



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL

RESEARCH & EVALUATION
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

March 25, 2022

TO: School Board Members

THROUGH: Michael J. Burke, Superintendent *MB*

FROM: Edward C. Tierney, Deputy Superintendent/Chief of Schools *ET*
Glenda Sheffield, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer *GS*
Adam Miller, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent, Performance Accountability *AM*

SUBJECT: FY21 AND FY22 PSAT 8/9 AND PSAT/NMSQT RESULTS

The Preliminary SAT 8/9 (PSAT 8/9) is offered to students in Grades 8 and 9 and provides test-takers with access to personalized SAT study plans. The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) is offered to students in Grades 10 and 11 and gives test-takers the opportunity to practice for the SAT. The PSAT NMSQT also allows students in Grade 11 to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program and obtain Algebra I concordance scores. Both assessments provide students with recommendations for Advanced Placement (AP) courses based on their potential to receive a score of 3 or higher on a given AP exam (AP Potential). The District offers both assessments to students free-of-cost during the Fall of each school year.¹

The Department of Research & Evaluation (DRE) developed an interactive PSAT 8/9 and PSAT/NMSQT Results Dashboard summarizing PSAT assessment data by school and student subgroup for FY21 and FY22.² Data includes the number of test-takers, average scores, percentage of test-takers meeting College and Career Readiness Benchmarks, and the percentage of test-takers demonstrating AP Potential by subject. This document outlines some high-level observations from the Dashboard. It is important to note that differences from FY21 to FY22 in participation may be due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Distance-Learning option which was available for students in FY21 but not in FY22.

Summary of Results

PSAT 8/9

- Participation in the PSAT 8/9 increased from FY21 to FY22 for Grades 8 (FY21: 30%; FY22: 74%) and 9 (FY21: 41%; FY22: 73%).
- Average Evidence-based Reading and Writing (ERW), Mathematics, and total scores decreased from FY21 to FY22 for Grades 8 and 9.

¹ Participation is encouraged for all students in Grades 8, 9, and 10. Participation for Grade 11 is targeted to students seeking the National Merit Scholarship Award or students attempting an Algebra 1 concordant score.

² Navigation to the interactive report from District's homepage: The School District of Palm Beach County -> Departments -> Research and Evaluation -> Tests/Survey Reports -> Reports/Graphs -> PSAT 8/9 and PSAT/NMSQT Results.

- The percentage of test-takers meeting Reading, Mathematics, and both Reading and Mathematics College-Readiness Benchmarks decreased from FY21 to FY22 for Grades 8 and 9.
- The percentage of test-takers in Grade 8 demonstrating AP Potential from FY21 to FY22 remained similar except for notable increases (above a 3 percentage point difference) in Art History, English Language and Composition, Human Geography, Music, Psychology, and World History.
- The percentage of test-takers demonstrating AP Potential remained similar for all subjects from FY21 to FY22 for Grade 9.

PSAT/NMSQT: Grade 10³

- Participation in the PSAT NMSQT increased from FY21 to FY22 (FY21: 51%; FY22: 79%).
- Average ERW, Mathematics, and total scores decreased from FY21 to FY22.
- The percentage of test-takers meeting Reading, Mathematics, and both Reading and Mathematics College-Readiness Benchmarks decreased from FY21 to FY22.
- The percentage of test-takers demonstrating AP Potential decreased by more than 3 percentage points across all subjects from FY21 to FY22 except in Chemistry, Macroeconomics, and Physics: Electricity and Magnetism.

Next Steps

Principals can monitor their school's PSAT 8/9 and PSAT/NMSQT data by accessing up-to-date information available on the District's Educational Data Warehouse (EDW) and College Board AP Potential tool. The PSAT Potentials Summary Report (Report number: RSTUA0640) is a student-level report showing current enrollment status, cumulative GPA, PSAT scores, and AP Potential flags by school. The College Board AP Potential tool allows users to generate rosters of students who are likely to score a 3 or higher on a given AP exam based on their PSAT 8/9 or PSAT/NMSQT performance. Instructions for accessing this tool can be obtained by contacting Ashley Ahern, State Assessment Specialist at 561-434-8644. The PSAT Potentials Summary Report in EDW and the College Board AP Potential tool can be used as part of the process of identifying students for accelerated coursework.

For questions regarding this report, please contact Paul Houchens, Director, Research & Evaluation at 561-434-8780 or Dr. Adam Miller, Assistant Superintendent, Performance Accountability at 561-434-8851.

ECT/GS/AM/PH/RC/MP:wI

- c: Academic and Operating Chiefs
 - Regional/Instructional Superintendents
 - Assistant Superintendents
 - Academic Directors
 - Principals

³ For Grade 11, participation in the PSAT NMSQT increased from FY21 to FY22 (FY21: 25%; FY22: 30%). Average ERW and total scores decreased from FY21 to FY22 and increased by one point in Mathematics. The percentage of test-takers meeting Reading, Mathematics, and both Reading and Mathematics College-Readiness Benchmarks decreased from FY21 to FY22. The percentage of test-takers demonstrating AP Potential by subject remained similar from FY21 to FY22 except for notable decreases in Art History, Biology, European History, Music, and Psychology.