



# News Release

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**Embargoed Until 11 a.m. EDT Monday, Sept. 13, 2010**  
**Immediately After the Embargo Lifts, Press Materials Will Be Available**  
**on the College Board Website at [www.collegeboard.com/SATpress](http://www.collegeboard.com/SATpress)**

For Release: Sept. 13, 2010

## **2010 New York College-Bound Seniors More Diverse Than Ever Before** **SAT<sup>®</sup> Results Underscore Importance of Academic Rigor**

NEW YORK — In New York, the largest and most diverse group of graduating seniors in state history participated in the college-going process by taking the SAT<sup>®</sup>. More students in the New York class of 2010 took the SAT (161,139) than any other class in state history. Of the state's 2010 college-bound seniors who took the SAT, 42.0 percent were minority students, up from 32.2 percent in 2005 and 28.1 percent in 2000. In addition, 38.8 percent of the state's SAT takers indicated that they will be first-generation college attendees.

SAT results underscored the importance of academic rigor; New York students who completed a core curriculum and/or pursued more advanced course work tended to achieve greater success on the SAT.

College Board President Gaston Caperton said, "I congratulate New York students, their parents and educators on their good work. I'm especially encouraged by both the number of minority students in New York who plan to go on to college and by the number of students who will be the first in their families to seek a college education. For the U.S. to maintain its leadership position in an increasingly competitive world economy, we must commit ourselves to preparing all students for the challenges of higher education." He added, "Similarly, we must work together to ensure that these students are championed by programs that help prepare them to reach their academic goals."

New York State recently won a Race to the Top grant, which it intends to use to transform failing schools, close the achievement gap and prepare all children for college and career success.

"We know that to succeed in today's competitive global economy, students must continue their education beyond high school," said State Education Commissioner David Steiner. "I'm very pleased that such a large and diverse group of New York's students has demonstrated an interest in attending college. But we also know that far too many students who begin college require significant remediation when they get there. That's why the Regents have embarked

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on a bold reform agenda that will give us a demanding, clear curriculum; reliable and rigorous assessments; high standards; and effective teachers in every classroom. In short, it is an agenda that will prepare all students for college and careers.”

**A Rigorous Curriculum and College Readiness**

New York students completing a core curriculum — four or more years of English, three or more years of mathematics, three or more years of natural science, and three or more years of social science and history — outscored their classmates who did not take a core curriculum. Comparisons of New York students who took core curricula with those who did not showed a combined average score difference on the three sections of 181 points.

	All New York SAT Takers		
	Critical Reading	Mathematics	Writing
Core Curriculum	507	523	501
Non-Core Curriculum	448	461	441
Difference	+59	+62	+60

It is critical that all students — especially those traditionally underrepresented in postsecondary education — have access to the curriculum that will best prepare them for college.

“The members of the College Board believe that all young people deserve a high-quality education that will prepare them to succeed in college and in their careers. By establishing a common standard across our country, we will be able to provide a readily understood pathway to student success,” said Robert Alig, head of the Middle States Region of the College Board.

To this end, the College Board and the state of New York are participants in the Common Core State Standards Initiative, a national effort to design common college and career-readiness standards in English language arts and mathematics that are evidence based and internationally benchmarked.

The efforts to establish common core standards build on the success that has been achieved using rigorous curricula such as the Advanced Placement Program<sup>®</sup>. Studies continue to show that students who score at least a 3 on an AP<sup>®</sup> Exam in high school experience greater academic success in college and graduate from college at higher rates than their comparable, non-AP peers.\* In addition to completing a core curriculum, those students who took more demanding honors or Advanced Placement<sup>®</sup> courses also tended to have higher SAT scores. For example, students who took English honors or AP courses scored 82 points higher in critical reading than the average of all students in New York, and 85 points higher in writing. Similarly, students taking math honors or AP courses had a 111-point advantage compared to the average SAT mathematics scores for the state.

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\* Leslie Keng and Barbara G. Dodd, *A Comparison of College Performances of AP and Non-AP Student Groups in 10 Subject Areas* (New York: The College Board, 2008); Rick Morgan and John Klaric, *AP Students in College: An Analysis of Five-Year Academic Careers* (New York: The College Board, 2007.); Chrys Dougherty, Lynn Mellor, and Shuling Jian, *The Relationship Between Advanced Placement and College Graduation* (Austin, Texas: National Center for Educational Accountability, 2005).

