

FairTest

National Center for Fair & Open Testing

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embargoed for use with 2017 College Board SAT scores after 6:00am Tuesday, September 26, 2017
**2017 SAT SCORES “CAN’T BE COMPARED TO PREVIOUS RESULTS” BECAUSE
“REDESIGNED” EXAM IS “MARKETING PLOY DESIGNED TO SELL MORE TESTS”;
LAUNCH FAILS TO SLOW SURGE OF SCHOOLS BECOMING TEST-OPTIONAL;
980+ COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES NOW DO NOT REQUIRE SAT OR ACT SCORES**

The College Board, the SAT’s sponsor, warns that scores released this week “can’t be compared to previous results.” That is because the revised exam is “a marketing ploy designed to sell more tests, not a better tool for tracking college readiness,” according to Bob Schaeffer, Public Education Director of the National Center for Fair & Open Testing (FairTest).

“The College Board is a test-selling company,” Schaeffer explained. “Based on its public tax returns, the Board takes in more than \$900 million each year. It holds assets topping one billion dollars. The firm’s president receives nearly \$900,000 in annual compensation.”

“The SAT redesign aimed to reposition the Board’s flagging, flagship product,” Schaeffer continued. “It hoped to stave off further growth of the rival ACT, which has become the nation’s most popular college entrance exam. Most importantly, it tried to stem the rapidly growing movement toward test-optional admissions policies.”

Schaeffer concluded, “Since plans for the revised test were announced, more than 100 colleges and universities dropped SAT and ACT requirements. That’s a pace of one every two weeks. Schools increasingly recognize they do not need the SAT – old or new – to make high quality admissions decisions.”

More than 980 accredited, bachelor-degree institutions now will evaluate all or many applicants without regard to test scores. The list of test-optional schools includes almost 300 ranked in the top tiers of their categories by *U.S. News & World Report*.

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- Comprehensive free directory of 980+ test-optional and test-flexible colleges and universities:
<http://fairtest.org/university/optional>
- List of 290+ schools that de-emphasize ACT/SAT scores ranked in U.S News’ top tiers
<http://www.fairtest.org/sites/default/files/Optional-Schools-in-U.S.News-Top-Tiers.pdf>
- Chronology of higher education institutions dropping admissions testing requirements
<http://www.fairtest.org/sites/default/files/Optional-Growth-Chronology.pdf>

2017 COLLEGE-BOUND SENIORS SCORES ON “REDESIGNED” SAT
 (1,715,481 Test-Takers in Graduating Class)

	READING/ WRITING	MATH	TOTAL
ALL TEST-TAKERS	533	527	1060
Female	534	516	1050
Male	532	538	1070
Amer. Indian or Alaskan Native	486	477	963
Asian, Asian Amer. or Pacific Islander	569	612	1181
Black or African American	479	462	941
Hispanic, Latino or Latin American	500	489	990
Two or more races	460	544	1003
White	565	553	1118

2017 COLLEGE-BOUND SENIORS SAT SCORES BY PARENTAL EDUCATION

	READING/ WRITING	MATH	TOTAL
No High School Diploma	472	472	944
High School Diploma	507	497	1003
Associate Degree	525	511	1036
Bachelor’s Degree	562	556	1118
Graduate Degree	591	586	1177

Calculated by FairTest from: College Board, *2017 SAT Suite of Assessments Annual Report: Total Group*