

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER**

*Signatures on File*

DATE: July 5, 2018

TO: All Principals

FROM: Daniel F. Gohl  
Chief Academic Officer

VIA: Valerie S. Wanza, Ph.D.  
Chief School Performance and Accountability Officer

SUBJECT: **2018 SAT SCHOOL DAY**

Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) offered a SAT School Day to students on March 7, 2018 with two makeup dates: March 21, 2018 and April 10, 2018. All 11<sup>th</sup> grade students enrolled in traditional schools and centers were offered a SAT School Day for the first time in April 2016. The initiative was put in place to eliminate the economic and logistical barriers that have limited students' participation in the SAT in the past. Twelfth graders who had not met the graduation reading requirement were offered the test for the first time in April 2017. This report summarizes student participation and scores from the 2018 SAT School Day administration.

Major findings include:

- **Participation in the SAT School Day increased from 87% in 2017 to 89% in 2018 among 11<sup>th</sup> grade students.** Participation has remained above 80% for nearly all subgroups, except for students with disabilities. For English language learners and students who receive free or reduced-price lunch SAT School Day participation remains above 80 percent.
- The **overall average scores decreased from 2017 to 2018.** Among 11<sup>th</sup> grade students, the mean Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW) score went from 503 in 2017 to 496 in 2018 and the mean Math score went from 481 in 2017 to 471 in 2018.
- **Over one-third of all students who had not met the graduation requirement for English Language Arts achieved a concordant score on SAT School Day** (40% of 11<sup>th</sup> grade students,  $n=2,338$ ; and 32% of 12<sup>th</sup> grade students,  $n=489$ ).
- **Just over half of all 11<sup>th</sup> grade students participating in SAT School Day achieved the college-readiness benchmark score for the EBRW section** (56%;  $n=8,877$ ), while just over a quarter met the benchmark for the Math section (27%;  $n=4,307$ ).

Please direct any questions or comments concerning this report to **Richard Baum, Director, Student Assessment & Research, at 754-321-2500**. This memo and report may also be accessed via the Student Assessment & Research website at <https://www.browardschools.com/Page/34771>.

VSW/DG/RGB/RAA/EAA:rs  
Attachment

CC: School Board Members  
Senior Leadership Team  
Directors, School Performance and Accountability



# Assessment Report

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Report from the Office of the Superintendent

Number 189  
July 2018

## 2018 SAT School Day

The SAT, a college entrance exam offered through College Board, provides many benefits, both to students and schools. For the third year in a row, Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) partnered with College Board to provide a school day administration of the SAT to all eleventh grade students enrolled in the District's traditional schools and centers in order to increase SAT participation throughout the District. The SAT was also offered to twelfth grade students who had not yet met the reading graduation testing requirement.

Registration fees were waived for all who participated during SAT School Day. The District, in collaboration with high schools, pre-registered students, paid their registration fee (providing a direct cost savings of sixty dollars to each student), and offered the SAT assessment during a regular school day, thus making it highly convenient for students to take the exam. Prior to the exam, students were given access to the *Official SAT Practice* online exam preparation course.

The first SAT School Day took place in April 2016, following a successful pilot in three high schools the year before. In April 2017, BCPS held the second annual SAT School Day, and also invited all 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who had not yet met the English Language Arts (ELA) graduation testing requirement to participate. For the third year of the initiative, SAT School Day again was offered to 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students; however, it was scheduled a month earlier than in previous years: March 7, 2018.

## Background

### ***SAT: Benefits to Students***

The SAT is a college entrance exam accepted by all U.S. colleges. As such, many students participate to meet college entrance requirements. Additionally, various colleges and educational organizations award scholarships or grants based in part on SAT scores. Students can also use their scores to determine areas where they are ready for college-level courses and areas where they need to improve their skills and knowledge. Finally, students who did not pass the 10th grade ELA portion

of the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) can meet that graduation requirement by earning a concordant score on the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW) section of the SAT.

