

For Immediate Release
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Cobb SAT Scores Dip, But Continue To Exceed State, National Averages

SAT scores for the Cobb County School District's most recent graduates remain well above averages for the state of Georgia and the nation, despite a five-point decrease from 2012. Seniors in the class of 2013 posted an overall score of 1515 (combined Reading, Math and Writing totals), topping the state average by 63 points and the national average by 17 points.

Meanwhile, the percentage of students tested in Cobb County grew from 81 percent in 2012 to 86 percent in 2013. The percentage tested in Cobb County was higher than the state percentage (83 percent), and far surpassed the national percentage (50 percent). Typically, average scores decline as participation increases.

In the SAT's three academic areas, Cobb students' Reading scores remained the same, while Math scores dipped four points and Writing scores decreased one point. In comparison, national scores remained unchanged in all three subjects. Georgia scores increased two points in Reading, declined two points in Math, and remained the same in Writing.

Seven of Cobb's 16 high schools posted combined totals higher than the national average of 1498, including Harrison, Kell, Kennesaw Mountain, Lassiter, Pope, Walton and Wheeler. Wheeler High School posted the highest year-to-year gain with an average of 1651, a 40-point increase over 2012.

"In Cobb, where more than 5,000 students take the SAT, average scores are not going to fluctuate significantly from year to year," said Superintendent Michael Hinojosa. "A five-point drop in a year where participation increased is not a major concern, but it's something we should monitor. The general trend for the last decade has been upward, and Cobb students continue to outpace both the state and national averages. That means Cobb students, on the whole, will be well-prepared for the rigors of college academics, compared to their peers from across the country."

The SAT is designed to predict a student's potential for success in the first year of college. It tests students' knowledge and application of Reading, Writing and Math. The writing section of the test asks students to write an essay that requires them to take a position on an issue and use reasoning and examples to support their position.

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The Math section of the test includes topics from third-year college preparatory math, such as exponential growth, absolute value, functional notation, and negative and fractional exponents. The Critical Reading section, previously known as the Verbal section, includes short and long reading passages.

Many factors affect SAT scores from year to year, including the percentage of students taking the test, student academic preparation, knowledge of English, parents' education, and locality. Cobb information shows that the higher the grades and rank-in-class achieved, generally the higher the mean SAT scores.

Parents who desire more information about their student's SAT scores should contact counselors in the local high school who can provide proper interpretation to help make the best use of test results.

SAT scores for individual Cobb high schools are listed in Table II*.

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** Data does not include students who took the test after graduation. Historical scores are subject to change if College Board includes students who took the test after graduation.*

**A FIVE YEAR COMPARISON OF SCHOLASTIC ASSESSMENT TEST (SAT)
SCORES FOR COLLEGE BOUND SENIORS*
2009 to 2013**

READING

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NATIONAL</u>	<u>COBB COUNTY</u>	<u>GEORGIA</u>
2013	496	512	490
2012	496	512	488
2011	497	510	485
2010	500	511	488
2009	499	514	489

MATHEMATICS

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NATIONAL</u>	<u>COBB COUNTY</u>	<u>GEORGIA</u>
2013	514	510	487
2012	514	514	489
2011	514	515	487
2010	515	516	489
2009	514	519	489

WRITING

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NATIONAL</u>	<u>COBB COUNTY</u>	<u>GEORGIA</u>
2013	488	493	475
2012	488	494	475
2011	489	497	473
2010	491	495	474
2009	492	499	477

Scale: 200 - 800

Percentage of Students Taking the SAT:

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
NATIONAL**	46%	47%	48%	48%	50%
GEORGIA***	77%	74%	80%	80%	83%
COBB COUNTY	68%	71%	81%	81%	86%

* All scores reflect the "full cohort" trend calculation

** Estimated percentage of graduating seniors

**COBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOLASTIC ASSESSMENT TESTS (SAT) SCORES*
2011 to 2013**

AREA/ SCHOOL	PERCENTAGE TESTED**			Critical Reading Scores			Mathematics Scores			Reading & Math Total			Writing Scores			SAT Total		
	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013
NATIONAL	47%	48%	50%	497	496	496	514	514	514	1011	1010	1010	489	488	488	1500	1498	1498
COBB COUNTY	71%	81%	86%	510	512	512	515	514	510	1025	1026	1022	497	494	493	1522	1520	1515
GEORGIA	78%	77%	83%	485	488	490	487	489	487	972	977	977	473	475	475	1445	1452	1452
ALLATOONA	66%	85%	84%	498	509	506	493	503	501	991	1012	1007	483	483	478	1474	1495	1485
CAMPBELL	53%	66%	83%	483	487	474	481	489	473	964	976	947	475	482	458	1439	1458	1405
HARRISON	82%	91%	86%	528	524	528	538	531	531	1066	1055	1059	512	506	511	1578	1561	1570
HILLGROVE	74%	84%	100%	495	516	501	490	513	499	985	1029	1000	485	499	479	1470	1528	1479
KELL	72%	85%	81%	510	503	503	515	515	512	1025	1018	1015	487	489	492	1512	1507	1507
KENNESAW MTN.	69%	84%	100%	516	531	531	524	533	531	1040	1064	1062	498	508	509	1538	1572	1571
LASSITER	88%	95%	95%	544	549	547	559	556	558	1103	1105	1105	531	531	531	1634	1636	1636
MCEACHERN	60%	78%	84%	467	457	462	452	440	440	919	897	902	449	429	436	1368	1326	1338
NORTH COBB	55%	72%	79%	492	487	492	485	475	477	977	962	969	471	464	470	1448	1426	1439
OSBORNE	42%	45%	59%	417	414	415	422	418	411	839	832	826	407	398	406	1246	1230	1232
PEBBLEBROOK	52%	70%	97%	439	436	441	430	414	416	869	850	857	432	428	426	1301	1278	1283
POPE	81%	97%	100%	552	545	563	573	562	566	1125	1107	1129	551	538	551	1676	1645	1680
SOUTH COBB	46%	63%	79%	439	450	447	441	441	432	880	891	879	429	432	428	1309	1323	1307
SPRAYBERRY	56%	72%	93%	501	511	493	491	501	490	992	1012	983	483	483	469	1475	1495	1452
WALTON	94%	100%	99%	572	580	581	593	597	592	1165	1177	1173	560	566	568	1725	1743	1741
WHEELER	68%	79%	79%	544	535	552	551	555	563	1095	1090	1115	525	521	536	1620	1611	1651

Note: All scores have been adjusted to reflect "full cohort" trend calculation. Scores for 2010 were revised by College Board and may not match prior data released by Cobb County School District
Score range 200-800 for all tests

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

** Estimated percentage of graduating seniors.

Data Source: College Board Highlights
College Board Profile