

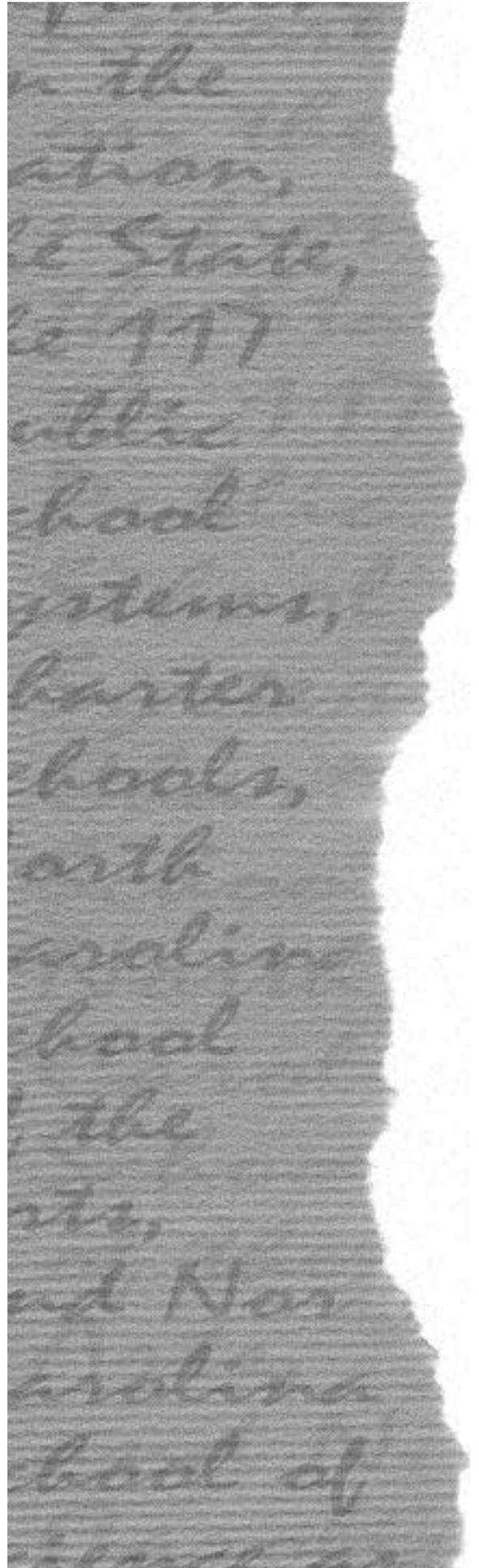
# SAT

## R E P O R T

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### **The North Carolina 1999 Scholastic Assessment Test**

Reporting on the Nation, the State,  
the 117 Public School Systems,  
Charter Schools, North Carolina School  
of the Arts, and North Carolina School  
of Science and Mathematics



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# The North Carolina 1999 Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) Report

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Division of Accountability Services  
Reporting Section  
August 1999

# The North Carolina 1999 Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) Report

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## Cautions on the Use of Aggregate SAT Scores\*

As measures of developed verbal and mathematical abilities important for success in college, SAT scores are useful in making decisions about individual students and in assessing the academic preparation of individual students. Using these scores in aggregate form as a single measure to rank or rate teachers, educational institutions, districts, or states is invalid because it does not include all students. And in being incomplete, this use is inherently unfair.

For example, in order for one to make useful comparisons between states, of students' performance, a common test given to all students would be required. Because the percentage of SAT-takers varies widely among the states, and because the test-takers are self-selected, the SAT is inappropriate for this purpose.

The most significant factor in interpreting SAT scores is the proportion of eligible students taking the exam—the participation rate. In general, the higher the percentage of students taking the test, the lower will be the average scores.

In some states, for example, a very small percentage of the college-bound seniors take the SAT. Typically, these students have strong academic backgrounds and are applicants to the nation's most selective colleges and scholarship programs. Therefore, it is to be expected that the SAT verbal and mathematical averages reported for these states will be higher than is the national average. In states where a greater proportion of students with a wide range of academic backgrounds take the SAT, and where most colleges in the state require the test for admission, the scores are closer to the national average.

In looking at average SAT scores, the user must understand the context in which the particular test scores were earned. Other factors variously related to performance on the SAT include academic courses studied in high school, family background, and education of parents. These factors and others of a less tangible nature could very well have a significant influence on average scores.

That is not to say, however, that scores cannot be used properly as one indicator of educational quality. Average scores analyzed from a number of years can reveal trends in the academic preparation of students who take the test and can provide individual states and schools with a means of self-evaluation and self-comparison.

By studying other indicators—such as retention/attrition rates, graduation rates, the number of courses taken in academic subjects, or scores on other standardized tests—one can evaluate the general direction in which education in a particular jurisdiction is headed. A careful examination of other conditions impinging on the educational enterprise, such as pupil/teacher ratios, teacher credentials, expenditures per student, and minority enrollment, is also important.

Summaries of scores and other information by state, college, or school district can be used in curriculum development, faculty staffing, student recruitment, financial aid assessment, planning for physical facilities, and student services such as guidance and placement. Aggregate data can also be useful to state, regional, and national education policymakers, especially in tracking changes during a period of time.

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\* Excerpted from *Guidelines on the Uses of College Board Test Scores and Related Data*. Copyright 1988 by College Entrance Examination Board. All rights reserved.

# The North Carolina 1999 Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) Report

## Background

Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) scores measure developed verbal and mathematical abilities necessary for success in college. Toward this end, SAT scores are useful in assessing the academic preparation of individual students and in making decisions about individual students. Using SAT scores in aggregate form as a single measure to rank or rate states, educational institutions, school systems, schools, or teachers is invalid because not all students take the SAT and those who do are self-selected. Comparisons of this kind are incomplete which makes their use inherently unfair. Consequently, rankings or residual rankings are not used in this report in compliance with The College Board and with professional standards for educational and psychological testing.

Aggregate scores can, however, indicate the preparation of groups of students who aspire to attend college. In addition, average scores analyzed for a number of years can reveal trends in the academic preparation of students who take the SAT. Consequently, this report includes the SAT performance of North Carolina's students who took the test in 1999 and recent historical data on the SAT performance of North Carolina's students.

## Results

This report presents SAT results for students scheduled to graduate in 1999 and represents students' most recent scores regardless of when they last took the test. The performance of *public and non-public school students* in North Carolina and the United States are included in this report, except where otherwise noted.

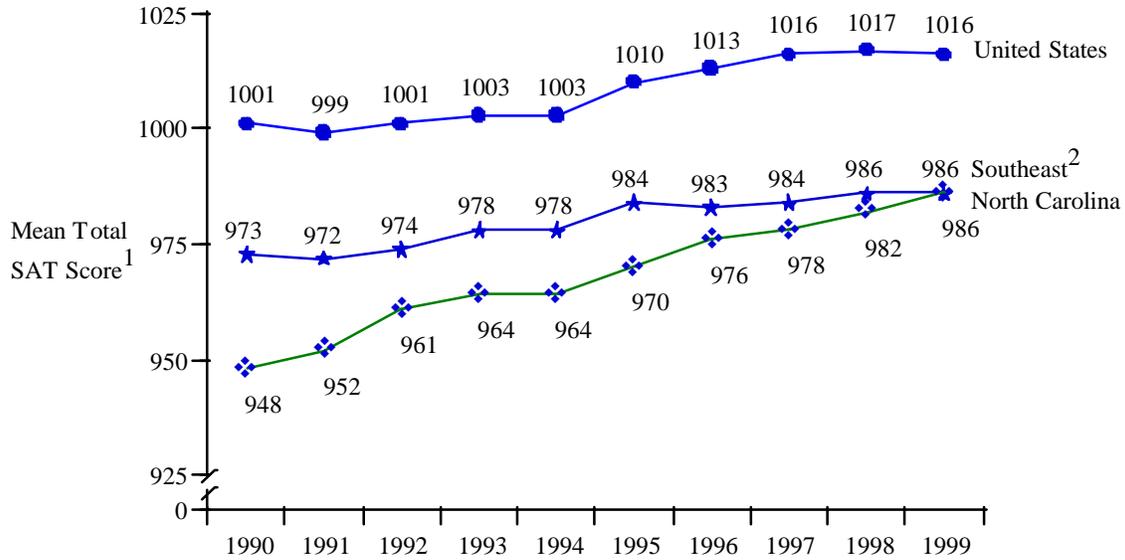
In 1999, North Carolina's students made a gain of four points in mean (average) total SAT score while the nation's students decreased by one point (see Figure 1). The mean total SAT score for North Carolina's college-bound seniors was 986, compared to 1016 for the nation and 986 for the Southeast in 1999. Figure 1 shows that the mean total SAT score for North Carolina's students has improved each year since 1990, except in 1994 when the score remained the same as the previous year. Although the gap between North Carolina's mean and the nation's mean was 30 points in 1999, it was the smallest in 28 years, having decreased by 53 points since 1972 and by 33 points since 1989 (see Table 1).

The gap between North Carolina's scores and the Southeast's scores has closed dramatically since 1990 as shown in Figure 1. In 1999, North Carolina's mean total SAT score (986) equaled the Southeast score, with North Carolina's score increasing by four points and the Southeast's score remaining the same from 1998.

Students in North Carolina's *public* schools performed slightly better in 1999 than in the previous year when compared to public school students in the nation. In 1999, the mean total SAT score for the nation's public school students was 1010 while North Carolina's public school students scored 983, a difference of 27 points. In 1998, the difference

between mean total SAT scores for the nation (1011) and North Carolina (981) was 30 points.

North Carolina’s students are closer to the nation on the verbal portion of the SAT than on the mathematics portion. North Carolina students’ mean score on the verbal portion of the SAT was 493 compared to 505 for the United States, a difference of 12 points. On the mathematics portion of the SAT, North Carolina students’ mean score was 493 compared to 511 for the United States, a difference of 18 points.



<sup>1</sup>All Scholastic Assessment Test scores are reported on the recentered score scale (1995).  
<sup>2</sup>The Southeast region average is a weighted average of results for Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.

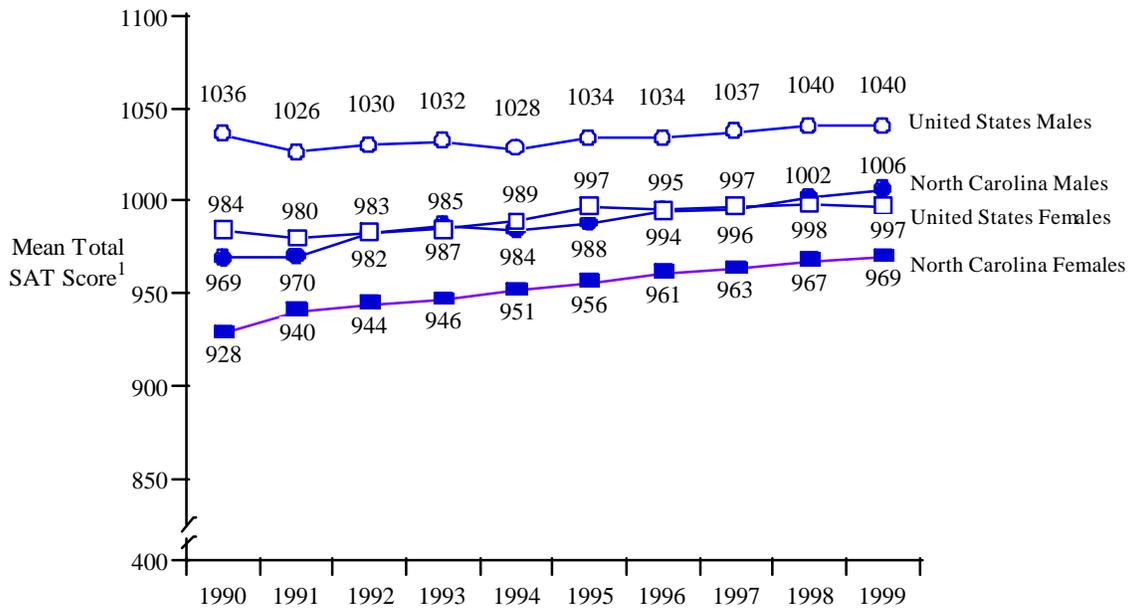
**Figure 1.** Mean Total SAT Scores for the United States, Southeast Region and North Carolina 1990 – 1999.