### ***SAT: Benefits to Schools***

Schools have access to an online educator reporting portal that offers participation and score reports for the whole school, broken down by different demographic groups (College Board, 2015). Reports include the percent of students meeting the college readiness benchmark scores for both the EBRW and Mathematics sections of the redesigned SAT (College Board, 2016). Schools can compare the performance of their students with students at the district and at the state level. The portal also supplies Instructional Planning reports and Question Analysis reports that allow schools to drill down to the student level on specific questions. Taken together, these reports allow for curriculum planning at the student, class, school, and district level. Additionally, schools benefit by increasing their graduation rate when students who failed to pass the 10<sup>th</sup> grade ELA portion of the FSA meet that graduation requirement by earning a concordant score on the EBRW section of the SAT.

### ***Barriers to Taking the SAT***

The SAT is typically offered on specified weekend dates seven or eight times yearly at a cost (in 2018) of forty-six dollars per student (for the SAT without essay) and sixty dollars (for the SAT with the Essay Test). The cost, plus the need to take the SAT outside of school time—often at testing sites far from home—limits students’ ability to take the assessment. While some students from low-income families can waive the testing fee, not all are aware that they may be eligible for a waiver. Even those students who can afford to pay the registration fee or are aware that they are eligible for a fee waiver face the burden of arranging travel to and from the testing site during weekend days when many have work or family obligations. Thus, despite the benefits associated with the SAT, taking the SAT has been out of reach for many students.

## **Method**

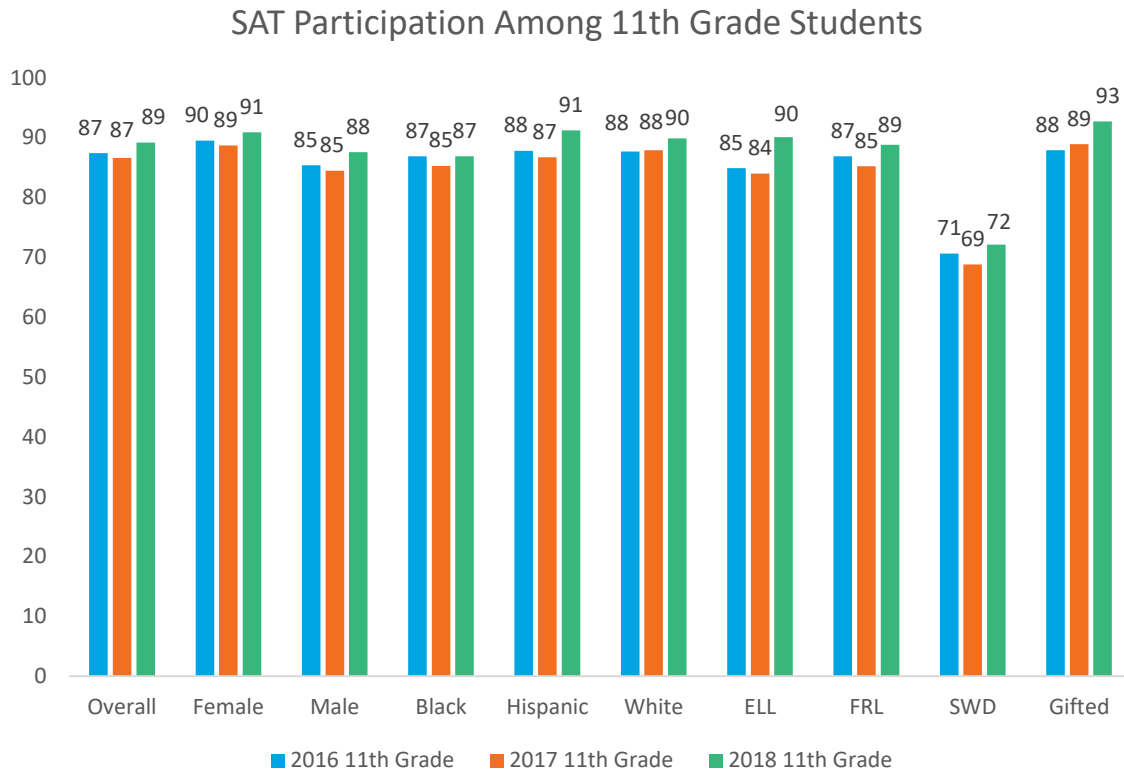
This report summarizes SAT data from the 2018 SAT School Day administration. Eleventh grade students enrolled on the day of the exam (March 7, 2018) were included in the analyses. Additionally, twelfth grade students who participated in the 2018 SAT School Day were included in the analyses. Results detail participation rates and scores Broward-wide as well as broken down by school, gender, race/ethnicity, and special student populations. These special populations include students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch (FRL), students with disabilities (SWD), gifted students, and students who are English language learners (ELL). The Broward County SAT data were

obtained by linking SAT scores from College Board with demographic, enrollment, and testing records from the District's data warehouse.

