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“OLD” SAT SCORES DROP AGAIN; NUMBER OF STUDENTS TAKING SAT SUBJECT TESTS CONTINUES TO DECLINE; AT SAME TIME, TEST-OPTIONAL ADMISSIONS MOVEMENT SURGES AS 32 MORE SCHOOLS SAY THEY WILL IGNORE SAT/ACT EXAM RESULTS

SAT scores for high school seniors dropped again this year, continuing a decade-long trend, according to data released today. SAT averages declined by 34 points since 2006. That is the year 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 public school policies have clearly failed. As measured by the SAT, the ‘No Child Left Behind’ era did nothing to improve college readiness or narrow racial gaps. In fact, average SAT Scores dropped from 2006 levels for every group except Asian-Americans. The ACT admissions exam and the National Assessment of Educational Progress show similar trends.”

The number of students taking SAT Subject Tests and the volume of those exams administered also declined. “Over the past five years, 24% fewer high school grads sat for any SAT Subject tests,” Schaeffer explained. “That cost the College Board, the exam’s owner, millions in lost revenue.”

Schaeffer continued, “Fortunately, many more colleges and universities recognize that they do not need SAT scores – from the old exam, the ‘redesigned’ version, or subject tests – to make quality admissions decisions. Over the last twelve months, 32 more schools dropped ACT/SAT requirements for all or many applicants. That’s the fastest annual test-optional growth ever.” A list of 870 institutions that de-emphasize admissions tests is posted at <http://www.fairtest.org/university/optional>.

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2016 COLLEGE-BOUND SENIORS SAT SCORES

	READING	MATH	WRITING	TOTAL
ALL TEST-TAKERS	494	508	482	1484
Female	493	494	487	1474
Male	495	524	475	1494
Amer. Indian or Alaskan Native	468	471	447	1386
Asian, Asian Amer. or Pacific Islander	529	602	534	1665
Black or African American	430	425	415	1270
Hispanic, Latino or Latin American	448	453	436	1337
Two or more races, non-Hispanic	511	505	488	1514
Other	496	519	491	1506
White	528	533	511	1572

2016 COLLEGE-BOUND SENIORS SAT SCORES BY FAMILY INCOME

	READING	MATH	WRITING	TOTAL
\$ 0 - \$20,000	435	453	426	1314
\$20,000 - \$40,000	465	477	452	1394
\$40,000 - \$60,000	488	495	471	1454
\$60,000 - \$80,000	503	509	485	1497
\$80,000 - \$100,000	517	527	501	1545
\$100,000 - \$140,000	530	539	513	1582
\$140,000 - \$200,000	542	553	528	1623
More than \$200,000	569	586	562	1717