### Gender

In North Carolina and the nation, males historically have attained higher mean SAT scores than females (see Figure 2). The mean total SAT score for North Carolina males was 1006 in 1999 compared to 969 for females. The gap between North Carolina males and females has been 32-33 points the past four years, but increased to 37 points this year (see Table 3). The difference between mean total SAT scores for North Carolina’s males and females is largely in mathematics where the mean score for males is 510 in 1999, 31 points higher than females’ score. On the verbal scale, North Carolina’s females lag males by six points in 1999, one point more than in the previous year.

In 1999, North Carolina’s males lag males nationally by 34 points (four points fewer than in the previous year), while North Carolina females lag their national counterparts by 28 points (three points fewer than in the previous year) as shown in Table 3. Nationally, males’ mean total SAT score did not change in 1999, while North Carolina’s males improved by four points. Nationally, females decreased by one point while North

Carolina’s females improved by two points. Thus, North Carolina’s males and females gained four points and three points, respectively, on the nation in 1999 (see Table 4).



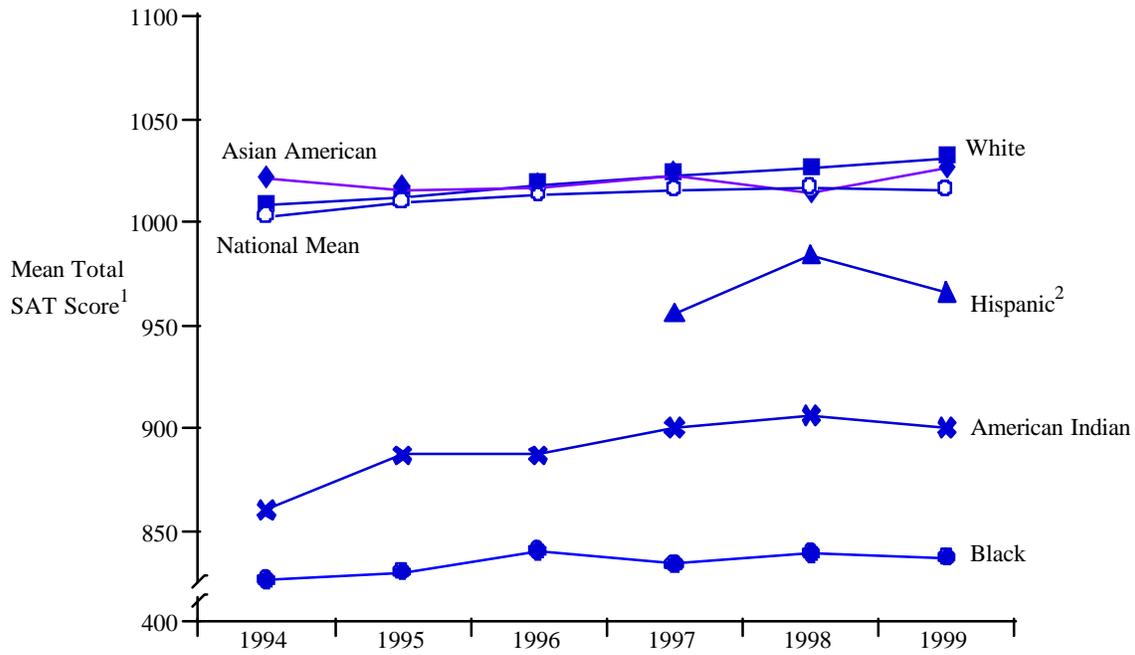
<sup>1</sup>All Scholastic Assessment Test scores are reported on the recentered score scale (1995).

Figure 2. Mean Total SAT Scores for the United States and North Carolina by Gender 1990 – 1999.

### Race/Ethnicity

White and Asian students in North Carolina schools and in the nation typically score higher than other ethnic/racial groups (see Figure 3). Of all the ethnic/racial groups represented in North Carolina, only Hispanic students score higher than their national counterparts. North Carolina Hispanics’ mean total SAT score was 966 compared to 915 for Hispanics nationally, a difference of 51 points (see Table 3). Hispanics of all backgrounds (Mexican, Puerto Rican, or Latin American) in North Carolina had higher mean scores than their national counterparts. Hispanics, however, comprised a very small proportion of the total SAT test takers in North Carolina in 1999, representing only one percent compared to eight percent nationally.

All other racial/ethnic groups (American Indians, Asian Americans, Blacks, and Whites) in North Carolina trail their national counterparts in SAT performance. Of these groups, Blacks are the closest to their counterparts nationally, trailing by 19 points. In North Carolina, the mean total SAT score for Blacks in 1999 was 837, a decrease of two points from the previous year. Nationally, the mean total SAT score for Blacks (856) decreased by four points from 1998 (see Table 4). In recent years, North Carolina’s Black students have demonstrated improved performance, while representing a much higher proportion of SAT test takers than in the nation. In 1999, Black students represented 21 percent of North Carolina’s test takers (one percent more than in 1998), while nationally Blacks comprised 11 percent (the same as in 1998) as shown in Table 3.



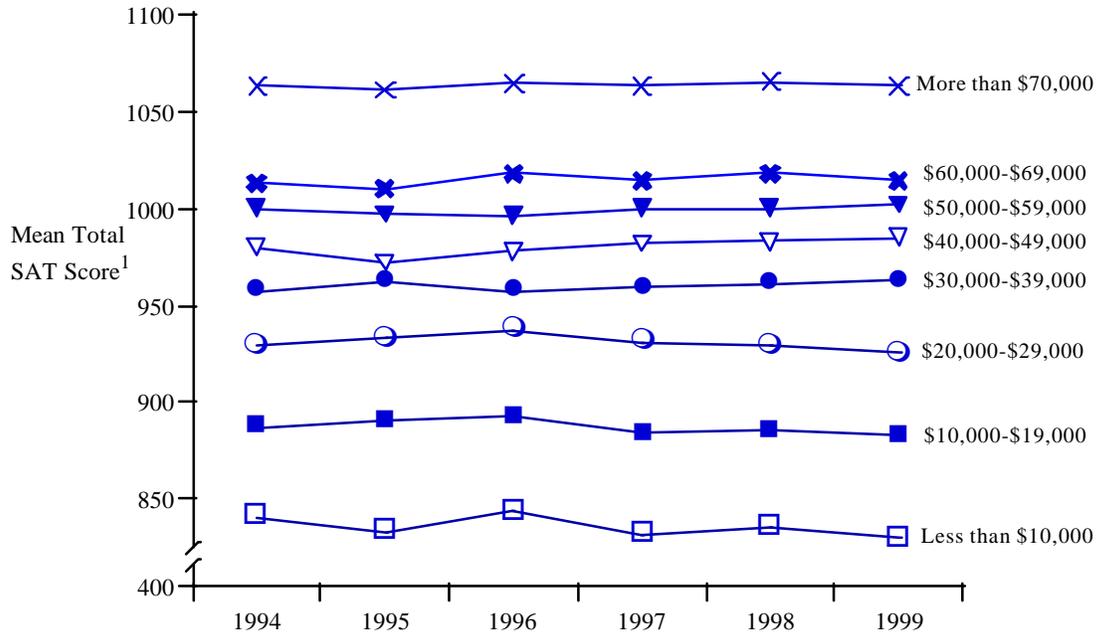
<sup>1</sup>All Scholastic Assessment Test scores are reported on the recentered score scale (1995).  
<sup>2</sup>Hispanic students were reported in the Other category prior to 1997.

Figure 3. Mean Total SAT Scores for North Carolina by Ethnicity 1994 – 1999.

In 1999, North Carolina’s American Indians attained a mean total SAT score of 900, 65 points lower than their national counterparts (see Table 4). This score, six points lower than the previous year’s score, was the largest difference from a national counterpart of all racial/ethnic groups. In 1999, American Indians represented only one percent of SAT test takers in North Carolina and one percent nationally (see Table 3).

Family Income

In North Carolina, as in the nation, the higher the family income the higher the student’s mean total SAT score (see Figure 4). There is very little change from year to year in the mean total SAT *within* each family income category. The relative difference in mean total SAT score *between* family income categories is also fairly stable from year to year.

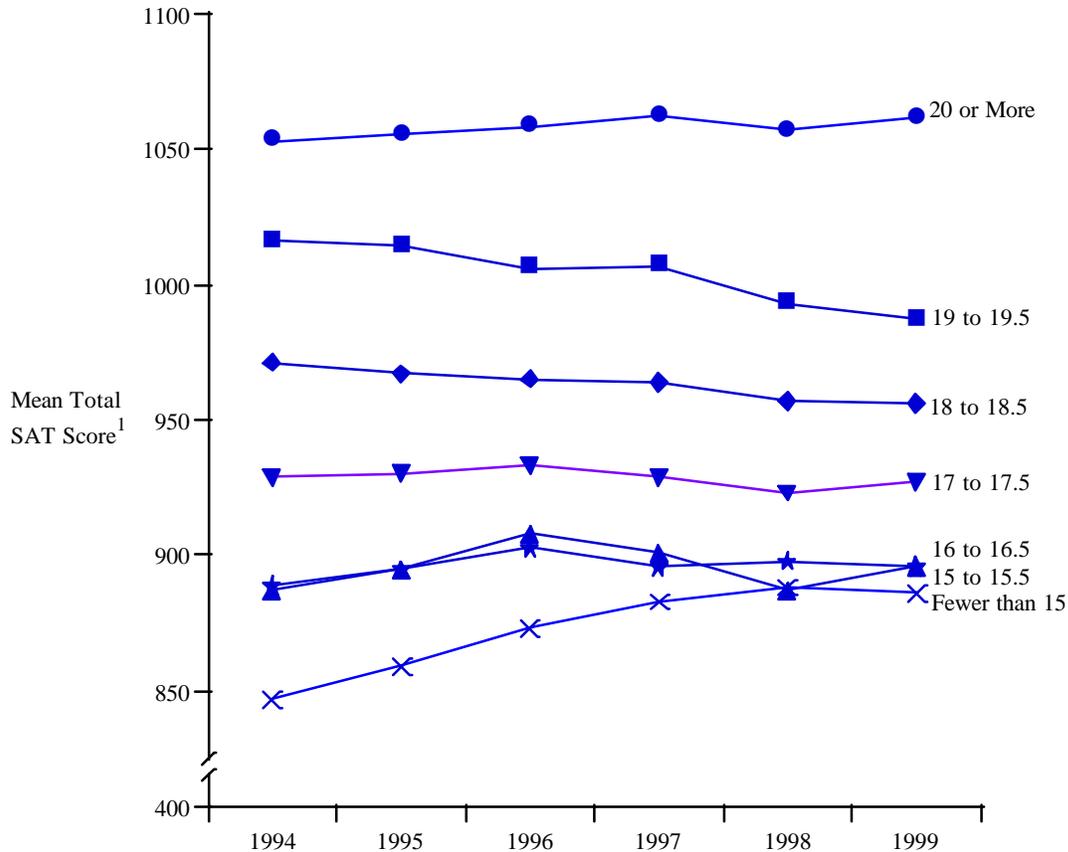


<sup>1</sup> All Scholastic Assessment Test scores are reported on the recentered score scale (1995).

Figure 4. Mean Total SAT Scores for North Carolina by Family Income 1994 - 1999.