### ***Data Definitions***

- **Participation Rate** refers to the number of 11<sup>th</sup> grade students who took the SAT on SAT School Day divided by the number of 11<sup>th</sup> grade students enrolled on that day. Participation rate for 12<sup>th</sup> grade students was not calculated because only 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who had not yet met the 10<sup>th</sup> grade ELA Reading graduation test requirement were invited to participate.
- **EBRW Mean** refers to the average score on the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section of the SAT. Possible scores range from 200 to 800.
- **Math Mean** refers to the average score on the Mathematics section of the SAT. Possible scores range from 200 to 800.
- **Concordant Score** refers to a score that a student may use to satisfy the 10<sup>th</sup> grade ELA FSA graduation requirement if s/he scored lower than a level 3 on the ELA portion of the FSA. Currently, a concordant score on the redesigned SAT is a score of 430 (or higher) on the EBRW section *or* a score of 24 (or higher) on the redesigned SAT Reading subtest (Florida Department of Education, 2016).
- **EBRW Benchmark** refers to the college readiness benchmark College Board put forth for the redesigned Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing section of the SAT. Students who meet the benchmark, a score of 480 on the EBRW, have a 75 percent likelihood of achieving at least a C in first-semester, credit-bearing college-level courses in history, literature, social science or writing (College Board, 2016).
- **Math Benchmark** refers to the college readiness benchmark College Board put forth for the redesigned Mathematics section of the SAT. Students who meet the benchmark, a score of 530 on the Math section, have a 75 percent likelihood of achieving at least a C in first-semester, credit-bearing college-level courses in algebra, statistics, precalculus, or calculus (College Board, 2016).

## Results



*Figure 1: SAT participation among 11<sup>th</sup> grade students, 2016 through 2018*

**Participation during SAT School Days.** More than 80 percent of all subgroups of 11<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in the 2018 SAT School Day with one exception: Participation among students with disabilities (SWD) was somewhat lower than among others (72.1% SWD vs. 91% Non-SWD).

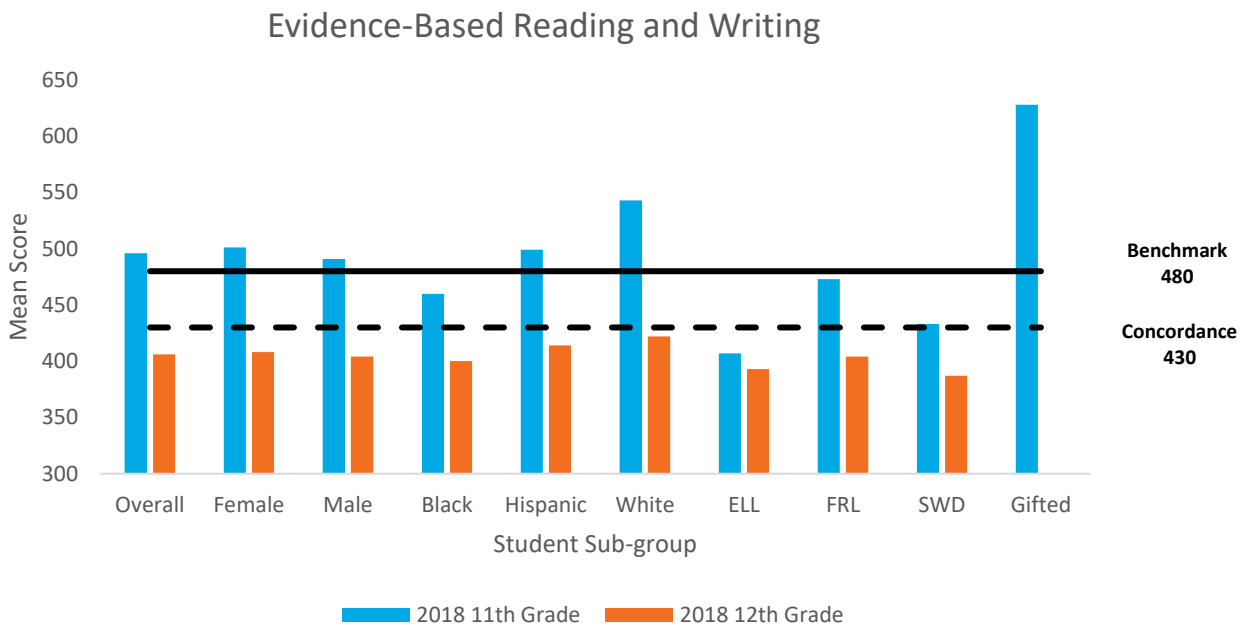
**Participation rate varied by school type.** The District’s SAT School Day included students from center schools as well as traditional schools (but not charter schools). Participation among 11<sup>th</sup> grade students enrolled in center schools was lower (32.7%) than among those enrolled in traditional schools (92.3%) in 2018. School-by-school participation rates for 11<sup>th</sup> grade students are provided in Appendix A.

