

# COLLEGE READINESS

## Scholastic Aptitude Test—SAT-I

### DISTRICT TARGET:

- By 2008, increase from 63% to 74% the percentage of students at the comprehensive high schools who take the SAT at least once, while maintaining or improving the district's average score.

### NOTABLE FACTS:

The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT-I) is a voluntary test taken outside regular school hours primarily by eleventh and twelfth grade students who plan to attend college. Today, nearly 80 percent of four-year colleges and universities use these test scores in admission decisions. Colleges consider the SAT-I a good predictor of success in higher education. Poway Unified values the SAT-I as a measure of academic rigor and has established targets to increase participation, while maintaining high mean scores. For more information about the SAT-I, visit the College Board web site at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).



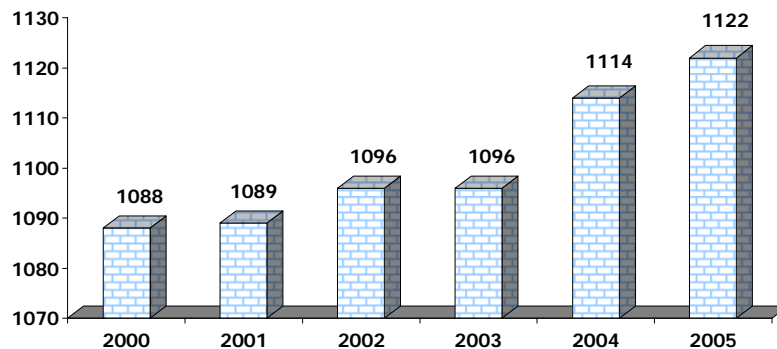
### WHAT IS BEING MEASURED:

The Scholastic Aptitude Test measures verbal and mathematical reasoning skills. The verbal and math sections of the SAT-I are each worth 800 points. A total score of 1600 is possible. The chart below shows the average SAT-I scores for Poway Unified students over 6 years.

### Grade 12 Scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test 2000-2005

POWAY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SAT Mean Scores  
2000-2005

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Verbal:	528	531	533	536	543	549
Math:	560	558	563	560	571	573
Total	1088	1089	1096	1096	1114	1122



### WHAT THE RESULTS SHOW:

The average mean score improved dramatically in 2005. There was a six-point gain in verbal scores, and a two-point gain in mathematics. The six-year trend continues to be positive.

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## WHAT IS BEING MEASURED:

The district is monitoring two key variables found in this table: Participation rate (% tested) and average scores in Verbal and Mathematics. The table provides comparisons of Poway Unified, San Diego County, and California. The bottom of the table compares the three comprehensive high schools that had juniors and seniors enrolled in 2005.



## SAT Results—Percent Tested and Mean Scores

	% Tested 2003	% Tested 2004	% Tested 2005	SAT Verbal 2003	SAT Verbal 2004	SAT Verbal 2005	SAT Math 2003	SAT Math 2004	SAT Math 2005	SAT Total 2003	SAT Total 2004	SAT Total 2005
Poway Unified	63%	66%	67%	536	543	549	560	571	573	1096	1114	1122
San Diego County	41%	40%	40%	505	508	511	523	524	527	1028	1032	1038
California	37%	49%	49%	499	501	508	518	519	520	1017	1020	1028
Mt. Carmel	68%	65%	72%	526	534	545	553	565	570	1079	1099	1115
Poway High	64%	63%	66%	546	556	553	567	570	567	1113	1126	1120
Rancho Bernardo	64%	68%	74%	542	543	556	563	578	580	1105	1121	1130
Westview <sup>1</sup>	-	-	66%	-	-	544	-	-	575	-	-	1119

<sup>1</sup> Westview High School graduated its first class in 2005.



In year three of a six-year effort, this district target has been achieved. Participation improved to 74% with no decline in mean score.

## WHAT THE RESULTS SHOW:

In 2005, more students took the SAT compared to 2003 and 2004. Significantly more Poway Unified School District students took the SAT compared to the state and county. Poway Unified School District students scored much higher overall compared to the state and county. Among Poway Unified School District schools, there was a less significant (8.1%) difference in participation rates. The district realized a 1.4% increase in participation while improving the total mean score by 8 points, from 1114 to 1122. Rancho Bernardo High School achieved the 2008 target in 2005.