### Academic Preparation

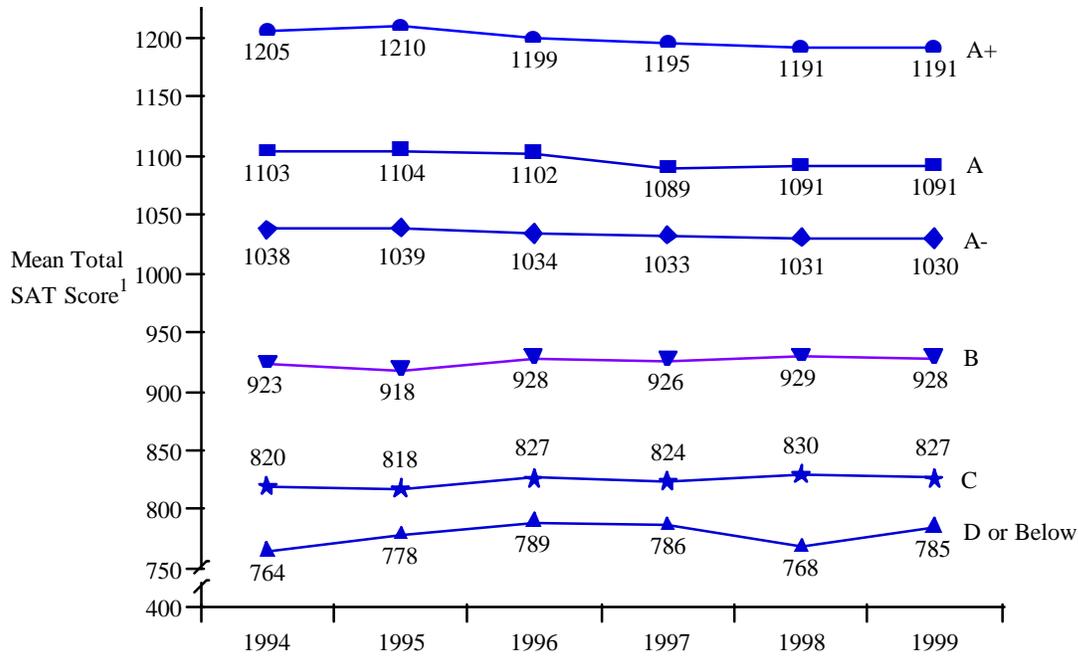
The more academic credits students have in six subject areas (Arts and Music; English; Foreign and Classical Languages; Mathematics; Natural Sciences; Social Sciences and History), the higher their mean SAT scores (see Figure 5). Students in North Carolina are earning one-half additional academic credit on average compared to students in 1994. While the mean SAT scores of students in the nation in each range of earned academic credits have fluctuated over the last five years, the performance of North Carolina's students in the various levels of academic credit earned has been mixed. At the highest level of academic credit earned (20 or More), the mean total SAT scores for North Carolina's students increased in 1999, following a decrease in 1998 (see Figure 5). On the other hand, North Carolina's students in the lower categories of academic credit (19 or Fewer) have generally had declining scores over the last five years as shown in Figure 5. The higher SAT scores for students with 20 or More academic credits might be explained in one of two ways. Either higher performing students tend to take more credits or the more credits a student takes, the better the student is prepared to take the SAT. The data in Figure 5 suggests that the latter is true. For example, the percent of SAT test takers with 20 or more academic credits increased from 39% in 1997 to 48% in 1999.



<sup>1</sup>All Scholastic Assessment Test scores are reported on the recentered score scale (1995).

**Figure 5.** Mean Total SAT Scores for North Carolina by Total Credits in Six Academic Subjects 1994 – 1999.

Typically, the higher a student’s high school grade point average (GPA), the higher the student’s mean total SAT score (see Figure 6), and this is true in North Carolina. However, North Carolina’s students with high school GPAs of A+, A, or A- are further behind their national counterparts than students with B or C averages. North Carolina students with high school GPAs of A+, A, or A- trail their peers nationally by 49, 58, and 62 points, respectively. Additionally, North Carolina’s students with GPAs of A+, A, or A- represent 44 percent of students compared to 39 percent nationally. North Carolina’s students with GPAs of B are 40 points behind their peers nationally and represent 43 percent of students compared to 48 percent nationally. Students in North Carolina with GPAs of C are only 28 points behind their peers nationally and represent 12 percent of students in North Carolina and 13 percent in the nation. Several explanations might account for these data. SAT test takers might misjudge or wrongly report their grade point averages on the SAT questionnaire, they might be receiving inflated grades, or a combination of the two might be operative.



<sup>1</sup>All Scholastic Assessment Test scores are reported on the recentered score scale (1995).

**Figure 6.** Mean Total SAT Scores for North Carolina by High School GPA 1994 – 1999.

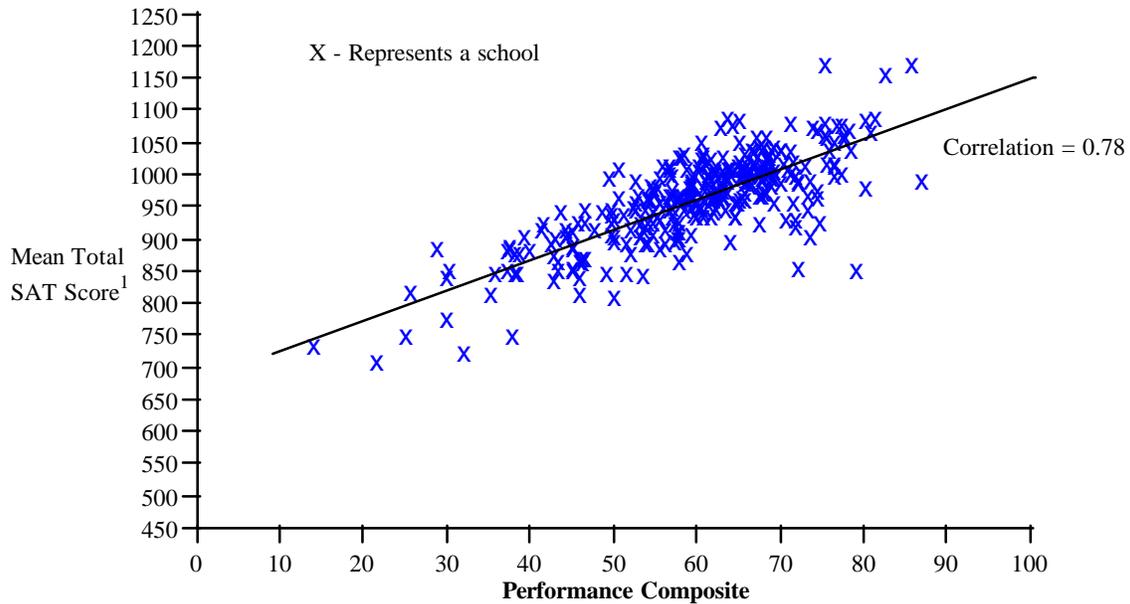
There is a strong, positive relationship between the average performance of schools on the North Carolina end-of-course tests in a high school and the mean total SAT score for that school (see Figure 7). The Pearson correlation between the performance composite and mean total SAT score by high school was 0.78 on a scale of -1.0 to +1.0. This relationship was determined by plotting a high school’s performance composite against its mean total SAT score. The performance composite is the weighted average of the percent of students at or above level III on end-of-course tests (i.e., students mastering the course content). The performance composite is based on student performance on eleven end-of-course tests (Algebra I; Algebra II; Chemistry; Biology; Economic, Legal, and Political Systems [ELPS]; English I; English II; Geometry; Physical Science; Physics and U.S. History) and the High School Comprehensive Test of Reading and Mathematics.

### North Carolina and the University of North Carolina System

The mean total SAT score of North Carolina’s students graduating in 1998 was 982, while the mean total for the University of North Carolina system for entering freshmen was 1064 (1998 is the most current year for which comparable data are available). The fact that students entering the University of North Carolina system have higher mean total SAT scores than students graduating from high school is expected since many students who do not perform well on the SAT choose other post-secondary options, including community college and full-time employment. While 40,058 seniors took the SAT in 1998, 52,626 North Carolina students applied to the University of North Carolina system institutions; 39,713 were accepted, and 20,286 enrolled.

University of North Carolina institutions, however, serve a wide variety of student abilities as evidenced by the mean total SAT scores of those institutions, which range from 823 to 1230 (The University of North Carolina, 1999). Figure 8 shows the range of total SAT scores for the middle 50% (i.e. inter-quartile range) for North Carolina college-bound seniors in 1999 and for entering freshmen at the University of North Carolina system institutions and selected other institutions in 1998.

The figure shows that for the middle 50% of college-bound seniors in North Carolina, there is a University of North Carolina system institution where they are likely to perform well compared to their peers (i.e. to the extent that the SAT is a predictor of performance in college). The figure also shows that North Carolina's college-bound seniors who aspire to attend prestigious private universities such as Duke, Wake Forest, and Harvard should score in the upper 25% of North Carolina's students in order to perform similarly to students at those universities.



<sup>1</sup>All Scholastic Assessment Test scores are reported on the recentered score scale (1995).

**Figure 7.** Mean Total SAT Score by Performance Composite for all Public High Schools in North Carolina 1999.

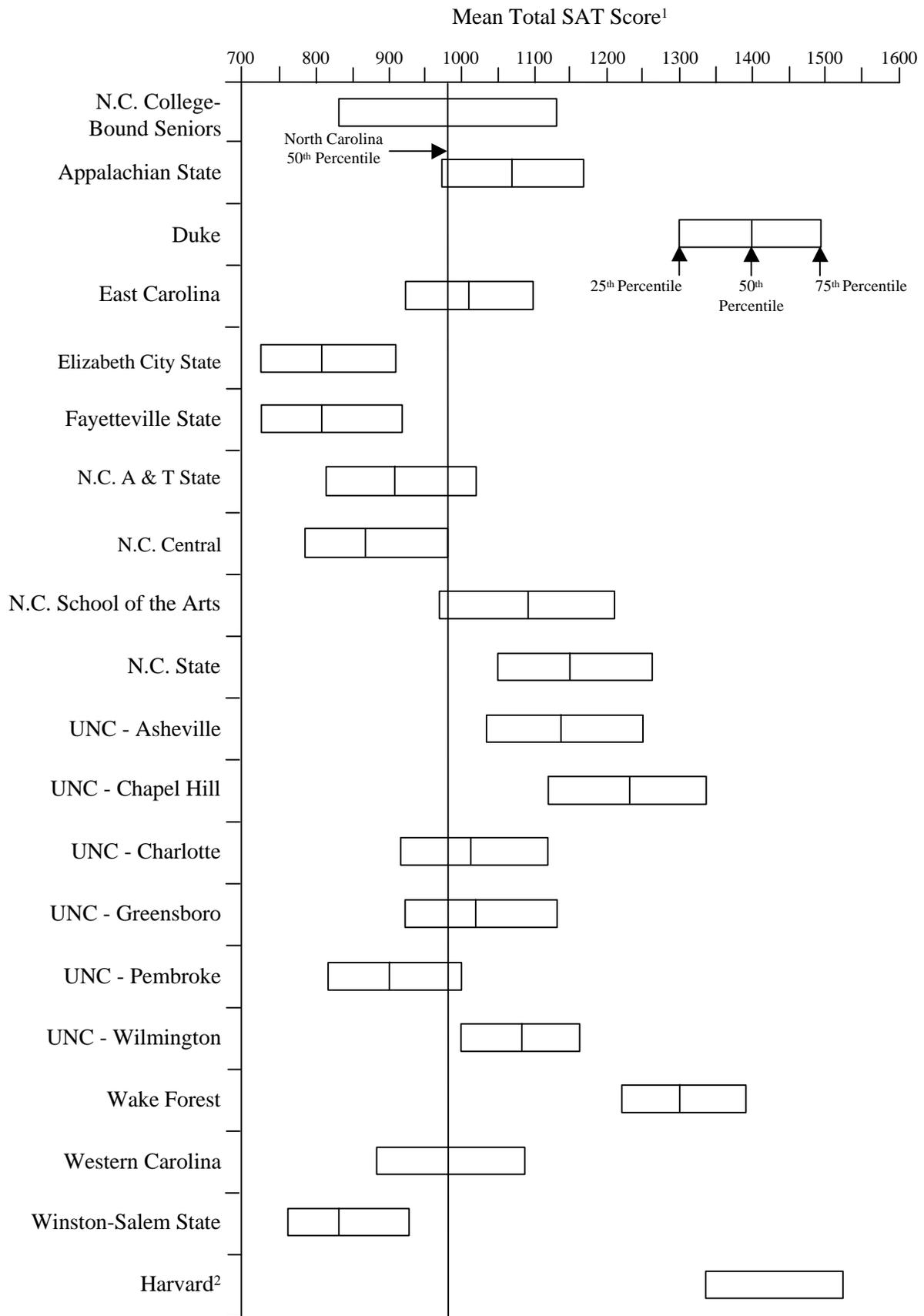


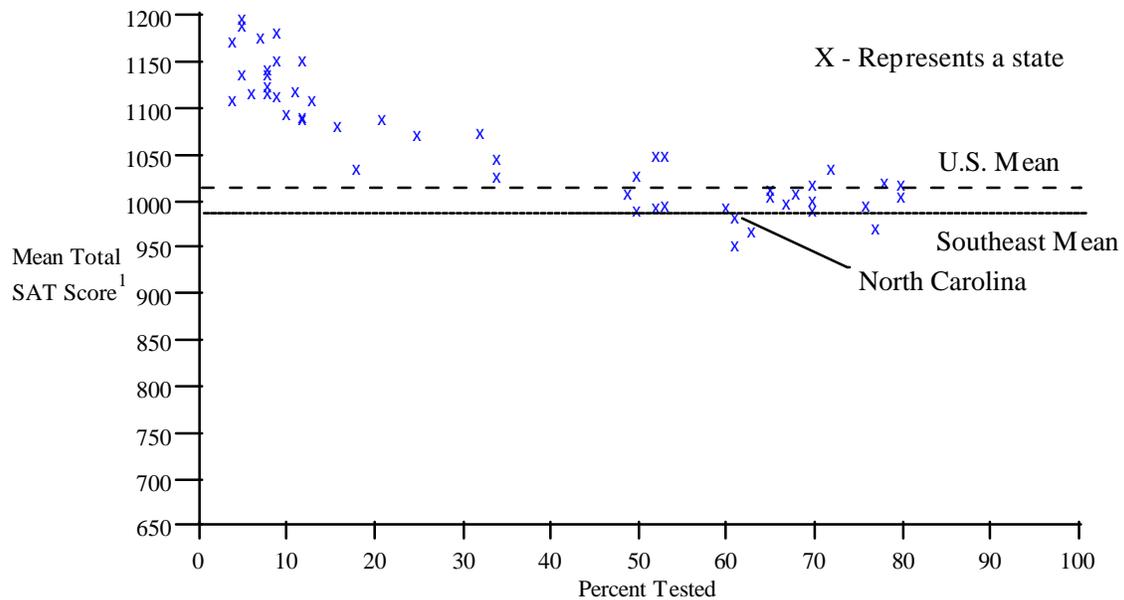
Figure 8. SAT Total Score 25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, and 75<sup>th</sup> Percentile for North Carolina College-Bound Seniors 1999, Entering Freshmen at Institutions of the University of North Carolina System, and Selected Private Universities, Fall 1998.

