

Data Notes

- Writing data are based on students who took the current version of the SAT, first administered in March 2005. All students in the 2009 cohort took the SAT writing section. Of the 1,518,859 students in the 2008 cohort, 1,518,176 students have scores on the SAT writing section. Of the 1,494,531 students in the 2007 cohort, 1,491,749 students had scores on the SAT writing section. Of the 1,465,744 students in the 2006 cohort, 1,376,745 students had scores on the SAT writing section.
- The verbal section of the SAT was renamed critical reading on the current SAT.
- High school grade point averages are based upon the number of SAT takers. Before 2005, this number was calculated using the number of all students who registered for either the SAT or SAT Subject Tests, but who did not necessarily take any SAT Program test. Historical GPA values were recalculated to allow for valid comparison across years.
- "First-generation" indicates that neither of a student's parents earned a college degree.
- "Parental education" indicates the highest level of either parent's education.
- Due to space constraints throughout this report, the race/ethnicity options have been abbreviated. When students register to take the SAT they are asked, "How do you describe yourself? (Mark only one.)" They can choose from the following options: American Indian or Alaska Native; Asian, Asian American or Pacific Islander; Black or African American; Mexican or Mexican American; Puerto Rican; Other Hispanic, Latino or Latin American; White; Other.
- "Core course work" indicates that a student has taken four or more years of English, three or more years of mathematics, three or more years of natural sciences, and three or more years of social sciences and history based on self-reported answers to the SAT Questionnaire.
- The "mean" is defined as the arithmetic average.
- "Percent" is a way of expressing a proportion, a ratio or a fraction as a whole number by using 100 as the denominator.