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### **SAT “COLLEGE READINESS” SCORES DECLINE AGAIN DEMONSTRATING FAILURE OF TEST-DRIVEN K-12 SCHOOLING; MANY MORE COLLEGES IGNORE SAT/ACT EXAM RESULTS AS TEST-OPTIONAL ADMISSIONS MOVEMENT SURGES**

SAT scores for high school seniors dropped again this year continuing a ten-year trend, according to data released today. SAT averages declined by 28 points since 2006 when the “No Child Left Behind” public school testing mandate went into effect. Score differences between racial groups increased, often significantly, over that period.

Bob Schaeffer, Public Education Director of the National Center for Fair & Open Testing (FairTest), said, “Test-and-punish policies, such as ‘No Child Left Behind’ have clearly failed to improve college readiness or narrow racial gaps, as measured by the SAT. Average SAT Scores declined since 2006 for every group except Asian-Americans. The ACT admissions exam and the National Assessment of Education Progress show similar trends.”

Schaeffer continued, “Fortunately, many more college and universities are recognizing that standardized exams fail to measure key factors for academic success. Over the last twelve months, 27 more schools have dropped ACT/SAT requirements for all or many applicants. New test-optional institutions include George Washington, Drake, Allegheny and Virginia Commonwealth.” A list of 850 institutions that de-emphasize admissions tests is posted at <http://www.fairtest.org/university/optional>.

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#### **2015 COLLEGE-BOUND SENIORS SAT SCORES -- with score changes from 2006\***

	<b>READING</b>	<b>MATH</b>	<b>WRITING</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>ALL TEST-TAKERS</b>	<b>495 (- 8)</b>	<b>511 (- 7)</b>	<b>484 (- 13)</b>	<b>1490 (-28)</b>
Female	493 (- 9)	496 (- 6)	490 (- 12)	1479 (- 27)
Male	497 (- 8)	527 (- 9)	478 (- 13)	1503 (- 30)
Amer. Indian or Alaskan Native	481 (- 6)	482 (- 12)	460 (- 14)	1423 (- 32)
Asian, Asian Amer. or Pacific Islander	525 (+15)	598 (+20)	531 (+19)	1654 (+54)
Black or African American	431 (- 3)	428 (- 1)	418 (- 10)	1277 (- 14)
Mexican or Mexican American	448 (- 6)	457 (- 8)	438 (- 14)	1343 (- 28)
Puerto Rican	456 (- 3)	449 (- 7)	442 (- 6)	1347 (- 16)
Other Hispanic or Latino	449 (- 9)	457 (- 6)	439 (-11)	1345 (- 26)
White	529 (+ 2)	534 (- 2)	513 (- 6)	1576 (- 6)

\* High school graduates in the class of 2006 were the first to take the SAT “Writing” Test. The “No Child Left Behind” mandate to test every child in grades 3-8 and at least once in high school went into effect in the 2005-2006 academic year.

#### **2015 COLLEGE-BOUND SENIORS SAT SCORES BY FAMILY INCOME**

	<b>READING</b>	<b>MATH</b>	<b>WRITING</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
\$ 0 - \$20,000	433	455	426	1314
\$20,000 - \$40,000	466	479	454	1399
\$40,000 - \$60,000	488	497	473	1458
\$60,000 - \$80,000	503	510	487	1500
\$80,000 - \$100,000	517	526	501	1544
\$100,000 - \$120,000	528	539	514	1581
\$120,000 - \$140,000	531	542	518	1591
\$140,000 - \$160,000	539	551	526	1616
\$160,000 - \$200,000	545	557	534	1636
More than \$200,000	570	587	563	1720

Calculated by FairTest from: College Board, *College-Bound Seniors 2015: Total Group Profile Report* and *College-Bound Seniors 2006: Total Group Profile Report*