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GROWING RACIAL, INCOME AND GENDER GAPS ON SAT INDICATE FAILURE OF TEST-DRIVEN “SCHOOL REFORM”

Test-driven K-12 "school reforms," mandated by the federal "No Child Left Behind" law and high-stakes, state examination programs are failing to improve overall academic quality and narrow historic racial, income and gender gaps, according to scores from the SAT released today. In fact a chart composed by the National Center for Fair & Open Testing (FairTest), which compares SAT results from the high school class of 2009 with 2008 scores, shows:

- the gap between White and Asian-American students, on the one hand, and historically disadvantaged minority groups, particularly African-Americans and Hispanics, is growing larger;
- the gender gap between males and females is also expanding, with males increasing their advantage;
- income gaps have exploded, with the children from the highest earning families scoring 26 points higher than last year while the scores of low-income groups remain flat

FairTest Public Education Director Bob Schaeffer explained, "It is becoming increasingly clear that the nation cannot test its way to better educational quality or equity. The top-down, one-size-fits-all mandates of "No Child Left Behind" and state testing programs should be repealed and replaced with genuine reforms that build school capacity to address student learning needs."

2009 COLLEGE BOUND SENIORS AVERAGE SAT SCORES

with Score Changes from 2008

(Approximately 1.53 million test takers, of whom 53.5% were female)

	CRITICAL READING	MATH	WRITING	TOTAL
GENDER				
Female	498 (- 2)	499 (- 1)	499 (- 2)	1496 (- 5)
Male	503 (- 1)	534 (+1)	486 (- 2)	1523 (- 2)
ETHNICITY				
Amer. Indian or Alaskan Native	486 (+1)	493 (+2)	469 (- 1)	1448 (+2)
Asian, Asian Amer. or Pacific Islander	516 (+3)	587 (+6)	520 (+4)	1623 (+13)
African American or Black	429 (- 1)	426 (0)	421 (- 3)	1276 (- 4)
Mexican or Mexican American	453 (- 1)	463 (0)	446 (- 1)	1362 (- 2)
Puerto Rican	452 (- 4)	450 (- 3)	443 (- 2)	1345 (- 9)
Other Hispanic or Latino	455 (0)	461 (0)	448 (0)	1364 (- 0)
White	528 (0)	536 (- 1)	517 (- 1)	1581 (- 2)
Other	494 (- 2)	514 (+2)	493 (- 1)	1501 (- 1)
No Response (4%)	472 (+1)	501 (+9)	469 (+2)	1442 (+12)
FAMILY INCOME				
Less than \$20,000/year	434 (0)	457 (+1)	430 (0)	1321 (+1)
\$ 20,000 - \$40,000/year	462 (0)	475 (+2)	453 (0)	1390 (+2)
\$ 40,000 - \$60,000/year	488 (0)	497 (+1)	476 (- 1)	1461 (0)
\$ 60,000 - \$80,000/year	503 (+1)	512 (+2)	491 (+1)	1506 (+4)
\$ 80,000 - \$100,000/year	517 (+3)	528 (+3)	505 (+1)	1550 (+7)
\$100,000 - \$120,000/year	525 (+3)	538 (+4)	516 (+4)	1579 (+11)
\$120,000 - \$140,000/year	529 (+3)	542 (+5)	520 (+3)	1591 (+11)
\$140,000 - \$160,000/year	536 (+3)	550 (+4)	527 (+2)	1613 (+9)
\$160,000 - \$180,000	542 (+7)	554 (+6)	535 (+6)	1631 (+19)
More than \$200,000/year	563 (+9)	579 (+9)	560 (+8)	1702 (+26)
No Response --35% ('08 scores not reported)	502	520	597	1619
ALL TEST-TAKERS	501 (- 1)	515 (0)	493 (- 1)	1509 (- 2)

calculated by FairTest from: College Board, *College-Bound Seniors 2009: Total Group Profile Report* and *College-Bound Seniors 2008: Total Group Profile Report*