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## Wisconsin scores up on SAT college entrance exam

*Preliminary results strong for Advanced Placement program*

MADISON — With 5 percent of the state’s 2009 graduates taking the SAT college admissions test, scores jumped seven points in reading, four in math, and five in writing from last year. Nationally, the critical reading and writing scores both dropped one point from 2008; the math score held constant for the third year.

Along with impressive SAT results, preliminary data on the College Board’s Advanced Placement (AP) program showed continued growth in Wisconsin for both the number of students taking AP exams (27,269) and the number of exams students take (43,830). Overall student participation was up 2.5 percent, with participation for students of color up almost 10 percent. The passing rate was 68.4 percent, up 1.2 percentage points from last year. AP exams are graded on a scale from one to five, with scores of three or higher considered passing and eligible for course credit at most of the nation’s colleges and universities.

2009 AP Program		
All Schools		
	Wisconsin	Nation
Number of AP Test-Takers	27,269	1,691,905
Number of Exams	43,830	2,929,929
Number of Grades 3-5	30,000	1,725,168
Percent Earning Grades of 3-5	68.4	58.9

Wisconsin had 3,192 public and private school graduates who took the SAT during high school. The number is down by 360 students from last year. The state’s critical reading score averaged 594, up seven points from last year; mathematics was 608, up four points from last year; and writing was 582, up five points. Nationally, more than 1.5 million graduates took the SAT. Overall mean scores for the nation were 501 for critical reading, 515 for mathematics, and 493 for writing. On the ACT college admissions tests, more popular in Midwestern states, 67 percent of Wisconsin’s 2009 graduates took the exams. Their scores also were well above national averages.

“Though a small group of our 2009 graduates took the SAT, their scores are admirable,” said State Superintendent Tony Evers. “The results from this national exam show these students are well prepared for college-level coursework.”

Students in Wisconsin who took the SAT tend to be higher achieving and from higher income families. In Wisconsin, 71 percent of SAT-takers report that they are A-students. About 21 percent of Wisconsin’s SAT

(more)

participants report family income above \$120,000. The achievement gap is quite large between the lowest income students, those from families earning less than \$20,000 per year, and the highest income students, whose family income exceeds \$200,000 annually. Among higher-income students who took the SAT in Wisconsin, scores averaged 94 points higher than those for lower-income students. Students of color represent 16.7 percent of the state's SAT-takers. Their SAT scores, while lower than for white students, averaged from 51 points to 107 points higher than their peers nationally.

The College Board administers both the SAT and Advanced Placement testing programs. The SAT is scored on a scale of 200 to 800 and is administered at various times throughout the year. AP exams test student's college-level subject knowledge. The exams are administered in spring and generally relate to AP coursework taken during high school. The College Board's "Advanced Placement Report to the Nation," typically released in February, provides a more extensive analysis of AP results.

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**NOTE:** The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction does not receive SAT scores for schools or school districts. Please contact local school officials for score information. Tables that provided additional information about SAT results follow. This news release is available electronically at [http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2009\\_19.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2009_19.pdf).

# SAT Results

## SAT Scores

Wisconsin — All Schools

Year	Takers	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
2008-09	3,192	594	608	582
2007-08	3,522	587	604	577
2006-07	3,816	587	598	575
2005-06	4,012	588	600	577
2004-05	4,230	592	599	NA
2003-04	4,472	587	596	NA
2002-03	4,487	585	594	NA
2001-02	4,186	583	599	NA
2000-01	4,173	584	596	NA
1999-00	4,188	584	597	NA
1998-99	4,295	584	595	NA
1997-98	4,362	581	594	NA
1996-97	4,485	579	590	NA

  

Nation — All Schools				
Year	Takers	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
2008-09	1,530,128	501	515	493
2007-08	1,518,859	502	515	494
2006-07	1,494,531	502	515	494
2005-06	1,465,744	503	518	497
2004-05	1,475,623	508	520	NA
2003-04	1,419,007	508	518	NA
2002-03	1,406,324	507	519	NA
2001-02	1,327,831	504	516	NA
2000-01	1,276,320	506	514	NA
1999-00	1,260,278	505	514	NA
1998-99	1,220,130	505	511	NA
1997-98	1,172,779	505	512	NA
1996-97	1,127,021	505	511	NA

## 2009 SAT Scores by Race and Ethnicity

Wisconsin All Schools	Takers	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
African American	145	501	510	494
American Indian	16	569	562	541
Asian	267	567	666	576
Hispanic				
Mexican American	41	560	551	538
Puerto Rican	9	530	529	523
Other Hispanic	54	557	565	537
White	2,487	604	612	591
Other	65	606	592	585
No Response	108	587	584	558

  

Nation All Schools	Takers	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
African American	187,136	429	426	421
American Indian	8,974	486	493	469
Asian	158,757	516	587	520
Hispanic				
Mexican American	79,766	453	463	446
Puerto Rican	22,881	452	450	443
Other Hispanic	103,937	455	461	448
White	851,014	528	536	517
Other	51,215	494	514	493
No Response	66,448	472	501	469

## 2009 SAT Course-Taking Patterns

	Wisconsin	Nation
Taking Core	2,502	1,008,819
Non-Core	310	257,028
Percent Taking Core	89.0	79.7

