



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Public Instruction  
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

\*\*\* NEWS RELEASE \*\*\*

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## State's math score on SAT jumps six points

*Preliminary Advanced Placement results show continued growth; strong results*

MADISON—Wisconsin's 2008 graduates posted an average score of 604 points in mathematics on the SAT college admissions test, an increase of six points from last year and 89 points above the national mean score of 515. Along with solid SAT results, preliminary data on the College Board's Advanced Placement program showed continued growth of the program in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin had 3,522 public and private school graduates who took the SAT during high school. They represent about 5 percent of the state's graduates. Their critical reading score averaged 587, the same as last year; mathematics was 604, up six points from last year; and writing was 577, up two points. Nationally, 1.5 million graduates, about 45 percent of all graduates, took the SAT. The national overall mean scores were the same as in 2007: critical reading, 502; mathematics, 515; and writing, 494. On the ACT college admissions tests, more popular in Midwestern states, 67 percent of Wisconsin's 2008 graduates took the exams. Their scores also were well above national averages.

"Our 2008 graduates did a fine job on the SAT college admissions exams," said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster. "They were well prepared, with 91 percent taking a core curriculum compared to 79 percent nationally. That college preparatory coursework, which includes four years of English and three years each of mathematics, science, and social studies, showed in their achievement on this national test."

Preliminary data on the Advanced Placement (AP) program showed more students are taking AP exams in Wisconsin. Student participation increased 6.3 percent from last year. In 2008, 26,593 public and private school graduates took 42,450

### 2008 AP Program

#### All Schools

	Wisconsin	Nation
Number of AP Test-Takers	26,593	1,580,821
Number of Exams	42,450	2,736,445
Number of Grades 3-5	28,531	1,581,302
Percent Earning Grades of 3-5	67.2	57.8

(more)

exams. The statewide passing rate—students earning a score of three, four, or five—was 67.2 percent. Nationally the passing rate was 57.8 percent with 1.6 million students taking 2.7 million exams.

“Advanced Placement participation has been growing steadily in Wisconsin, up more than 30 percent over five years,” Burmaster noted.

Wisconsin AP Growth — 2004 to 2008					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Candidates	19,906	21,221	23,306	25,020	26,593
Exams	31,404	33,524	36,842	39,811	42,450

“Wisconsin recently was part of a pilot to increase the number of AP courses available; train teachers, counselors, and administrators to offer and support AP courses; and increase the number of students enrolled in AP, especially those from traditionally under-represented groups. Additionally, we partnered with Cooperative Educational Service Agency 9 to open the Wisconsin Web Academy, which will increase access statewide to a variety of coursework, including Advanced Placement classes.”

Students in Wisconsin who took the SAT tend to be higher achieving and from higher income families than the national cohort. In Wisconsin, 66 percent of SAT-takers report that they are A-students, compared to 37 percent nationally. About 19 percent of Wisconsin’s SAT participants report family income above \$120,000, compared to 12 percent nationally. The achievement gap is quite large between the lowest income students, those from families earning less than \$20,000 per year, and the highest income students, whose family income exceeds \$200,000 annually. Among higher-income students who took the SAT in Wisconsin, scores range from 93 to 99 points more than lower-income students. Nationally, the range is 114 to 122 points. Students of color represent 16.6 percent of the state’s SAT-takers. Their SAT scores, while lower than for white students, averaged from 21 points to 101 points higher than their peers nationally.

The College Board administers both the SAT and Advanced Placement testing programs. The SAT is scored on a scale of 200 to 800 and is administered at various times throughout the year. AP exams test student’s college-level subject knowledge. The exams are administered in spring and generally relate to AP coursework taken during high school. Earning a grade of three, four, or five on an AP exam is considered passing and eligible for course credit at most colleges and universities. The College Board’s “Advanced Placement Report to the Nation,” typically released in February, provides a more extensive analysis of AP results.