## Performance

Figures 2, 4, and Appendix C display SAT scores overall and by subgroup for EBRW and for Math for 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Appendix C includes mean scores as well as the percent that met concordance and college-ready benchmark scores for 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Appendix D contains parallel data for 12<sup>th</sup> grade. School-by-school measures of performance are displayed for 11<sup>th</sup> grade students in Appendix A and for 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in Appendix B.

### Performance: Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW)

**Mean Score.** Figure 2 displays mean scores overall and by subgroup for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in 2018. The solid black line denotes the college-readiness benchmark of 480, while the dotted black line denotes the concordance score of 430.

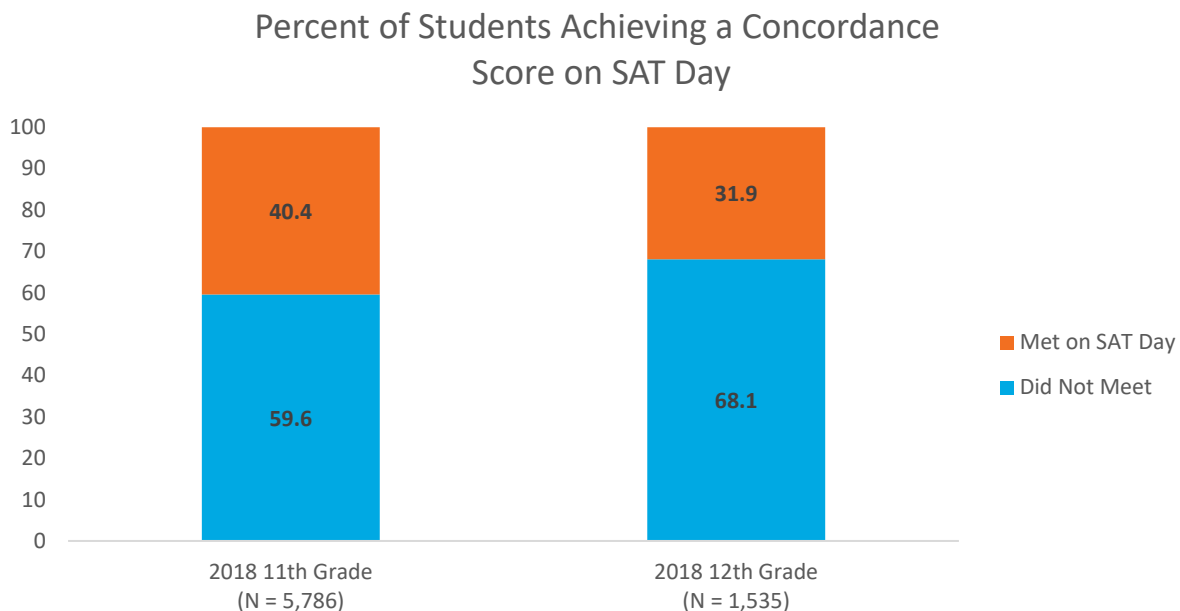


*Figure 2. Evidence-Based Reading and Writing SAT mean scores by student sub-population, 2018 SAT School Day*

**Eleventh Grade Students.** On a scale from 200 to 800 the mean score for 11<sup>th</sup> grade students was 496 in 2018, exceeding both the concordant score of 430 and the college-readiness benchmark of 480 (see Figure 2 and Appendix C). The two highest-performing groups were gifted students ( $m=628$ ) and White students ( $m=543$ ). The lowest performing group was English language learners ( $m=407$ ). Overall average scores decreased from 2017 to 2018. The Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW) score went from 503 in 2017 to 496 in 2018.