<sup>1</sup>All Scholastic Assessment Test scores are reported on the recentered score scale (1995).

<sup>2</sup>Information on the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile for Harvard University entering freshmen was not available.

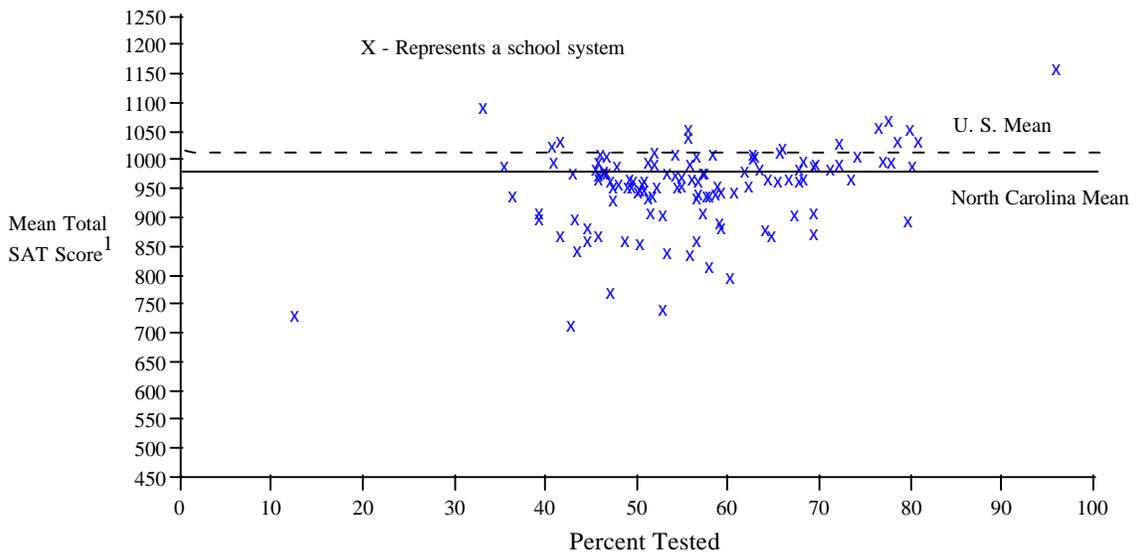
## North Carolina School Systems and North Carolina Schools

Most people assume there is a negative association between the percent of students taking the SAT and the mean SAT score. This association is true when the percent of students taking the SAT and the mean total SAT scores for *states* are compared (see Figure 9). However, the opposite association occurs when the percent of students taking the SAT and the mean total SAT score for public school systems and public schools in North Carolina are correlated (see Figures 10 and 11). The Pearson correlation between the percent of students taking the SAT and the mean total SAT score is 0.38 for public school systems in North Carolina and similarly the correlation is 0.42 for North Carolina public schools. These results suggest that schools and school systems in North Carolina cannot assume that their scores were better or worse *because* the percent of students taking the SAT changed. In fact, 50% of all schools and school systems in the nation had a change in their mean verbal or math SAT of plus or minus 10 points (The College Board, 1999). This fluctuation in mean SAT scores means that school systems and schools should take into account other factors such as course-taking patterns, content of the curriculum, and course standards when attempting to explain changes in mean SAT scores.



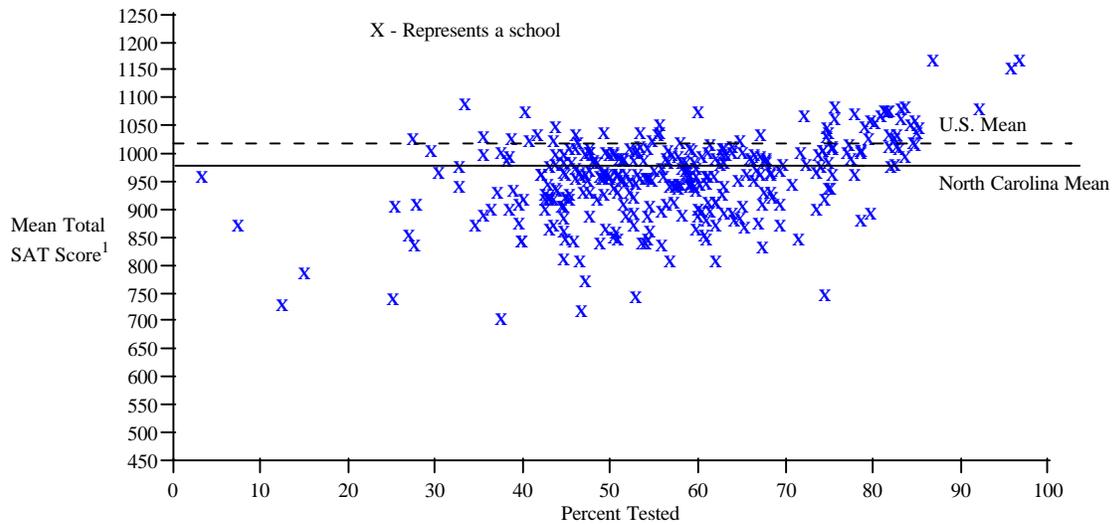
<sup>1</sup>All Scolastic Assessment Test scores are reported on the recentered score scale (1995).

Figure 9. Mean Total SAT Score by Percent of Students Tested for all States 1999.



<sup>1</sup>All Scholastic Assessment Test scores are reported on the recentered score scale (1995).

**Figure 10.** Mean Total SAT Score by Percent of Students Tested for all North Carolina Public School Systems 1999.



<sup>1</sup>All Scholastic Assessment Test scores are reported on the recentered score scale (1995).

**Figure 11.** Total Mean SAT Score by Percent of Students Tested for all Public High Schools in North Carolina 1999.

## Background on Recentering the SAT I Scores

The College Board recentered the score scale of the SAT I, re-establishing the original mean score of 500 on the 200-800 scale in order to maintain the SAT's statistical integrity and predictive validity. The scale had not been recalibrated since 1941 when it reflected the norm of some 10,000 students from predominantly private secondary schools who applied to the nation's most selective private colleges and universities. As mean scores shifted below 500, the score distribution became stretched in the upper half and compressed in the lower half.

Now that scores are recentered on the renormed SAT I, they reflect the more than two million students who take the test today. They also reflect a more diverse college-bound population than the group who took the SAT in 1941.

Although a student's score may change after recentering, the rank order of individual scores, expressed as percentiles, remains the same. What is more, a specific score on the verbal test now has the same relative position and meaning as the same score on the math test. For example, a 450 on verbal and math signifies comparable performance in both areas. Before recentering, a score of 450 represented above-average performance on verbal and below-average performance on math. While recentering permits legitimate comparisons of verbal and math scores and reduces earlier confusion, it has no effect on historical score trends, or on the difficulty level of the test and the relative standing of students to each other.

## Sources of Data for the Report

The data in this report are from three primary sources: (1) *National Report 1999 College-Bound Seniors: A Profile of SAT Program Test Takers* and profiles from earlier years (The College Board); (2) *North Carolina Report 1999 College-Bound Seniors: A Profile of SAT Program Test Takers* and profiles from earlier years (The College Board); and (3) a data file of individual student scores for the state's 117 public school systems, charter schools, North Carolina School of the Arts, and North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics. The data file was prepared by Educational Testing Service in cooperation with The College Board. SAT scores are reported each year for students scheduled to graduate. Only the most recent scores of these students are reported, regardless of when they last took the test.

## References

The University of North Carolina. (1999, April). *Statistical abstract of higher education in North Carolina, 1998-99* (Research Report 1-99). Chapel Hill, NC: Author.

The College Board. (1999, August). *Academic and demographic features of 1.2 million SAT takers in the high school class of 1999*. New York: Author.

Data Appendix

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North Carolina and the Nation

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Table 1. Mean (Average) SAT Scores for North Carolina and the Nation 1972 -1999

| Year | National Mean |      |       | North Carolina Mean |      |       |
|------|---------------|------|-------|---------------------|------|-------|
|      | Verbal        | Math | Total | Verbal              | Math | Total |
| 1999 | 505           | 511  | 1016  | 493                 | 493  | 986   |
| 1998 | 505           | 512  | 1017  | 490                 | 492  | 982   |
| 1997 | 505           | 511  | 1016  | 490                 | 488  | 978   |
| 1996 | 505           | 508  | 1013  | 490                 | 486  | 976   |
| 1995 | 504           | 506  | 1010  | 488                 | 482  | 970   |
| 1994 | 499           | 504  | 1003  | 482                 | 482  | 964   |
| 1993 | 500           | 503  | 1003  | 483                 | 481  | 964   |
| 1992 | 500           | 501  | 1001  | 482                 | 479  | 961   |
| 1991 | 499           | 500  | 999   | 478                 | 474  | 952   |
| 1990 | 500           | 501  | 1001  | 478                 | 470  | 948   |
| 1989 | 504           | 502  | 1006  | 474                 | 469  | 943   |
| 1988 | 505           | 501  | 1006  | 478                 | 470  | 948   |
| 1987 | 507           | 501  | 1008  | 477                 | 468  | 945   |
| 1986 | 509           | 500  | 1009  | 477                 | 465  | 942   |
| 1985 | 509           | 500  | 1009  | 476                 | 464  | 940   |
| 1984 | 504           | 497  | 1001  | 473                 | 461  | 934   |
| 1983 | 503           | 494  | 997   | 472                 | 460  | 932   |
| 1982 | 504           | 493  | 997   | 474                 | 460  | 934   |
| 1981 | 502           | 492  | 994   | 469                 | 456  | 925   |
| 1980 | 502           | 492  | 994   | 471                 | 458  | 929   |
| 1979 | 505           | 493  | 998   | 471                 | 455  | 926   |
| 1978 | 507           | 494  | 1001  | 468                 | 453  | 921   |
| 1977 | 507           | 496  | 1003  | 472                 | 454  | 926   |
| 1976 | 509           | 497  | 1006  | 474                 | 452  | 926   |
| 1975 | 512           | 498  | 1010  | 477                 | 457  | 934   |
| 1974 | 521           | 505  | 1026  | 488                 | 466  | 954   |
| 1973 | 523           | 506  | 1029  | 487                 | 468  | 955   |
| 1972 | 530           | 509  | 1039  | 489                 | 467  | 956   |

**Observations**

- From 1998 to 1999 the mean total SAT for the nation decreased by one point to 1016.
- From 1998 to 1999 the mean total SAT for North Carolina increased by four points to 986, the highest it has been in 28 years.
- The verbal mean for the nation has not changed for four years.

**Notes:**

1. In this table, United States and North Carolina mean scores include both public and non-public school students.
2. In 1972, the College Board began reporting the most recent Scholastic Assessment Test scores of seniors, regardless of when the student last took the test in 1972. Data prior to 1972 are not comparable.
3. All Scholastic Assessment Test scores are reported on the recentered score scale (1995).
4. For 1972-1986, the conversion table provided by Educational Testing Service was applied to the original North Carolina means to convert those means to the recentered scale.

