



NEWS RELEASE

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Gwinnett SAT scores increase on all sections: **GCPS test-takers top state, national averages on 2009 SAT**

Gwinnett County Public Schools released SAT scores for the Class of 2009, the fourth class to take the new version of the SAT, which features a writing section. Once again, Gwinnett test-takers topped state and national averages on all sections (critical reading, math, and writing) of the test. Gwinnett averages on all three sections increased, resulting in a five point increase overall. At the same time, SAT averages at the state and national level decreased slightly.

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Gwinnett SAT Highlights

- **Gwinnett's average composite score on the SAT is 1526**, a combination of the average critical reading score of 505, the average mathematics score of 524, and the average writing score of 497. (Possible scores range from 200 to 800 on each section. The highest possible composite score is 2400.)
- **Gwinnett's total SAT average is 17 points above the national average of 1509.**
- **Gwinnett's average is 66 points above the Georgia average of 1460.**
- **In mathematics, the county average increased two points.** Gwinnett math average score of 524 is 33 points above the state's average score and nine points above the national average.
- **Gwinnett's average critical reading score increased one point to 505.** This is 15 points above the state's average and four points above the national average.
- **Gwinnett's average score on the writing portion of the test also increased two points.** Gwinnett's average score of 497 is 18 points above the state and four points above the national average.
- **A higher percentage of students generally take the SAT in Gwinnett than in the state or nation.** Preliminary figures indicate that approximately 73 percent of GCPS seniors took the test, compared to 71 percent in Georgia and 46 percent nationally.

Individual school results and system results are found below. Individual school averages can be greatly affected by the unique characteristics of each year’s test-takers. Students can improve their SAT scores by doing well in rigorous courses, reading challenging books and articles, and writing concise essays that include compelling details to support a persuasive argument.

Gwinnett SAT Scores by High School

| | 2009 | 2009 | 2009 | 2009 | 2008 | 2008 | 2008 | 2008 |
|-------------------------|---------|------|---------|-------|---------|------|---------|-------|
| | Reading | Math | Writing | Total | Reading | Math | Writing | Total |
| <i>Berkmar</i> | 455 | 477 | 453 | 1385 | 458 | 483 | 452 | 1393 |
| <i>Brookwood</i> | 532 | 559 | 534 | 1625 | 543 | 559 | 536 | 1638 |
| <i>Central Gwinnett</i> | 492 | 504 | 479 | 1475 | 491 | 509 | 481 | 1481 |
| <i>Collins Hill</i> | 508 | 528 | 493 | 1529 | 510 | 538 | 502 | 1550 |
| <i>Dacula</i> | 501 | 515 | 489 | 1505 | 493 | 504 | 480 | 1477 |
| <i>Duluth</i> | 513 | 543 | 512 | 1568 | 515 | 538 | 506 | 1559 |
| <i>Grayson</i> | 498 | 508 | 488 | 1494 | 499 | 506 | 486 | 1491 |
| <i>Meadowcreek</i> | 444 | 465 | 437 | 1346 | 431 | 454 | 426 | 1311 |
| <i>Mill Creek</i> | 510 | 529 | 503 | 1542 | 506 | 530 | 492 | 1528 |
| <i>Norcross</i> | 515 | 535 | 508 | 1558 | 519 | 531 | 512 | 1562 |
| <i>North Gwinnett</i> | 517 | 549 | 507 | 1573 | 508 | 534 | 503 | 1545 |
| <i>Parkview</i> | 529 | 547 | 520 | 1596 | 533 | 549 | 520 | 1602 |
| <i>Peachtree Ridge</i> | 512 | 536 | 505 | 1553 | 502 | 530 | 501 | 1533 |
| <i>Phoenix</i> | 443 | 423 | 405 | 1271 | 460 | 489 | 448 | 1397 |
| <i>Shiloh</i> | 467 | 471 | 462 | 1400 | 477 | 484 | 466 | 1427 |
| <i>South Gwinnett</i> | 474 | 482 | 458 | 1414 | 468 | 473 | 459 | 1400 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| <i>GCPS</i> | 505 | 524 | 497 | 1526 | 504 | 522 | 495 | 1521 |
| <i>GA</i> | 490 | 491 | 479 | 1460 | 491 | 493 | 482 | 1466 |
| <i>Nation</i> | 501 | 515 | 493 | 1509 | 502 | 515 | 494 | 1511 |

A Review of the New SAT—How is it different?

The Class of 2009 is only the fourth class of test-takers to take the new version of the SAT. Several things differentiate the new test from previous tests, including:

- The new SAT features a writing section. Students are asked to take a position on an issue and use reasoning and examples taken from their previous in and out of class experiences to support the position.
- The critical reading test actually is more than a name change from the previous verbal section of the SAT. Reading passages are longer and require a deeper understanding of both vocabulary and contextual understanding.
- The mathematics section includes questions testing students’ knowledge of Algebra II, an area not assessed in the previous version of the SAT.

Reporters with additional questions may contact Dale Robbins, associate superintendent for Teaching and Learning, at 678-301-7030.