*Twelfth Grade Students.* Twelfth grade students who had not yet met the 10<sup>th</sup> grade ELA reading test graduation requirement were invited to participate in the SAT School Day in 2018. Their overall mean score was 406 on a scale from 200 to 800 (see Figure 2 and Appendix D). The highest performing group<sup>1</sup> was White students ( $m=422$ ), while the lowest performing group was students with disabilities ( $m=387$ ). Overall average scores decreased from 2017 to 2018. The EBRW score went from 410 in 2017 to 406 in 2018.

**Concordance Score.** Currently a score of 430 (or higher) on the EBRW section or a score of 24 (or higher) on the Reading subsection of the EBRW earns concordance. Of the 11<sup>th</sup> grade students who had not yet met the requirement, 40.4% ( $n=2,338$ ) met the requirement on the 2018 SAT School Day. Of the participating 12<sup>th</sup> graders who had not yet met the requirement by 2018 SAT School Day, 489 (31.9%) met concordance that day (see Figure 3 and Appendices A and B).



*Figure 3. Percent of students not meeting ELA graduation testing requirement who achieved a concordance score on SAT School Day in 2018*

Among students who needed to meet concordance on SAT School Day in 2018, for 11<sup>th</sup> grade students (see Appendix C), males and females were similar with respect to meeting concordance (male, 40.9%; female 39.9%). There were some differences in other groups. A larger percentage of White students met concordance than Hispanic or Black students. Also, a larger percentage of gifted students met concordance than non-gifted students. Students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch and English language learners were less likely than their counterparts to meet concordance.

<sup>1</sup> There were fewer than 10 Gifted students in 12<sup>th</sup> grade participating so their scores are not reported.

A similar percentage of students with disabilities met concordance as did their counterparts. Among 12<sup>th</sup> grade students (see Appendix D) differences by subgroup were that Black students and English language learners were less likely than their counterparts to meet concordance.

**Benchmark Score.** Students who meet the college-ready benchmark score for the EBRW section, a score of 480, have a 75 percent likelihood of achieving at least a C in first-semester, credit-bearing college-level courses in history, literature, social science or writing (College Board, 2016). More than half of 11<sup>th</sup> grade participants in SAT School Day met the EBRW college-ready benchmark in 2018 (55.7%). Nearly eight percent of participating 12<sup>th</sup> grade students met the EBRW benchmark.

Among 11<sup>th</sup> grade students in 2018 (see Appendix C), a larger percentage of female students, White students, and gifted students met the benchmark than did their counterparts. Students with disabilities, students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, and English language learners had a lower percentage of students that met the EBRW benchmark than their counterparts.

For 12<sup>th</sup> grade (see Appendix D), female and male groups had a similar percentage of students that met the EBRW benchmark, as did students with disabilities compared to their counterparts. White students were more likely to meet the benchmark than were Hispanic or Black students. Also, students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch and English language learners were less likely to meet the EBRW benchmark than their counterparts. Gifted students had too few in the group to analyze.

### **Performance: Mathematics**

**Mean Score.** Figure 4 displays mean scores overall and by subgroup for the students who participated in the 2018 SAT School Day. The solid black line denotes the college-readiness benchmark score of 530.

*Eleventh Grade Students.* On a scale from 200 to 800, the mean score for 11<sup>th</sup> grade students was 471 in 2018 (see Figure 4 and Appendix C). The groups with the larger mean scores were males ( $m=474$ ), White students ( $m=522$ ) and gifted students ( $m=628$ ). The lowest performing groups were English language learners ( $m=397$ ) followed by students with disabilities ( $m=406$ ). The overall Math score decreased from 481 in 2017 to 471 in 2018.