Table 2. Frequency Distributions of 1999 North Carolina Public Schools  
Verbal and Mathematics SAT Scores

| Verbal (Mean = 493) |              |                 | Score      | Mathematics (Mean = 493) |              |                 |
|---------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------|--------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Number              | Percent      | Percentile Rank |            | Number                   | Percent      | Percentile Rank |
| 112                 | 0.3          | 99              | <b>800</b> | 113                      | 0.3          | 99              |
| 14                  | 0.0          | 99              | <b>790</b> | 35                       | 0.1          | 99              |
| 47                  | 0.1          | 99              | <b>780</b> | 66                       | 0.2          | 99              |
| 43                  | 0.1          | 99              | <b>770</b> | 23                       | 0.1          | 99              |
| 71                  | 0.2          | 99              | <b>760</b> | 70                       | 0.2          | 99              |
| 125                 | 0.3          | 99              | <b>750</b> | 64                       | 0.2          | 99              |
| 107                 | 0.3          | 99              | <b>740</b> | 93                       | 0.3          | 99              |
| 50                  | 0.1          | 99              | <b>730</b> | 131                      | 0.4          | 99              |
| 139                 | 0.4          | 98              | <b>720</b> | 147                      | 0.4          | 98              |
| 181                 | 0.5          | 98              | <b>710</b> | 174                      | 0.5          | 98              |
| 224                 | 0.6          | 97              | <b>700</b> | 256                      | 0.7          | 97              |
| 290                 | 0.8          | 97              | <b>690</b> | 253                      | 0.7          | 96              |
| 244                 | 0.7          | 96              | <b>680</b> | 279                      | 0.8          | 96              |
| 273                 | 0.8          | 95              | <b>670</b> | 319                      | 0.9          | 95              |
| 385                 | 1.1          | 94              | <b>660</b> | 431                      | 1.2          | 94              |
| 461                 | 1.3          | 93              | <b>650</b> | 422                      | 1.2          | 93              |
| 457                 | 1.3          | 92              | <b>640</b> | 710                      | 1.9          | 91              |
| 636                 | 1.7          | 90              | <b>630</b> | 519                      | 1.4          | 90              |
| 589                 | 1.6          | 89              | <b>620</b> | 562                      | 1.5          | 88              |
| 681                 | 1.9          | 87              | <b>610</b> | 1021                     | 2.8          | 86              |
| 842                 | 2.3          | 85              | <b>600</b> | 628                      | 1.7          | 84              |
| 1007                | 2.8          | 82              | <b>590</b> | 757                      | 2.1          | 82              |
| 708                 | 1.9          | 80              | <b>580</b> | 1196                     | 3.3          | 79              |
| 1055                | 2.9          | 78              | <b>570</b> | 795                      | 2.2          | 76              |
| 1202                | 3.3          | 75              | <b>560</b> | 950                      | 2.6          | 74              |
| 1226                | 3.4          | 71              | <b>550</b> | 1407                     | 3.8          | 71              |
| 975                 | 2.7          | 68              | <b>540</b> | 1105                     | 3.0          | 67              |
| 1299                | 3.6          | 65              | <b>530</b> | 948                      | 2.6          | 65              |
| 1370                | 3.7          | 61              | <b>520</b> | 1701                     | 4.6          | 61              |
| 1443                | 3.9          | 58              | <b>510</b> | 1112                     | 3.0          | 57              |
| 978                 | 2.7          | 54              | <b>500</b> | 985                      | 2.7          | 54              |
| 1461                | 4.0          | 51              | <b>490</b> | 1726                     | 4.7          | 50              |
| 1548                | 4.2          | 47              | <b>480</b> | 1138                     | 3.1          | 47              |
| 1144                | 3.1          | 43              | <b>470</b> | 1247                     | 3.4          | 43              |
| 1442                | 3.9          | 40              | <b>460</b> | 1570                     | 4.3          | 39              |
| 1499                | 4.1          | 36              | <b>450</b> | 1119                     | 3.1          | 36              |
| 1080                | 3.0          | 32              | <b>440</b> | 1256                     | 3.4          | 33              |
| 1283                | 3.5          | 29              | <b>430</b> | 1455                     | 4.0          | 29              |
| 1155                | 3.2          | 26              | <b>420</b> | 1102                     | 3.0          | 25              |
| 1163                | 3.2          | 22              | <b>410</b> | 1104                     | 3.0          | 22              |
| 937                 | 2.6          | 20              | <b>400</b> | 906                      | 2.5          | 20              |
| 1024                | 2.8          | 17              | <b>390</b> | 910                      | 2.5          | 17              |
| 686                 | 1.9          | 15              | <b>380</b> | 975                      | 2.7          | 15              |
| 919                 | 2.5          | 12              | <b>370</b> | 723                      | 2.0          | 12              |
| 679                 | 1.9          | 10              | <b>360</b> | 619                      | 1.7          | 10              |
| 505                 | 1.4          | 9               | <b>350</b> | 557                      | 1.5          | 9               |
| 438                 | 1.2          | 7               | <b>340</b> | 556                      | 1.5          | 7               |
| 465                 | 1.3          | 6               | <b>330</b> | 490                      | 1.3          | 6               |
| 373                 | 1.0          | 5               | <b>320</b> | 342                      | 0.9          | 5               |
| 318                 | 0.9          | 4               | <b>310</b> | 290                      | 0.8          | 4               |
| 234                 | 0.6          | 3               | <b>300</b> | 231                      | 0.6          | 3               |
| 212                 | 0.6          | 3               | <b>290</b> | 273                      | 0.8          | 2               |
| 151                 | 0.4          | 2               | <b>280</b> | 88                       | 0.2          | 2               |
| 151                 | 0.4          | 2               | <b>270</b> | 128                      | 0.4          | 2               |
| 123                 | 0.3          | 1               | <b>260</b> | 151                      | 0.4          | 1               |
| 68                  | 0.2          | 1               | <b>250</b> | 69                       | 0.2          | 1               |
| 59                  | 0.2          | 1               | <b>240</b> | 101                      | 0.3          | 1               |
| 46                  | 0.1          | 1               | <b>230</b> | 40                       | 0.1          | 1               |
| 64                  | 0.2          | 1               | <b>220</b> | 61                       | 0.2          | 1               |
| 45                  | 0.1          | 1               | <b>210</b> | 22                       | 0.1          | 1               |
| 130                 | 0.4          | 1               | <b>200</b> | 115                      | 0.3          | 1               |
| <b>36,636</b>       | <b>100.0</b> |                 |            | <b>36,636</b>            | <b>100.0</b> |                 |

**Note:** Scholastic Assessment Test scores are reported on the recentered score scale (1995).

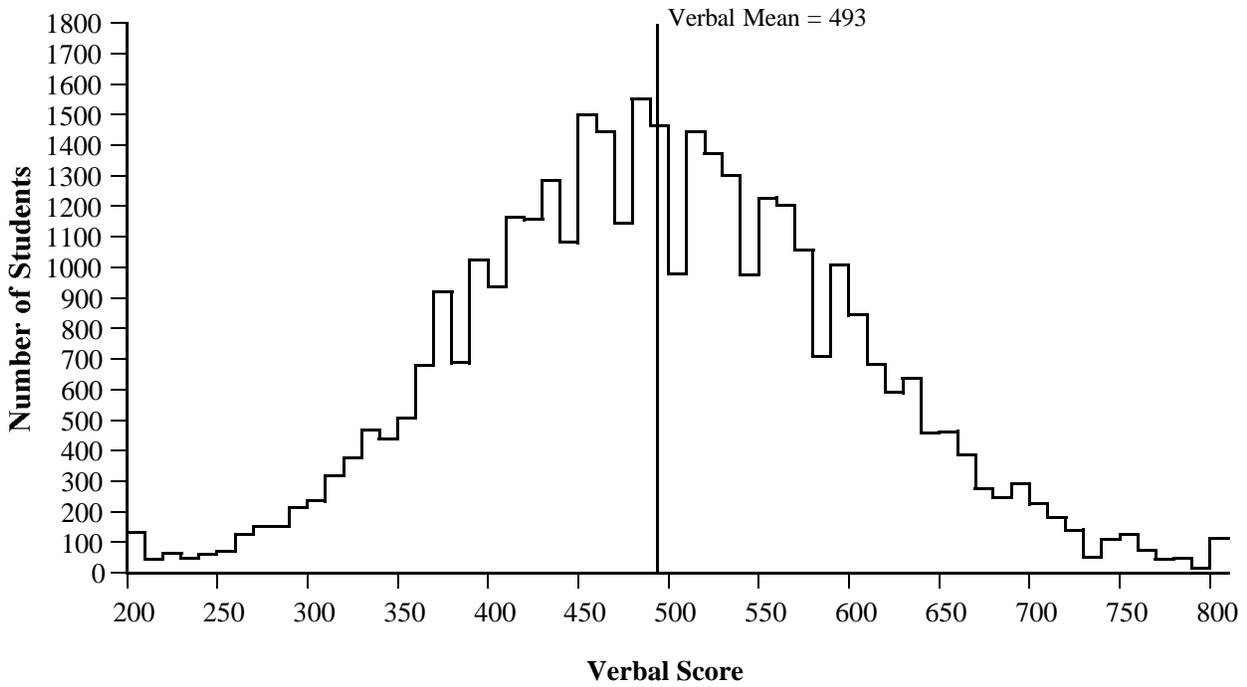


Figure 12. Distribution of North Carolina Public Schools Verbal SAT Scores 1999

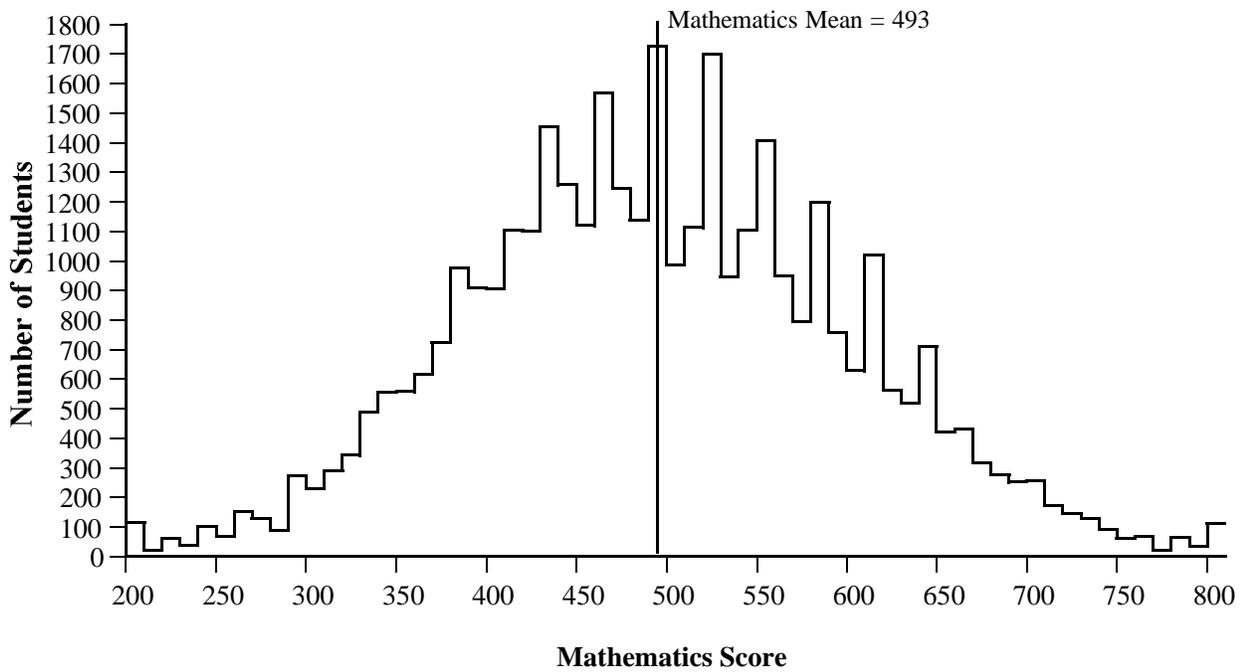


Figure 13. Distribution of North Carolina Public Schools Mathematics SAT Scores 1999

Note: All Scholastic Assessment Test scores are reported on the recentered score scale (1995).