**The PSAT/NMSQT® Provides Path to SAT® Success**

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) is an important step on the path to college readiness, providing valuable tools that can help students understand their academic strengths and weaknesses in time to prepare for the SAT and education opportunities beyond high school. The state of New York funds PSAT/NMSQT for sophomores in participating districts. Of the SAT takers in the New York class of 2010, 85.5 percent reported taking the PSAT/NMSQT.

The PSAT/NMSQT measures the same skills as the SAT, and students who take the PSAT/NMSQT often perform better on the SAT. In New York, SAT takers who took the PSAT/NMSQT scored, on average, 151 points higher combined on the SAT than those who did not take the PSAT/NMSQT.

	All New York SAT Takers		
	Critical Reading	Mathematics	Writing
PSAT/NMSQT Takers	496	512	491
Non-PSAT/NMSQT Takers	451	461	436
Difference	+45	+51	+55

Students who participate in the PSAT/NMSQT program receive free access to My College QuickStart™, which includes an enhanced score report that allows students to review each test question, their answers to the questions and the correct answers with explanations. Through My College QuickStart, PSAT/NMSQT takers also have access to My SAT Study Plan™, an online customized plan that highlights skills and topics for additional review and practice based on each student’s performance on the PSAT/NMSQT.

**SAT Participation and Performance**

Overall, 161,139 students in the New York class of 2010 took the SAT, marking a 0.8 percent increase in SAT participants when compared to the New York class of 2009. New York is among the top three states with the highest SAT participation rate; 85.5 percent of all New York high school graduates take the SAT at some point during their high school careers.

Among the SAT takers in the New York class of 2010, 84 percent reported attending public schools, where students showed a three-point gain in critical reading and writing scores, while mathematics scores remained stable. Average scores for the entire group of New York SAT takers remained relatively stable, with critical reading dropping one point, mathematics declining three points and writing unchanged.

	All New York SAT Takers		Public School SAT Takers	
	2010	2009	2010	2009
Critical Reading	484	485	483	480
Mathematics	499	502	501	501
Writing	478	478	476	473

### College Plans of New York SAT Takers

Among the students in the New York class of 2010 who took the SAT, 23.8 percent indicated plans to attain a bachelor's degree, while 52.1 percent indicated plans to attain a more advanced (master's or doctorate) degree. The vast majority (78.6 percent) of New York SAT takers also indicated that they planned to apply for financial aid.

In the New York class of 2010, students who took the SAT and/or SAT Subject Tests™ sent score reports to a total of 2,561 institutions.

Top 10 colleges and universities receiving scores from New York SAT takers:

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| 1. State University of New York– Binghamton            | 6. Hunter College, City University of New York      |
| 2. State University of New York–Stony Brook            | 7. St. Johns University                             |
| 3. City University of New York                         | 8. State University of New York, College at Buffalo |
| 4. State University of New York–Albany                 | 9. State University of New York at New Paltz        |
| 5. State University of New York, University at Buffalo | 10. Cornell University                              |

Students who take the SAT, PSAT/NMSQT and AP have the option to participate in Student Search Service®, a free service that enables students to receive educational and financial aid information from colleges, universities and scholarship programs. More than 1.4 million 2010 college-bound seniors participated in Student Search Service.

The *2010 College-Bound Seniors Total Group Profile Report* and the *New York State Profile Report* are available at [www.collegeboard.com/SATpress](http://www.collegeboard.com/SATpress).

### The SAT®

Created and designed by educators, the SAT® is a valuable and reliable measure of college readiness for students seeking admission to undergraduate colleges and universities in the United States. The SAT tests the academic skills and knowledge that students acquire in high school. It also shows how well students can apply their knowledge, a factor that educators and researchers agree is critical to success in college course work. The SAT is consistently shown to be a fair and valid predictor of first-year college success for all students. A study, which includes data from more than 100 colleges and universities, demonstrates that the best predictor of college success is a combination of SAT scores and high school grades. In addition to admission, many colleges use the SAT for course placement. The SAT is administered annually to more than two million students at approximately 6,000 test centers located in more than 170 countries.

### The College Board

The College Board is a mission-driven, not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the College Board was created to expand access to higher education. Today, the membership association is made up of more than 5,700 of the nation's leading educational institutions and is dedicated to promoting excellence and equity in education. Each year, the College Board helps more than seven million students prepare for a successful transition to college through programs and services in college readiness and college success — including the SAT® and the Advanced Placement Program®. The organization also serves the education community through research and advocacy on behalf of students, educators and schools.

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