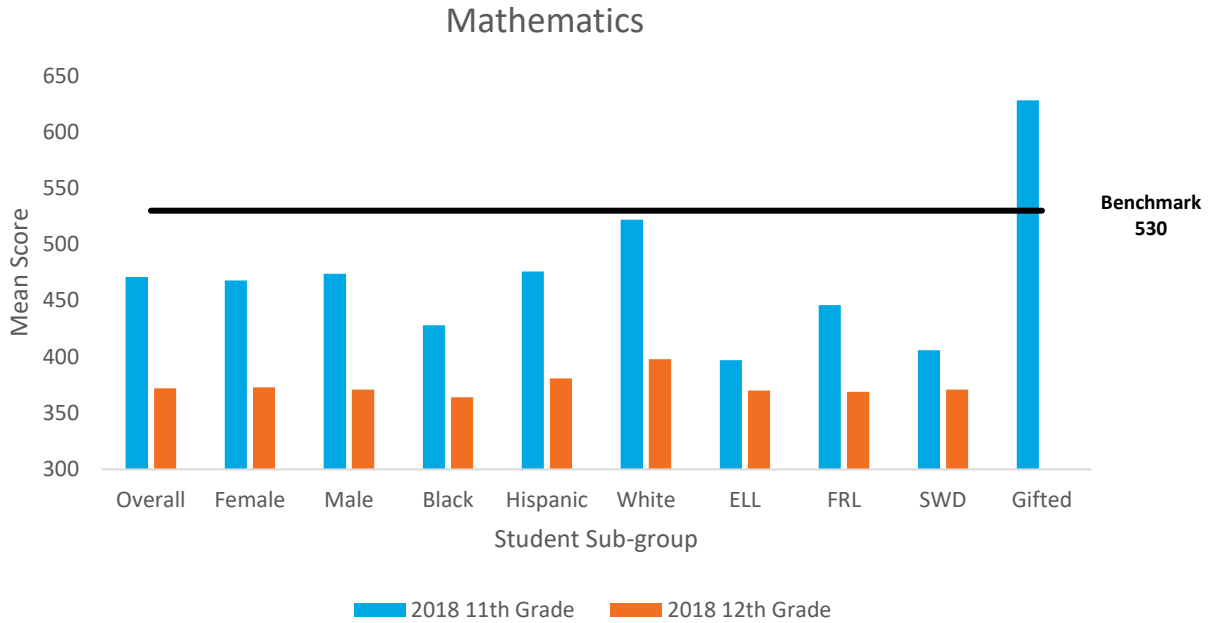


Figure 4. Mathematics SAT mean scores by student sub-population, 2018 SAT School Day

**Twelfth Grade Students.** As noted previously, twelfth grade students who had not yet met the 10<sup>th</sup> grade ELA graduation testing requirement were invited to participate in the 2018 SAT School Day. Their overall mean Math score was 372 on a scale from 200 to 800; it decreased from 382 in 2017 to 372 in 2018 (see Figure 4 and Appendix D). The highest performing group<sup>2</sup> was White students ( $m=398$ ), while the lowest performing group was Black students ( $m=364$ ).

**Benchmark Score.** Students who meet the Math college-ready benchmark score, a score of 530, have a 75 percent likelihood of achieving at least a C in first-semester, credit-bearing college-level courses in algebra, statistics, precalculus, or calculus (College Board, 2016). For 11<sup>th</sup> grade students, twenty-seven percent scored at or above the Math benchmark. Just under 2 percent of participating 12<sup>th</sup> grade students met the Math benchmark.

Among 11<sup>th</sup> grade students (see Appendix C), a greater percentage of male students, White students, and gifted students met the math benchmark than did their counterparts. A smaller percentage of students with disabilities, students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, and English language learners met the math benchmark, compared to their counterparts. This pattern in subgroup differences was the same for math and EBRW with the exception of the gender difference. While female students in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade scored higher on the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing

<sup>2</sup> There were fewer than 10 Gifted students in 12<sup>th</sup> grade participating so their scores are not reported.

section of the SAT, male students scored higher on the math section. For the 12<sup>th</sup> grade students (see Appendix D), the pattern was the same as 11<sup>th</sup> grade, although with a much smaller percent (less than 2% in most instances) of students who met the math benchmark.

### Summary

In 2018 BCPS hosted the third year of SAT School Day for all 11<sup>th</sup> grade students. Twelfth grade students have participated in the SAT School Day for two consecutive years, 2017 and 2018. All students were offered the *Official SAT Practice* online course to help them prepare for the exam.