Table 3. Mean Total SAT Score by Student Profile Characteristics 1998 – 1999

|   | United States |     | North Carolina |      |     | Difference from U. S. |
|---|---------------|-----|----------------|------|-----|-----------------------|
|   | Mean          | %   | N              | Mean | %   |                       |
| <b>All Students</b>                           | 1016          | 100 | 41,209         | 986  | 100 | -30                   |
| <b>Sex</b>                                    |               |     |                |      |     |                       |
| Male  | 1040          | 46  | 18,432         | 1006 | 45  | -34                   |
| Female  | 997           | 54  | 22,777         | 969  | 55  | -28                   |
| <b>Race/Ethnicity</b>                         |               |     |                |      |     |                       |
| American Indian                               | 965           | 1   | 515            | 900  | 1   | -65                   |
| Asian American                                | 1058          | 9   | 1,110          | 1026 | 3   | -32                   |
| Black   | 856           | 11  | 7,858          | 837  | 21  | -19                   |
| Hispanic                                      | 915           | 8   | 580            | 966  | 1   | 51                    |
| White   | 1055          | 67  | 27,145         | 1031 | 72  | -24                   |
| Other   | 1024          | 4   | 620            | 1005 | 2   | -19                   |
| <b>Parent Education Level</b>                 |               |     |                |      |     |                       |
| No high school diploma                        | 850           | 4   | 795            | 843  | 2   | -7                    |
| High school diploma                           | 950           | 33  | 13,395         | 924  | 36  | -26                   |
| Associate degree                              | 979           | 8   | 4,609          | 944  | 12  | -35                   |
| Bachelor's degree                             | 1056          | 29  | 11,241         | 1021 | 30  | -35                   |
| Graduate degree                               | 1121          | 25  | 7,574          | 1094 | 20  | -27                   |
| <b>Family Income (in U.S. dollars)</b>        |               |     |                |      |     |                       |
| Less than 10,000                              | 871           | 4   | 1,154          | 830  | 3   | -41                   |
| 10,000 - 20,000                               | 907           | 9   | 3,020          | 883  | 9   | -24                   |
| 20,000 - 30,000                               | 954           | 11  | 4,042          | 925  | 12  | -29                   |
| 30,000 - 40,000                               | 986           | 13  | 4,851          | 963  | 14  | -23                   |
| 40,000 - 50,000                               | 1011          | 11  | 4,182          | 985  | 12  | -26                   |
| 50,000 - 60,000                               | 1030          | 11  | 4,074          | 1002 | 12  | -28                   |
| 60,000 - 70,000                               | 1043          | 9   | 3,235          | 1014 | 9   | -29                   |
| 70,000 - 80,000                               | 1058          | 8   | 2,758          | 1028 | 8   | -30                   |
| 80,000 - 100,000                              | 1082          | 10  | 3,052          | 1054 | 9   | -28                   |
| More than 100,000                             | 1130          | 14  | 3,852          | 1102 | 11  | -28                   |
| <b>Total Credits in Six Academic Subjects</b> |               |     |                |      |     |                       |
| 20 or more                                    | 1096          | 51  | 15,459         | 1061 | 48  | -35                   |
| 19 to 19.5                                    | 1012          | 12  | 3,947          | 987  | 12  | -25                   |
| 18 to 18.5                                    | 980           | 11  | 3,672          | 956  | 11  | -24                   |
| 17 to 17.5                                    | 947           | 8   | 2,901          | 927  | 9   | -20                   |
| 16 to 16.5                                    | 927           | 6   | 2,072          | 896  | 6   | -31                   |
| 15 to 15.5                                    | 918           | 5   | 1,496          | 896  | 5   | -22                   |
| Fewer than 15                                 | 885           | 7   | 2,518          | 886  | 8   | 1                     |
| <b>High School Grade Point Average</b>        |               |     |                |      |     |                       |
| A+ (97-100)                                   | 1240          | 7   | 3,756          | 1191 | 10  | -49                   |
| A (93-96)                                     | 1149          | 16  | 7,082          | 1091 | 19  | -58                   |
| A- (90-92)                                    | 1092          | 16  | 5,859          | 1030 | 15  | -62                   |
| B (80-89)                                     | 968           | 48  | 16,323         | 928  | 43  | -40                   |
| C (70-79)                                     | 855           | 13  | 4,666          | 827  | 12  | -28                   |
| D or below                                    | 818           | 0   | 139            | 785  | 0   | -33                   |
| <b>High School Class Rank</b>                 |               |     |                |      |     |                       |
| Top Tenth                                     | 1197          | 21  | 6,918          | 1172 | 20  | -25                   |
| Second Tenth                                  | 1071          | 23  | 7,399          | 1044 | 21  | -27                   |
| Second Fifth                                  | 993           | 28  | 9,702          | 961  | 28  | -32                   |
| Third Fifth                                   | 907           | 24  | 8,740          | 877  | 25  | -30                   |
| Fourth Fifth                                  | 846           | 4   | 1,514          | 811  | 4   | -35                   |
| Lowest Fifth                                  | 812           | 1   | 308            | 769  | 1   | -43                   |

**Notes:**

1. All Scholastic Assessment Test scores are reported on the recentered score scale (1995).
2. In this table, United States and North Carolina mean scores include both public and non-public school students.

Table 4. United States and North Carolina Mean Total SAT Scores by Student Profile Characteristics 1996 – 1999

|   | 1996 |      |       | 1997 |      |       | 1998 |      |       | 1999 |      |       |
|---|------|------|-------|------|------|-------|------|------|-------|------|------|-------|
|   | US   | NC   | Diff. |
| <b>All Students</b>                       | 1013 | 976  | -37   | 1016 | 978  | -38   | 1017 | 981  | -36   | 1016 | 986  | -30   |
| <b>Sex</b>                                |      |      |       |      |      |       |      |      |       |      |      |       |
| Male                                      | 1034 | 994  | -40   | 1037 | 996  | -41   | 1040 | 1002 | -38   | 1040 | 1006 | -34   |
| Female                                    | 995  | 961  | -34   | 997  | 963  | -34   | 998  | 967  | -31   | 997  | 969  | -28   |
| <b>Race/Ethnicity</b>                     |      |      |       |      |      |       |      |      |       |      |      |       |
| American Indian                           | 960  | 887  | -73   | 950  | 900  | -50   | 963  | 906  | -57   | 965  | 900  | -65   |
| Asian American                            | 1054 | 1017 | -37   | 1056 | 1023 | -33   | 1060 | 1014 | -46   | 1058 | 1026 | -32   |
| Black                                     | 856  | 840  | -16   | 857  | 834  | -23   | 860  | 839  | -21   | 856  | 837  | -19   |
| Hispanic <sup>3</sup>                     | *    | *    | *     | 917  | 956  | 39    | 916  | 984  | 68    | 915  | 966  | 51    |
| White                                     | 1049 | 1018 | -31   | 1052 | 1023 | -29   | 1054 | 1026 | -28   | 1055 | 1031 | -24   |
| Other                                     | 945  | 983  | 38    | 1026 | 1013 | -13   | 1025 | 998  | -27   | 1024 | 1005 | -19   |
| <b>Parent Education Level</b>             |      |      |       |      |      |       |      |      |       |      |      |       |
| No high school diploma                    | 853  | 844  | -9    | 853  | 832  | -21   | 852  | 841  | -11   | 850  | 843  | -7    |
| High school diploma                       | 949  | 920  | -29   | 950  | 919  | -31   | 950  | 922  | -28   | 950  | 924  | -26   |
| Associate degree                          | 976  | 939  | -37   | 977  | 940  | -37   | 980  | 948  | -32   | 979  | 944  | -35   |
| Bachelor's degree                         | 1054 | 1015 | -39   | 1054 | 1016 | -38   | 1057 | 1016 | -41   | 1056 | 1021 | -35   |
| Graduate degree                           | 1114 | 1086 | -28   | 1116 | 1088 | -28   | 1119 | 1095 | -24   | 1121 | 1094 | -27   |
| <b>Family Income (in U.S. dollars)</b>    |      |      |       |      |      |       |      |      |       |      |      |       |
| Less than 10,000                          | 873  | 844  | -29   | 873  | 832  | -41   | 873  | 836  | -37   | 871  | 830  | -41   |
| 10,000-19,999                             | 920  | 893  | -27   | 918  | 884  | -34   | 914  | 885  | -29   | 907  | 883  | -24   |
| 20,000-29,999                             | 964  | 937  | -27   | 962  | 931  | -31   | 959  | 929  | -30   | 954  | 925  | -29   |
| 30,000-39,999                             | 992  | 957  | -35   | 993  | 959  | -34   | 992  | 961  | -31   | 986  | 963  | -23   |
| 40,000-49,999                             | 1016 | 978  | -38   | 1015 | 982  | -33   | 1015 | 983  | -32   | 1011 | 985  | -26   |
| 50,000-59,999                             | 1034 | 996  | -38   | 1033 | 1000 | -33   | 1032 | 1000 | -32   | 1030 | 1002 | -28   |
| 60,000-69,999                             | 1049 | 1018 | -31   | 1048 | 1014 | -34   | 1046 | 1018 | -28   | 1043 | 1014 | -29   |
| More than 70,000                          | 1098 | 1064 | -34   | 1098 | 1063 | -35   |      |      |       |      |      |       |
| 70,000-80,000                             |      |      |       |      |      |       | 1059 | 1027 | -32   | 1058 | 1028 | -30   |
| 80,000-100,000                            |      |      |       |      |      |       | 1085 | 1060 | -25   | 1082 | 1054 | -28   |
| More than 100,000                         |      |      |       |      |      |       | 1131 | 1100 | -31   | 1130 | 1102 | -28   |
| } Additional categories beginning in 1998 |      |      |       |      |      |       |      |      |       |      |      |       |
| <b>Total Credits in Six Subjects</b>      |      |      |       |      |      |       |      |      |       |      |      |       |
| 20 or more                                | 1101 | 1058 | -43   | 1101 | 1062 | -39   | 1096 | 1057 | -39   | 1096 | 1061 | -35   |
| 19 or 19.5                                | 1041 | 1006 | -35   | 1037 | 1007 | -30   | 1016 | 993  | -23   | 1012 | 987  | -25   |
| 18 or 18.5                                | 1001 | 965  | -36   | 999  | 964  | -35   | 982  | 957  | -25   | 980  | 956  | -24   |
| 17 or 17.5                                | 959  | 933  | -26   | 961  | 929  | -32   | 948  | 923  | -25   | 947  | 927  | -20   |
| 16 or 16.5                                | 933  | 903  | -30   | 936  | 896  | -40   | 926  | 898  | -28   | 927  | 896  | -31   |
| 15 or 15.5                                | 919  | 908  | -11   | 921  | 901  | -20   | 913  | 887  | -26   | 918  | 896  | -22   |
| Fewer than 15                             | 872  | 873  | 1     | 883  | 883  | 0     | 890  | 888  | -2    | 885  | 886  | 1     |
| <b>High School Grade Point Average</b>    |      |      |       |      |      |       |      |      |       |      |      |       |
| A+ (97-100)                               | 1249 | 1199 | -50   | 1243 | 1195 | -48   | 1242 | 1191 | -51   | 1240 | 1191 | -49   |
| A (93-96)                                 | 1156 | 1102 | -54   | 1153 | 1089 | -64   | 1151 | 1091 | -60   | 1149 | 1091 | -58   |
| A- (90-92)                                | 1099 | 1034 | -65   | 1095 | 1033 | -62   | 1096 | 1031 | -65   | 1092 | 1030 | -62   |
| B (80-89)                                 | 971  | 928  | -43   | 971  | 926  | -45   | 970  | 929  | -41   | 968  | 928  | -40   |
| C (70-79)                                 | 858  | 827  | -31   | 860  | 824  | -36   | 858  | 830  | -28   | 855  | 827  | -28   |
| D or below (<70)                          | 822  | 789  | -33   | 820  | 786  | -34   | 819  | 768  | -51   | 818  | 785  | -33   |
| <b>High School Class Rank</b>             |      |      |       |      |      |       |      |      |       |      |      |       |
| Top Tenth                                 | 1197 | 1162 | -35   | 1195 | 1162 | -33   | 1197 | 1170 | -27   | 1197 | 1172 | -25   |
| Second Tenth                              | 1069 | 1030 | -39   | 1070 | 1032 | -38   | 1073 | 1038 | -35   | 1071 | 1044 | -27   |
| Second Fifth                              | 990  | 953  | -37   | 992  | 955  | -37   | 994  | 958  | -36   | 993  | 961  | -32   |
| Third Fifth                               | 903  | 869  | -34   | 906  | 869  | -37   | 907  | 874  | -33   | 907  | 877  | -30   |
| Fourth Fifth                              | 847  | 806  | -41   | 848  | 807  | -41   | 848  | 813  | -35   | 846  | 811  | -35   |
| Lowest Fifth                              | 812  | 790  | -22   | 815  | 766  | -49   | 811  | 774  | -37   | 812  | 769  | -43   |

- Notes:** 1. All Scholastic Assessment Test scores are reported on the recentered score scale (1995).  
2. A conversion table provided by Educational Testing Service was applied to the national and state subgroup means to convert the original means to the recentered scale as described in the Introduction.  
3. Hispanic students were reported in the Other category prior to 1997 for United States and North Carolina (denoted by \*).

