



NEWS RELEASE

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Oregon Students Again Exceed National Average on SAT Scores

(Salem, Ore.) – Oregon students who took the SAT exam during the 2016-17 school year continue to outperform their peers around the country, according to results released today by College Board, which administers the test. Oregon public school students had an average score of 555 on the Evidence-based Reading and Writing (ERW) test on a scale of 200 to 800, above the national average of 527. On the math portion of the test, Oregon students scored 543 compared to the national average score of 517. Due to a change in the test, scores from this year cannot be compared to previous years.

“While it is always good to see Oregon students performing well, I am most encouraged by the increased participation among student groups that have been historically underrepresented,” Deputy Superintendent Salam Noor said. “Taking a test like the SAT is often a precursor to going to college, so it’s important that all of our students have the same opportunities.”

Every student group registered significant increases in the number taking the SAT this year. For example, last year, only 12.4 percent of Oregon students taking the SAT were Hispanic or Latino, despite making up 22 percent of the student population. This year, 15.7 percent of Oregon SAT takers were Hispanic or Latino and the overall number of students in that group taking the test increased from 1,254 to 2,190.

Student Group	Taking Test in 2015-16	Taking Test in 2016-17
American Indian/ Alaska Native	67	131
Asian	751	917
African-American/ Black	151	279
Hispanic/Latino	1,254	2,190
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	36	63
White	6,894	9,120



Oregon also increased the number of students taking at least one Advanced Placement (AP) test in 2017 compared to the year before and the number of students scoring a three or better (on a scale of one to five) on at least one AP exam. The College Board also administers those tests.

“The continued increase in participation and performance on the SAT and in Advanced Placement is a reflection of the investments the state has made in providing opportunities for students,” Noor said.

He cited a variety of programs designed to support increased student achievement, including ongoing implementation of the American Indian/Alaska Native State Plan, the English Learner Outcome Improvement Plan, the African American/Black Student Success State Plan and new investments to improve student attendance. Additionally, Oregon is taking strides to increase culturally responsive programs and practices, including new efforts to expand ethnic studies programs and tribal curriculum. The state is also engaged in broader efforts to improve teacher quality and the effectiveness of school principals.

“The increases observed in every student group are a sign that we are moving in the right direction to close opportunity gaps among our students.”

Student Group	Taking AP Exam in 2015-16	Scoring three or higher in 2015-16	Taking AP Exam in 2016-17	Scoring three or higher in 2016-17
American Indian/ Alaska Native	86	26	90	34
Asian	1,819	1,184	1,970	1,283
African-American/ Black	217	72	247	89
Hispanic/Latino	2,728	1,270	3,146	1,488
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	71	15	77	20
White	11,477	7,221	11,637	7,279

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