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NEWS RELEASE

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SAT participation increases in RI Scores dip in RI, region, and nation

About 59% (6,192) of the seniors in Rhode Island public high schools took SAT exams last year, an increase of about 7% from 2010. The SAT scores dropped 3 points in reading (to 482), 6 points in math (to 482) and 4 points in writing (to 474), according to results the College Board released today (September 14). Participation rates improved significantly among some student groups in Rhode Island, including a 6.1% increase in participation among Black students and a 12.1% increase among Hispanic students.

Regionally, for reading, math, and writing, all New England states (with the exception of Maine) had significant decreases in scores. This trend was also reflected nationally, where scores decreased in reading, math, and writing.

Over the past five years, Rhode Island SAT scores have declined by 1 point in reading, 7 points in mathematics, and 4 points in writing. Rhode Island scores remain the lowest in New England, except for Maine, which tests all high-school seniors.

“Participation rates are a critical measure we track because we want to ensure that more students—particularly our Black and Hispanic students who have been underrepresented—are taking the SATs. The increases in participation are encouraging,” said Deborah A. Gist, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. “We will continue to work relentlessly on the implementation of our plan, *Transforming Education in Rhode Island*, to raise student academic achievement across the state.”

Tables showing SAT scores by district and high school are posted on the RIDE website, at: <http://www.ride.ri.gov/PSI/SupportIntervention/DataWorks/>

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