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## Data Appendix

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Performance of the 117 Public School Systems, Charter Schools, North Carolina School of the Arts, and North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics

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Table 5. Mean SAT Scores for North Carolina Public Schools 1999

| <b>School System</b>        | <b>Number Tested</b> | <b>Percent Tested</b> | <b>Verbal Score</b> | <b>Math Score</b> | <b>Total Score</b> |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| <b>United States Total</b>  | 1,220,130            | 43.0                  | 505                 | 511               | 1016               |
| <b>North Carolina Total</b> | 41,209               | 61.0                  | 493                 | 493               | 986                |
| Alamance County             | 593                  | 65.5                  | 478                 | 485               | 963                |
| Alexander County            | 125                  | 47.5                  | 463                 | 469               | 932                |
| Alleghany County            | 56                   | 58.9                  | 479                 | 478               | 957                |
| Anson County                | 94                   | 41.6                  | 424                 | 447               | 871                |
| Ashe County                 | 104                  | 53.3                  | 491                 | 487               | 978                |
| Avery County                | 70                   | 54.3                  | 507                 | 504               | 1011               |
| Beaufort County             | 159                  | 46.6                  | 493                 | 486               | 979                |
| Bertie County               | 115                  | 53.5                  | 412                 | 430               | 842                |
| Bladen County               | 178                  | 56.7                  | 434                 | 427               | 861                |
| Brunswick County            | 216                  | 47.4                  | 477                 | 474               | 951                |
| Buncombe County             | 743                  | 55.7                  | 527                 | 529               | 1056               |
| Asheville                   | 165                  | 77.8                  | 544                 | 525               | 1069               |
| Burke County                | 299                  | 46.6                  | 492                 | 491               | 983                |
| Cabarrus County             | 568                  | 62.8                  | 497                 | 506               | 1003               |
| Kannapolis                  | 83                   | 59.3                  | 480                 | 467               | 947                |
| Caldwell County             | 193                  | 35.4                  | 495                 | 494               | 989                |
| Camden County               | 60                   | 66.7                  | 489                 | 480               | 969                |
| Carteret County             | 301                  | 67.8                  | 482                 | 481               | 963                |
| Caswell County              | 76                   | 55.9                  | 418                 | 418               | 836                |
| Catawba County              | 437                  | 55.9                  | 483                 | 509               | 992                |
| Hickory                     | 158                  | 81.0                  | 508                 | 526               | 1034               |
| Newton-Conover              | 94                   | 56.6                  | 498                 | 508               | 1006               |
| Chatham County              | 169                  | 62.4                  | 486                 | 469               | 955                |
| Woods Charter               | 10                   | 76.9                  | 504                 | 497               | 1001               |
| Cherokee County             | 98                   | 51.3                  | 497                 | 500               | 997                |
| Chowan County               | 73                   | 49.0                  | 487                 | 467               | 954                |
| Clay County                 | 37                   | 41.6                  | 514                 | 519               | 1033               |
| Cleveland County            | 200                  | 50.6                  | 479                 | 480               | 959                |
| Kings Mountain District     | 113                  | 57.7                  | 464                 | 473               | 937                |
| Shelby                      | 110                  | 68.3                  | 478                 | 489               | 967                |
| Columbus County             | 145                  | 39.4                  | 447                 | 451               | 898                |
| Whiteville                  | 91                   | 79.8                  | 452                 | 441               | 893                |
| Craven County               | 426                  | 64.4                  | 488                 | 479               | 967                |
| Cumberland County           | 1,185                | 49.6                  | 484                 | 467               | 951                |
| Currituck County            | 64                   | 47.1                  | 485                 | 477               | 962                |
| Dare County                 | 159                  | 78.7                  | 515                 | 519               | 1034               |
| Davidson County             | 531                  | 57.5                  | 496                 | 483               | 979                |
| Lexington                   | 56                   | 45.9                  | 498                 | 476               | 974                |
| Thomasville                 | 66                   | 69.5                  | 470                 | 440               | 910                |
| Davie County                | 131                  | 55.7                  | 513                 | 526               | 1039               |

**Notes:** \* Data are not reported where number tested was fewer than five.

1. All Scholastic Assessment Test scores are reported on the recentered score scale (1995).
2. Percent tested is calculated as the number of students taking the SAT in the LEA divided by the eighth month, twelfth grade membership in the LEA.

Table 5 (continued). Mean SAT Scores for North Carolina Public Schools 1999

| <b>School System</b>            | <b>Number Tested</b> | <b>Percent Tested</b> | <b>Verbal Score</b> | <b>Math Score</b> | <b>Total Score</b> |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| <b>United States Total</b>      | 1,220,130            | 43.0                  | 505                 | 511               | 1016               |
| <b>NC State Total</b>           | 41,209               | 61.0                  | 493                 | 493               | 986                |
| Duplin County                   | 241                  | 59.1                  | 443                 | 449               | 892                |
| Durham County                   | 1,006                | 80.3                  | 496                 | 494               | 990                |
| Edgecombe County                | 160                  | 43.4                  | 451                 | 449               | 900                |
| Forsyth County                  | 1,510                | 69.7                  | 497                 | 496               | 993                |
| Franklin County                 | 148                  | 46.8                  | 491                 | 487               | 978                |
| Gaston County                   | 793                  | 56.8                  | 490                 | 473               | 963                |
| Gates County                    | 51                   | 57.3                  | 452                 | 459               | 911                |
| Graham County                   | 30                   | 50.8                  | 491                 | 472               | 963                |
| Granville County                | 179                  | 45.8                  | 496                 | 499               | 995                |
| Greene County                   | 60                   | 39.5                  | 456                 | 454               | 910                |
| Greensboro Math and Science Ctr | 4                    | NA                    | *                   | *                 | *                  |
| Guilford County                 | 2,253                | 72.2                  | 494                 | 498               | 992                |
| Halifax County                  | 155                  | 42.9                  | 359                 | 355               | 714                |
| Roanoke Rapids                  | 86                   | 49.7                  | 482                 | 480               | 962                |
| Weldon                          | 27                   | 52.9                  | 380                 | 364               | 744                |
| Harnett County                  | 255                  | 41.0                  | 498                 | 499               | 997                |
| Haywood County                  | 248                  | 58.4                  | 502                 | 509               | 1011               |
| Henderson County                | 435                  | 72.1                  | 514                 | 514               | 1028               |
| Hertford County                 | 109                  | 47.2                  | 399                 | 374               | 773                |
| Hoke County                     | 114                  | 43.5                  | 433                 | 410               | 843                |
| Hyde County                     | 30                   | 56.6                  | 475                 | 461               | 936                |
| Iredell County                  | 356                  | 46.8                  | 499                 | 507               | 1006               |
| Mooresville                     | 126                  | 62.7                  | 494                 | 517               | 1011               |
| Jackson County                  | 127                  | 77.9                  | 496                 | 500               | 996                |
| Johnston County                 | 428                  | 51.7                  | 470                 | 470               | 940                |
| Jones County                    | 38                   | 44.7                  | 446                 | 439               | 885                |
| Lee County                      | 229                  | 56.1                  | 482                 | 487               | 969                |
| Lenoir County                   | 279                  | 60.8                  | 471                 | 473               | 944                |
| Lincoln County                  | 290                  | 54.4                  | 483                 | 490               | 973                |
| Macon County                    | 153                  | 69.5                  | 492                 | 497               | 989                |
| Madison County                  | 51                   | 40.8                  | 505                 | 519               | 1024               |
| Martin County                   | 153                  | 59.3                  | 445                 | 437               | 882                |
| McDowell County                 | 139                  | 46.0                  | 505                 | 506               | 1011               |
| Mecklenburg County              | 3,444                | 71.2                  | 491                 | 494               | 985                |
| Mitchell County                 | 66                   | 43.1                  | 490                 | 487               | 977                |
| Montgomery County               | 78                   | 36.4                  | 467                 | 472               | 939                |
| Moore County                    | 302                  | 54.6                  | 483                 | 471               | 954                |
| Nash County                     | 463                  | 50.3                  | 475                 | 475               | 950                |
| NC School of Science and Math   | 275                  | NA                    | 655                 | 678               | 1333               |
| NC School of the Arts           | 98                   | NA                    | 569                 | 526               | 1095               |
| New Hanover County              | 781                  | 65.8                  | 509                 | 504               | 1013               |

**Notes:** \* Data are not reported where number tested was fewer than five.

1. All Scholastic Assessment Test scores are reported on the recentered score scale (1995).
2. Percent tested is calculated as the number of students taking the SAT in the LEA divided by the eighth month, twelfth grade membership in the LEA.

Table 5 (continued). Mean SAT Scores for North Carolina Public Schools 1999

| <b>School System</b>       | <b>Number Tested</b> | <b>Percent Tested</b> | <b>Verbal Score</b> | <b>Math Score</b> | <b>Total Score</b> |
|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| <b>United States Total</b> | 1,220,130            | 43.0                  | 505                 | 511               | 1016               |
| <b>NC State Total</b>      | 41,209               | 61.0                  | 493                 | 493               | 986                |
| Northampton County         | 126                  | 60.3                  | 403                 | 395               | 798                |
| Onslow County              | 553                  | 51.9                  | 495                 | 497               | 992                |
| Orange County              | 216                  | 74.2                  | 504                 | 502               | 1006               |
| Chapel Hill                | 468                  | 96.1                  | 576                 | 584               | 1160               |
| School in the Community    | 1                    | 33.3                  | *                   | *                 | *                  |
| Pamlico County             | 61                   | 55.0                  | 479                 | 492               | 971                |
| Pasquotank County          | 169                  | 67.3                  | 454                 | 453               | 907                |
| Pender County              | 156                  | 50.2                  | 475                 | 470               | 945                |
| Perquimans County          | 46                   | 44.7                  | 425                 | 438               | 863                |
| Person County              | 164                  | 56.9                  | 469                 | 474               | 943                |
| Pitt County                | 607                  | 61.9                  | 490                 | 493               | 983                |
| Right Step Academy         | 1                    | 12.5                  | *                   | *                 | *                  |
| Polk County                | 52                   | 45.6                  | 491                 | 494               | 985                |
| Randolph County            | 342                  | 45.9                  | 482                 | 486               | 968                |
| Asheboro                   | 142                  | 73.6                  | 480                 | 488               | 968                |
| Richmond County            | 206                  | 53.0                  | 453                 | 451               | 904                |
| Robeson County             | 452                  | 45.8                  | 436                 | 434               | 870                |
| Rockingham County          | 350                  | 54.9                  | 477                 | 479               | 956                |
| Rowan County               | 466                  | 49.3                  | 481                 | 487               | 968                |
| Rutherford County          | 264                  | 51.3                  | 474                 | 461               | 935                |
| Sampson County             | 181                  | 48.7                  | 434                 | 429               | 863                |
| Clinton                    | 106                  | 64.2                  | 428                 | 452               | 880                |
| Scotland County            | 224                  | 64.9                  | 436                 | 433               | 869                |
| Stanly County              | 317                  | 58.0                  | 459                 | 479               | 938                |
| Stokes County              | 168                  | 57.3                  | 489                 | 491               | 980                |
| Surry County               | 170                  | 48.2                  | 486                 | 475               | 961                |
| Elkin                      | 51                   | 63.0                  | 502                 | 507               | 1009               |
| Mount Airy                 | 57                   | 67.9                  | 486                 | 498               | 984                |
| Swain County               | 56                   | 68.3                  | 509                 | 492               | 1001               |
| Transylvania County        | 138                  | 66.0                  | 513                 | 507               | 1020               |
| Tyrrell County             | 35                   | 51.5                  | 458                 | 450               | 908                |
| Union County               | 614                  | 63.4                  | 497                 | 488               | 985                |
| Vance County               | 144                  | 50.3                  | 429                 | 425               | 854                |
| Wake County                | 3,496                | 76.6                  | 522                 | 537               | 1059               |
| Warren County              | 82                   | 69.5                  | 448                 | 426               | 874                |
| Washington County          | 95                   | 57.9                  | 411                 | 405               | 816                |
| Watauga County             | 237                  | 80.1                  | 528                 | 527               | 1055               |
| Wayne County               | 525                  | 50.8                  | 478                 | 472               | 950                |
| Wilkes County              | 250                  | 51.9                  | 512                 | 502               | 1014               |
| Wilson County              | 298                  | 52.2                  | 470                 | 482               | 952                |
| Yadkin County              | 156                  | 58.6                  | 479                 | 462               | 941                |
| Yancey County              | 72                   | 48.0                  | 511                 | 477               | 988                |

**Notes:** \* Data are not reported where number tested was fewer than five.

1. All Scholastic Assessment Test scores are reported on the recentered score scale (1995).
2. Percent tested is calculated as the number of students taking the SAT in the LEA divided by the eighth month, twelfth grade membership in the LEA.