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**NOTE:** The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction does not receive SAT scores for schools or school districts. Please contact local school officials for score information. Tables that provided additional information about SAT results follow. This news release is available electronically at [http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008\\_119.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008_119.pdf).

# 2008 SAT Results

## SAT Scores Over 10 Years

Wisconsin — All Schools

Year	Takers	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
2007-08	3,522	587	604	577
2006-07	3,816	587	598	575
2005-06	4,012	588	600	577
2004-05	4,230	592	599	NA
2003-04	4,472	587	596	NA
2002-03	4,487	585	594	NA
2001-02	4,186	583	599	NA
2000-01	4,173	584	596	NA
1999-00	4,188	584	597	NA
1998-99	4,295	584	595	NA

  

Nation — All Schools				
Year	Takers	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
2007-08	1,518,859	502	515	494
2006-07	1,494,531	502	515	494
2005-06	1,465,744	503	518	497
2004-05	1,475,623	508	520	NA
2003-04	1,419,007	508	518	NA
2002-03	1,406,324	507	519	NA
2001-02	1,327,831	504	516	NA
2000-01	1,276,320	506	514	NA
1999-00	1,260,278	505	514	NA
1998-99	1,220,130	505	511	NA

## 2008 SAT Scores by Family Income

Wisconsin All Schools	Takers	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
Less than \$20,000	87	504	528	503
\$20,000 to \$40,000	190	546	554	541
\$40,000 to \$60,000	274	561	573	544
\$60,000 to \$80,000	383	585	598	573
\$80,000 to \$100,000	382	594	617	584
\$100,000 to \$120,000	339	601	617	584
\$120,000 to \$140,000	166	596	621	584
\$140,000 to \$160,000	111	617	620	608
\$160,000 to \$200,000	137	590	616	583
\$200,000 or more	257	603	621	598
No response	1,196	--	--	--

  

Nation All Schools	Takers	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
Less than \$20,000	96,825	434	456	430
\$20,000 to \$40,000	146,379	462	473	453
\$40,000 to \$60,000	149,607	488	496	477
\$60,000 to \$80,000	148,274	502	510	490
\$80,000 to \$100,000	126,364	514	525	504
\$100,000 to \$120,000	100,045	522	534	512
\$120,000 to \$140,000	48,916	526	537	517
\$140,000 to \$160,000	35,479	533	546	525
\$160,000 to \$200,000	40,079	535	548	529
\$200,000 or more	58,242	554	570	552
No response	568,649	--	--	--

## 2008 SAT Course-Taking Patterns

	Wisconsin	Nation
Taking Core	2,660	927,743
Non-Core	250	240,691
Percent Taking Core	91.4	79.4

## 2008 SAT Scores by Type of School

Wisconsin	Takers	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
Public	2,459	590	611	580
Religiously Affiliated	471	581	603	574
Independent	312	586	590	575
Other or Unknown	280	--	--	--

  

Nation	Takers	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
Public	1,167,849	497	510	488
Religiously Affiliated	150,394	532	531	529
Independent	75,032	550	574	553
Other or Unknown	125,584	--	--	--

## 2008 SAT Scores by Race and Ethnicity

Wisconsin All Schools	Takers	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
African American	160	490	488	486
American Indian	13	541	519	539
Asian	312	534	636	548
Hispanic				
Mexican American	51	521	522	520
Puerto Rican	7	517	554	539
Other Hispanic	42	528	546	514
White	2,715	601	611	588
Other	75	562	567	557
No Response	147	596	600	583

  

Nation All Schools	Takers	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
African American	174,383	430	426	424
American Indian	9,595	485	491	470
Asian	151,235	513	581	516
Hispanic				
Mexican American	70,661	454	463	447
Puerto Rican	21,953	456	453	445
Other Hispanic	97,589	455	461	448
White	858,561	528	537	518
Other	52,016	496	512	494
No Response	82,866	471	492	467