



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Elliot Krieger, Communications - (401) 222-8471
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College Board Releases 2008 Rhode Island SAT, AP, and PSAT Results

The College Board today (August 26th, 2008) released the 2008 test scores and participation rates of Rhode Island students on the SAT, AP (advanced placement), and PSAT exams.

On the SAT test, Rhode Island seniors scored 495 in critical reading (down 1 point from last year), 498 in mathematics (unchanged), and 493 in writing (up 1 point). About 66 percent of the seniors in the state took the exam.

Among public-school seniors, the students scored 483 in critical reading (unchanged from last year), 487 in mathematics (down 2 points), and 479 in writing (up 1 point). About 59 percent of the public-school seniors in the state took the exam, the 13th-highest participation rate among the states.

After two years of declining scores, the 2008 national scores (497 in reading, 510 in mathematics, 488 in writing, for public-school students) were unchanged; Rhode Island scores, which declined only 1 point in the aggregate, have mirrored that national trend.

Gaps of more 200 points separated the scores in most of the high schools in the urban districts in Rhode Island from the scores of the highest-performing suburban schools in the state.

Participation in the AP tests among public-school students was up for the third year in a row, increasing by 13.4 percent. The students took a total of 3,876 AP tests, of which about 60 percent (2,329) were scored at 3 or better, which represents college-level mastery, according to the College Board.

“Though it’s good to see that Rhode Island is no longer losing ground on the SAT scores, we hope to see further improvement in these scores, particularly in our urban districts, as our new proficiency-based graduation requirements go into effect,” said Peter McWalters, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. “I am pleased, however, to see that more of our students are taking the PSAT and the AP exams, which shows that an increasing number of our students are taking the right steps toward a successful transition to college.”

PSAT participation rates improved among public-school juniors (6.4 percent) and sophomores (6.8 percent).

The SATs, administered by the College Board, are voluntary tests that are used as a criterion for college admissions. Each is scored on a scale of 200 to 800 points.

A list of scores by public high school will be posted on the RIDE Web site, www.ride.ri.gov