Table 6. Distribution of North Carolina 1999 Public School Systems by Mean Total SAT Scores

| North Carolina Mean | School System  |
|---------------------|--|
| 1340                | N.C. School of Science and Mathematics   |
| ⋮                   |  |
| 1160                | Chapel Hill-Carrboro City  |
| 1150                |  |
| 1140                |  |
| 1130                |  |
| 1120                |  |
| 1100                |  |
| 1100                | N.C. School of the Arts  |
| 1090                |  |
| 1080                |  |
| 1070                | Asheville City   |
| 1060                | Buncombe, Wake, Watauga  |
| 1050                |  |
| 1040                | Clay, Dare, Davie, Hickory City  |
| 1030                | Henderson, Madison   |
| 1020                | Avery, Haywood, McDowell, Mooresville City, New Hanover, Transylvania, Wilkes  |
| 1010                | Cabarrus, Elkin City, Iredell-Statesville, Newton Conover City, Orange, Swain, Woods Charter   |
| 1000                | Catawba, Cherokee, Granville, Guilford, Harnett, Jackson, Onslow, Winston-Salem/Forsyth  |
| 990                 | Burke, Caldwell, Charlotte/Mecklenburg, Durham, Macon, Mount Airy City, Pitt, Polk, Union, Yancey  |
| 980                 | Ashe, Beaufort, Davidson, Franklin, Lexington City, Lincoln, Mitchell, Pamlico, Stokes   |
| 970                 | Alamance-Burlington, Asheboro City, Camden, Carteret, Craven, Currituck, Gaston, Graham, Lee, Randolph, Roanoke Rapids City, Rowan-Salisbury, Shelby City, Surry |
| 960                 | Alleghany, Brunswick, Chatham, Cleveland, Cumberland, Edenton/Chowan, Moore, Rockingham, Wilson  |
| 950                 | Kannapolis City, Lenoir, Nash-Rocky Mount, Pender, Person, Wayne, Yadkin   |
| 940                 | Alexander, Hyde, Johnston, Kings Mountain City, Montgomery, Rutherford, Stanly   |
| 930                 |  |
| 920                 | Gates  |
| 910                 | Elizabeth City/Pasquotank, Greene, Richmond, Thomasville City, Tyrrell   |
| 900                 | Columbus, Duplin, Edgecombe, Whiteville City   |
| 890                 | Jones, Martin  |
| 880                 | Anson, Clinton City, Warren  |
| 870                 | Bladen, Perquimans, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland   |
| 860                 | Vance  |
| 850                 | Bertie, Hoke   |
| 840                 | Caswell  |
| 830                 |  |
| 820                 | Washington   |
| 810                 |  |
| 800                 | Northampton  |
| 790                 |  |
| 780                 | Hertford   |
| 770                 |  |
| 760                 |  |
| 750                 | Weldon City  |
| 740                 |  |
| 730                 |  |
| 720                 | Halifax  |
| 710                 |  |
| 700                 |  |

**Notes:**

1. All Scholastic Assessment Test scores are reported on the recentered score scale (1995).
2. Data are not reported for Greensboro Math and Science Center, Right Step Academy, and School in the Community because the number tested was less than five.

Data Appendix

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Performance of the Fifty States

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Table 7. Mean Verbal, Mathematics, and Total SAT Scores by State 1999

| State                 | Percent Tested* | Mean       |             |             |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
|                       |                 | Verbal     | Mathematics | Total       |
| Alabama               | 9               | 561        | 555         | 1116        |
| Alaska                | 50              | 516        | 514         | 1030        |
| Arizona               | 34              | 524        | 525         | 1049        |
| Arkansas              | 6               | 563        | 556         | 1119        |
| California            | 49              | 497        | 514         | 1011        |
| Colorado              | 32              | 536        | 540         | 1076        |
| Connecticut           | 80              | 510        | 509         | 1019        |
| Delaware              | 67              | 503        | 497         | 1000        |
| District of Columbia  | 77              | 494        | 478         | 972         |
| Florida               | 53              | 499        | 498         | 997         |
| Georgia               | 63              | 487        | 482         | 969         |
| Hawaii                | 52              | 482        | 513         | 995         |
| Idaho                 | 16              | 542        | 540         | 1082        |
| Illinois              | 12              | 569        | 585         | 1154        |
| Indiana               | 60              | 496        | 498         | 994         |
| Iowa                  | 5               | 594        | 598         | 1192        |
| Kansas                | 9               | 578        | 576         | 1154        |
| Kentucky              | 12              | 547        | 547         | 1094        |
| Louisiana             | 8               | 561        | 558         | 1119        |
| Maine                 | 68              | 507        | 503         | 1010        |
| Maryland              | 65              | 507        | 507         | 1014        |
| Massachusetts         | 78              | 511        | 511         | 1022        |
| Michigan              | 11              | 557        | 565         | 1122        |
| Minnesota             | 9               | 586        | 598         | 1184        |
| Mississippi           | 4               | 563        | 548         | 1111        |
| Missouri              | 8               | 572        | 572         | 1144        |
| Montana               | 21              | 545        | 546         | 1091        |
| Nebraska              | 8               | 568        | 571         | 1139        |
| Nevada                | 34              | 512        | 517         | 1029        |
| New Hampshire         | 72              | 520        | 518         | 1038        |
| New Jersey            | 80              | 498        | 510         | 1008        |
| New Mexico            | 12              | 549        | 542         | 1091        |
| New York              | 76              | 495        | 502         | 997         |
| <b>North Carolina</b> | <b>61</b>       | <b>493</b> | <b>493</b>  | <b>986</b>  |
| North Dakota          | 5               | 594        | 605         | 1199        |
| Ohio                  | 25              | 534        | 538         | 1072        |
| Oklahoma              | 8               | 567        | 560         | 1127        |
| Oregon                | 53              | 525        | 525         | 1050        |
| Pennsylvania          | 70              | 498        | 495         | 993         |
| Rhode Island          | 70              | 504        | 499         | 1003        |
| South Carolina        | 61              | 479        | 475         | 954         |
| South Dakota          | 4               | 585        | 588         | 1173        |
| Tennessee             | 13              | 559        | 553         | 1112        |
| Texas                 | 50              | 494        | 499         | 993         |
| Utah                  | 5               | 570        | 568         | 1138        |
| Vermont               | 70              | 514        | 506         | 1020        |
| Virginia              | 65              | 508        | 499         | 1007        |
| Washington            | 52              | 525        | 526         | 1051        |
| West Virginia         | 18              | 527        | 512         | 1039        |
| Wisconsin             | 7               | 584        | 595         | 1179        |
| Wyoming               | 10              | 546        | 551         | 1097        |
| <b>United States</b>  | <b>43</b>       | <b>505</b> | <b>511</b>  | <b>1016</b> |

**Notes:** \* Percent tested is from The College Board reports. The College Board based percent tested on the projection of high school graduates in 1999 by the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education, and number of students in the Class of 1999 who took the SAT I: Reasoning Test. Updated projections make it inappropriate to compare percentages for this year with those of previous years.

1. Scholastic Assessment Test scores are reported on the recentered score scale (1995).
2. In this table, United States and North Carolina mean scores include both public and private school students.

Table 8. Change in Mean Total SAT Score from 1989 to 1999 by State

| State                 | Percent Tested* | Mean Total     | Mean Total     | Change from 1989 to 1999 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------|
|                       |                 | SAT Score 1989 | SAT Score 1999 |                          |
| Alabama               | 9               | 1095           | 1116           | 21                       |
| Alaska                | 50              | 1024           | 1030           | 6                        |
| Arizona               | 34              | 1051           | 1049           | -2                       |
| Arkansas              | 6               | 1083           | 1119           | 36                       |
| California            | 49              | 1007           | 1011           | 4                        |
| Colorado              | 32              | 1064           | 1076           | 12                       |
| Connecticut           | 80              | 1010           | 1019           | 9                        |
| Delaware              | 67              | 1006           | 1000           | -6                       |
| District of Columbia  | 77              | 947            | 972            | 25                       |
| Florida               | 53              | 991            | 997            | 6                        |
| Georgia               | 63              | 954            | 969            | 15                       |
| Hawaii                | 52              | 989            | 995            | 6                        |
| Idaho                 | 16              | 1064           | 1082           | 18                       |
| Illinois              | 12              | 1076           | 1154           | 78                       |
| Indiana               | 60              | 977            | 994            | 17                       |
| Iowa                  | 5               | 1170           | 1192           | 22                       |
| Kansas                | 9               | 1130           | 1154           | 24                       |
| Kentucky              | 12              | 1091           | 1094           | 3                        |
| Louisiana             | 8               | 1083           | 1119           | 36                       |
| Maine                 | 68              | 1001           | 1010           | 9                        |
| Maryland              | 65              | 1015           | 1014           | -1                       |
| Massachusetts         | 78              | 1008           | 1022           | 14                       |
| Michigan              | 11              | 1068           | 1122           | 54                       |
| Minnesota             | 9               | 1100           | 1184           | 84                       |
| Mississippi           | 4               | 1083           | 1111           | 28                       |
| Missouri              | 8               | 1084           | 1144           | 60                       |
| Montana               | 21              | 1087           | 1091           | 4                        |
| Nebraska              | 8               | 1122           | 1139           | 17                       |
| Nevada                | 34              | 1028           | 1029           | 1                        |
| New Hampshire         | 72              | 1034           | 1038           | 4                        |
| New Jersey            | 80              | 997            | 1008           | 11                       |
| New Mexico            | 12              | 1108           | 1091           | -17                      |
| New York              | 76              | 991            | 997            | 6                        |
| <b>North Carolina</b> | <b>61</b>       | <b>943</b>     | <b>986</b>     | <b>43</b>                |
| North Dakota          | 5               | 1155           | 1199           | 44                       |
| Ohio                  | 25              | 1048           | 1072           | 24                       |
| Oklahoma              | 8               | 1096           | 1127           | 31                       |
| Oregon                | 53              | 1028           | 1050           | 22                       |
| Pennsylvania          | 70              | 991            | 993            | 2                        |
| Rhode Island          | 70              | 998            | 1003           | 5                        |
| South Carolina        | 61              | 945            | 954            | 9                        |
| South Dakota          | 4               | 1133           | 1173           | 40                       |
| Tennessee             | 13              | 1103           | 1112           | 9                        |
| Texas                 | 50              | 982            | 993            | 11                       |
| Utah                  | 5               | 1127           | 1138           | 11                       |
| Vermont               | 70              | 1009           | 1020           | 11                       |
| Virginia              | 65              | 1005           | 1007           | 2                        |
| Washington            | 52              | 1039           | 1051           | 12                       |
| West Virginia         | 18              | 1040           | 1039           | -1                       |
| Wisconsin             | 7               | 1107           | 1179           | 72                       |
| Wyoming               | 10              | 1075           | 1097           | 22                       |
| <b>United States</b>  | <b>43</b>       | <b>1006</b>    | <b>1016</b>    | <b>10</b>                |

**Notes:** \* Percent tested is from The College Board reports. The College Board based percent tested on the projection of high school graduates in 1999 by the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education, and number of students in the Class of 1999 who took the SAT I: Reasoning Test. Updated projections make it inappropriate to compare percentages for this year with those of previous years.

1. Scholastic Assessment Test scores are reported on the recentered score scale (1995).
2. In this table, United States and North Carolina mean scores include both public and private school students.