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## DISTRICT TARGET:

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## SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST BY ETHNICITY 2005

### WHAT IS BEING MEASURED:

The chart shows the ethnic comparison of graduates who took the SAT-I at least once while in high school and the average score for each group in 2005 for Poway, California, and the nation.

### SAT Results by Ethnicity

2005		VERBAL SCORE			MATH SCORE		
Ethnic Group	Number Tested	PUSD	CA	USA	PUSD	CA	USA
African American	33	543	439	433	538	436	431
Asian/Filipino	338	542	502	511	591	558	580
Hispanic	67	515	445	453	527	456	463
White	824	549	540	532	569	547	536
Other	122	579	500	495	556	515	525
Average Score		549	504	508	573	522	520



### WHAT THE RESULTS SHOW:

There is a significant gap between the performance of Hispanic students and other ethnic groups. This finding is limited due to the relatively low number of students. All Poway Unified ethnic groups scored higher than their counterparts in the state and nation. African American students in Poway scored higher than all subgroups in California in 2005 and closed the achievement gap with other Poway Unified subgroups.

### NEXT STEPS:

Continue to provide support services needed for students to enroll in more rigorous courses. Target services such as AVID, see pages 62-64. Institute a districtwide communication plan to inform parents and staff about SAT testing, and implement programs that encourage participation.

# COLLEGE READINESS

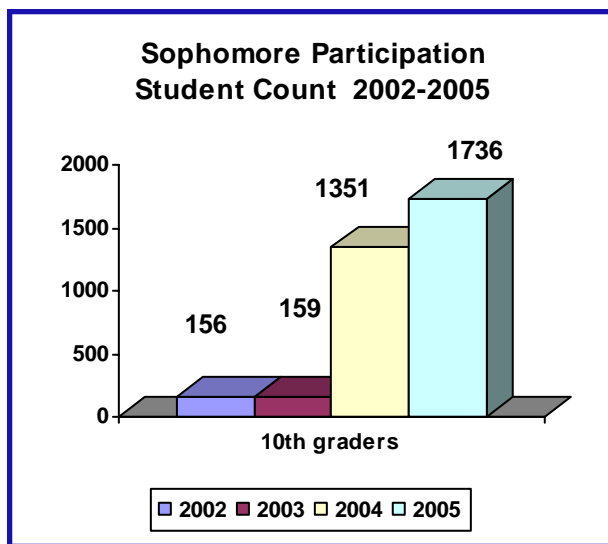
## California Placement Exams

### NOTABLE FACTS:

PSAT/NMSQT stands for Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. It is a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT reasoning test. It also gives students a chance to qualify for National Merit Scholarship Corporation scholarships. The PSAT/NMSQT measures critical reading skills, math problem solving skills, and writing skills. The PSAT/NMSQT gives students early feedback about their strengths and weaknesses in skills necessary for college and helps them prepare for the SAT by familiarizing them with the kind of questions they will experience. In 2004, the district sponsored the PSAT/NMSQT for all sophomores to encourage participation in the SAT during their junior and senior years and provide feedback regarding college preparation course of study. The district's goal is to increase the percentage of students electing to take the PSAT. For more information regarding the PSAT/NMSQT, visit [www.collegeboard.com/student/testing](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing).

### WHAT IS BEING MEASURED:

Participation rates are the number of 10<sup>th</sup> grade students electing to take the PSAT/NMSQT 2002-2005. Performance rates show the percentage of correct responses for Poway Unified School District compared to sophomores in California and the nation in 2005.



### WHAT THE RESULTS SHOW:

The participation rate increased 800% in 2004, the first year Poway Unified sponsored the test and in 2005, participation continued to grow. From 2003 to 2005, 1,675 more Sophomores elected to participate in the PSAT/NMSQT.

### WHAT IS BEING MEASURED:

At the top of page 55, find the performance rate on each of 3 subtests of the PSAT/NMSQT shown as the average number of correct responses for sophomores taking the test in 2005 compared to California and the nation. At the bottom of page 55, find the average number of correct responses by ethnics subgroups.