#### Participation in the SAT School Day increased

Eighty-seven percent of enrolled 11<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in the SAT School Day in both 2016 and 2017 (School Board of Broward County, 2017). **The number rose to over 89% in the 2018 SAT School Day.** The year prior to BCPS launching the SAT School Day (2015), only 49.7 percent of 11<sup>th</sup> grade students took the SAT at any time during the school year. **The continued increase in participation is high for groups with historically low SAT participation rates: Black students, students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, students with disabilities, and English language learners.** Participation varied by school type, with students from centers less likely to participate than students from traditional schools.

Over one-third of the students who had not yet met the ELA graduation testing requirement achieved a concordant score on SAT Day. Forty percent ( $n = 2,338$ ) of 11<sup>th</sup> grade students met concordance, and 32 percent ( $n = 489$ ) of 12<sup>th</sup> grade students fulfilled this requirement on SAT School Day.

The overall average scores decreased from 2017 to 2018. Among 11<sup>th</sup> graders, the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW) score went from 503 in 2017 to 496 in 2018 and the Math score decreased from 481 in 2017 to 471 in 2018. Among 12<sup>th</sup> graders, the EBRW score went from 410 in 2017 to 406 in 2018 and the Math score went from 382 in 2018 to 372 in 2017.

Just over half of all 11th grade students participating in SAT School Day achieved the college-readiness benchmark score for the EBRW section, while just over a quarter met the benchmark for the Math section.

## Discussion

**There are many reasons for schools to encourage students to participate in SAT School Day.** SAT School Days offer free and convenient access to a popular college entrance exam accepted by all U.S. colleges. The school-day administrations of the SAT are designed to eliminate economic and logistical barriers that have traditionally limited many students' participation in this exam. Students who participate in SAT School Day can use their results to meet college entrance requirements and to apply for scholarships and grants. Students who have not yet met the ELA graduation testing requirement can meet that requirement by earning a concordant score on the SAT. Finally, educators can use the results from the SAT School Day to guide instruction by identifying existing strengths and weaknesses in their curriculum in English, reading, writing, and mathematics. The online educator reporting portal that accompanies the SAT allows educators to tailor reports specifically for the school, class, and student level.

School administrators can use the information in Appendices A and B to evaluate their school's level of participation and their students' performance on the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and the Mathematics sections of the SAT. Administrators and educators at schools with lower mean scores on either section can use these results to inform their curriculum, instruction, and enrichment programs to best serve their students.

**The overall average scores decreased from 2017 to 2018 for both the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW) and the Math sections.** One reason for the decline may be a matter of timing. The SAT School Day in 2018 was held on March 7, while the two previous years the SAT School Day was held in April. The later April dates may have afforded the students extra time to practice and prepare for the SAT. Another reason the scores may have declined is that the test was held exactly three weeks after the devastating tragedy at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School on February 14. While two makeup days were offered, and the students from Marjorie Stoneman Douglas took the SAT on the latter of the two make-up days, most students in BCPS participated on March 7, 2018. Understandably, Broward students who took the SAT in 2018 may not have been fully focused on the exam the weeks before and the day of the exam. While these two suggested reasons are plausible, the underlying basis for the decrease cannot be specifically identified at this time. Future data may help inform the results.

**Schools can boost their students' performance on the SAT by encouraging them to practice for the SAT using online preparation tools available free of charge to all students.** College Board offers great tools to prepare students for the SAT. These materials are customized based on a student's results on the PSAT (which all students take in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade) and SAT. Promoting early preparation and practice is especially important among groups such as English language learners, students with

disabilities, and Black students who did not score as high as their counterparts. Schools could dedicate a class session or hold an assembly to demonstrate how students can access and use the *Official SAT Practice* materials. See <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/k12-educators/advising-instruction/practice-resources> for suggestions on how to encourage your students to practice for the SAT.

## Appendices

### **Appendix A**

2017 and 2018 SAT School Day school-level participation and performance - grade 11

### **Appendix B**

2017 and 2018 SAT School Day school-level participation and performance - grade 12

### **Appendix C**

Grade 11, 2017 and 2018 SAT School Day scores for EBRW and Math by subgroup, including percent that met concordant score and percent that met college-ready benchmarks

### **Appendix D**

Grade 12, 2017 and 2018 SAT School Day scores for EBRW and Math by subgroup, including percent that met concordant score and percent that met college-ready benchmarks

## References

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