state and national level. The district's total average score of 1088 is 38 points higher than the state average and 28 points higher than the national average. The test, used for college admissions and merit-based scholarships, is scored on a scale of 400 to 1600.

Superintendent Chris Ragsdale praised the results and the effort to attain them: "As with the ACT, Cobb graduates exceeded their peers across the state and the nation on the SAT. These results highlight the quality of public education in the Cobb County School District and underscore our mission of One Team, One Goal: Student Success. In celebrating our District's success, I credit the hard work of our students and our many dedicated teachers and administrators."

Cobb students also exceeded the state and national averages in 2016. The test was recently redesigned by the College Board, and students began taking the new test in March, 2016. Previously, the maximum score was 2400. Because of the changes to the test, it is not possible to provide direct, year-over-year comparisons. "The new SAT requires that students read and answer questions about science, history, and social studies while at the same time demonstrate

their skills in reading, writing, and math,” according to Dr. Ehsan Kattoula, Assistant Superintendent for Accountability and Research for the District.

Ten of the District’s high schools had average scores above the national average of 1060: Allatoona, Harrison, Hillgrove, Kell, Kennesaw Mountain, Lassiter, North Cobb, Pope, Walton and Wheeler. Over 60% of the district’s more than 7,800 graduating seniors took the SAT during their high school years. Across the district, a perfect total score of 1600 was earned by one student from Campbell and three students from Walton.

Walton High School had the highest average total score at 1242, 92 points higher than the state average and 82 points higher than the national average. Walton principal Judith McNeill praised the work of her teachers, students, and community: “Our teachers are doing a great job focusing on literacy in the classroom. This focus has had a positive impact on all of the state and national measurements. We thank the faculty, students, and community for making Walton such a positive learning environment. We have students that really want to do well.”

North Cobb High School had the highest participation in the District with 452 students taking the SAT. North Cobb principal, Bucky Horton, attributes this increase to the fact that the school is encouraging students to take the SAT early in their high school careers: “Our community has a clear understanding that taking the test is a measure for college and gives parents and students an indicator of college readiness.” Horton also emphasizes, “Your score is not only about which school you get into, it’s also about scoring high enough for scholarship dollars.”

[Data table is attached]

About the Cobb County School District: The Cobb County School District is located Northwest of Atlanta, Georgia. The 2nd largest school district in Georgia and the 23rd largest district in the United States, the District serves over 112,000 students in 112 schools including 67 elementary schools, 25 middle schools, 16 high schools, one charter school, one special education center, one adult education center, and one performance learning center. The District is the largest employer in the county with over 15,000 employees. Information about the District is available at www.cobbk12.org

About the SAT: The SAT is administered by the College Board. Information about the organization, its testing programs and other services is available at www.collegeboard.com

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The table includes SAT Scores for the graduates of the Class of 2017 of the Cobb County School District. The scores represent the most recent score from each student who took the new SAT during their high school career.

	Number Test Takers	Evidence-Based Reading & Writing	Math	SAT Total *
National	1,715,481	533	527	1,060
Georgia	63,805	535	515	1,050
Cobb	4,707	554	534	1,088
Allatoona	274	552	533	1,085
Campbell	319	534	511	1,045
Harrison	389	576	558	1,134
Hillgrove	359	557	538	1,095
Kell	176	555	536	1,091
Kennesaw Mountain	290	579	567	1,146
Lassiter	341	598	591	1,189
McEachern	304	504	473	978
North Cobb	452	554	517	1,071
Osborne	181	476	454	930
Pebblebrook	262	494	465	959
Pope	232	587	577	1,164
South Cobb	280	507	474	981
Sprayberry	260	536	512	1,049
Walton	351	621	621	1,242
Wheeler	236	579	574	1,153