



P.O. Box 1088
Marietta, GA 30061
Telephone: (770) 426-3300
www.cobbk12.org

For Immediate Release

September 4, 2015

Cobb SAT Scores Increase, Exceed State and National Averages

SAT scores for the Cobb County School District's most recent graduates increased by one point from last year and remain well above averages for the state of Georgia. Seniors in the class of 2015 posted a combined SAT score of 1516 (out of a possible 2400 on the Reading, Math, and Writing sections), exceeding their statewide peers' average by 66 points and the national average by 26 points.

"Just as we were pleased with the ACT results, we are equally impressed with the most recent release of SAT scores," said Superintendent Chris Ragsdale. "Cobb students are exceeding their peers' statewide average by 66 points and the national average by 26 points. We attribute these continued increases to the outstanding teaching staff within the district who realize that it is important to prepare students for both college and careers, and these recent scores are a testament to the great work completed in our schools by both teachers and students."

In the SAT's three academic areas, Cobb students' Reading and Math scores both increased by one point, while Writing scores decreased by one point. In Georgia, scores increased in Reading, decreased in Writing, and remained the same in Math (see Table 3). Nine of Cobb's 16 high schools posted combined totals higher than the national average of 1490: Allatoona, Harrison, Hillgrove, Kell, Kennesaw Mountain, Lassiter, Pope, Walton, and Wheeler. With a combined SAT average score of 1748 for 2015, Walton was the highest in the district and third highest in the state. Allatoona High School students posted the largest year-to-year gain with a 35-point increase from last year for an average score of 1508. Lassiter High School was the only school in the district with a participation rate of 100% of the 2015 graduating class.

"Once again we are pleased with the results from Walton as the number-one school in Cobb and the number-three school in the state for SAT scores," said Dr. Ehsan Kattoula, Executive Director of Accountability, Research & Grants. "We are also excited about the gains at Allatoona High School, and Lassiter is to be commended for 100% student participation in the exam."

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. The math section of the test includes topics from the third-year of 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. The College Board reports scores from students that graduated from

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Randy Scamihorn, *Chair* • Brad Wheeler, *Vice Chair*
Susan Thayer • David Morgan • David Chastain • David Banks • Scott Sweeney

SUPERINTENDENT

Chris Ragsdale

high school in 2015 and who took the SAT during their high school career. Students' scores are included only once even if they took the test multiple times. Only the most recent score is included.

“This is a very powerful statement as to how our students perform on both national and international levels,” said Judy McNeill, Principal of Walton High School. “It’s a reflection that students know that education is important and are committed to doing well. It also reflects the teachers’ absolute commitment to preparing students for college and the workforce.”

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 the counselors in their local high school who can help interpret test results.

“We attribute our results to the systematic approach we’ve taken starting with our feeder middle schools,” said Dr. Chris Richie, Principal of Lassiter High School. “Mabry and Simpson students are introduced early to the rigor of the curriculum and the importance of the SAT. As they progress each year from middle school throughout high school, we continue to build on the importance of the SAT. This is further proof of the support from the parents and community for their students, and we couldn’t be more pleased.”

Five-year trends of scores for the three sections of the SAT are given in Table 1. Participation rates for the last 5 years are in Table 2. SAT scores for individual Cobb high schools are listed in Table 3.

###

Table 1. Five-year (2011–2015) Comparison of SAT Scores for College-bound Seniors from the Cobb County School District (Test Scale: 200 – 800)

A. Reading Scores

Year	National	Georgia	Cobb
2015	495	490	513
2014	497	488	512
2013	496	490	512
2012	496	488	512
2011	497	485	510

B. Math Scores

Year	National	Georgia	Cobb
2015	511	485	510
2014	513	485	509
2013	514	487	510
2012	514	489	514
2011	514	487	515

C. Writing Scores

Year	National	Georgia	Cobb
2015	484	475	493
2014	487	472	494
2013	488	475	493
2012	488	475	494
2011	489	473	497

Table 2. Three-year (2013–2015) Comparison of the Percent of Graduates Taking the SAT for each High School in the Cobb County

	2013	2014	2015
National	50	50	52
Georgia	83	85	79
Cobb	79	80	79
Allatoona	82	84	76
Campbell	71	74	70
Harrison	94	91	95
Hillgrove	85	81	76
Kell	78	83	81
Kennesaw Mtn.	84	83	88
Lassiter	94	96	100
McEachern	78	73	70
North Cobb	78	82	81
Osborne	49	50	46
Pebblebrook	68	73	68
Pope	94	100	88
South Cobb	63	61	64
Sprayberry	73	79	82
Walton	100	99	94
Wheeler	78	78	67

Note: District percentages are based on the number of graduates each year.

National percentages are based on a prediction of the number of high school graduates.

Table 3. Three-year (2013–2015) Comparison of the SAT Scores at Each High School in the Cobb County School District

Area/School	Critical Reading			Math			Writing			SAT Total		
	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015
National	496	497	495	514	513	511	488	487	484	1496	1497	1490
Georgia	490	488	490	487	485	485	475	472	474	1452	1445	1450
Cobb	512	512	513	510	509	510	493	494	493	1515	1515	1516
Allatoona	506	500	510	501	500	513	478	473	485	1485	1473	1508
Campbell	474	483	475	473	470	470	458	472	467	1405	1425	1412
Harrison	528	535	529	531	534	523	511	519	505	1570	1588	1557
Hillgrove	501	506	511	499	502	505	479	488	484	1479	1496	1500
Kell	503	501	508	512	506	505	492	479	484	1507	1486	1497
Kennesaw Mtn.	531	544	539	531	544	544	509	514	505	1571	1602	1588
Lassiter	547	549	554	558	561	566	531	533	536	1636	1643	1656
McEachern	462	460	460	440	437	441	436	435	441	1338	1332	1342
North Cobb	492	493	498	477	475	476	470	473	478	1439	1441	1452
Osborne	415	429	418	411	415	403	406	404	398	1232	1248	1219
Pebblebrook	441	439	432	416	419	414	426	423	428	1283	1281	1274
Pope	563	558	551	566	563	559	551	545	537	1680	1666	1647
South Cobb	447	451	436	432	439	426	428	441	426	1307	1331	1288
Sprayberry	493	493	492	590	483	488	469	472	468	1452	1448	1448
Walton	581	574	584	592	587	598	568	563	566	1741	1724	1748
Wheeler	552	534	550	563	534	546	536	518	521	1651	1586	1617

Note: Score range 200 – 800 for Critical Reading, Math, and Writing tests. Score range 600 – 2400 for total SAT.