

Mean Scores by State, By Participation Rate – Public Schools

Mean SAT scores are not appropriate for state comparisons because the percentage of graduates taking the SAT varies widely across states. In some states, 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 expected that the SAT critical reading, mathematics and writing averages reported for these states will be higher than the national average. In states where a greater proportion of students with a wide range of academic backgrounds take the SAT, the scores are closer to, or below, the national average.

STATE	2012			2011			2002				
	%*	CR	M	W	%*	CR	M	W	%*	CR	M
Maine	100%	465	467	446	100%	465	464	448	76%	501	501
Delaware	100%	437	446	424	69%	471	476	455	61%	484	485
New York	88%	478	498	469	85%	480	497	470	78%	492	508
Massachusetts	84%	506	523	500	84%	505	521	500	75%	505	511
Connecticut	83%	498	504	502	81%	502	505	506	75%	502	503
Georgia	76%	483	485	469	74%	481	483	467	68%	486	489
New Jersey	74%	492	516	495	74%	492	516	494	73%	496	515
New Hampshire	71%	512	516	499	73%	514	516	502	70%	509	510
Maryland	70%	489	498	480	69%	492	497	483	58%	502	513
Pennsylvania	69%	488	500	475	68%	489	500	475	67%	494	500
Indiana	68%	489	498	472	67%	489	499	471	60%	495	503
Virginia	68%	508	510	492	67%	509	507	492	64%	507	504
South Carolina	66%	477	487	458	64%	479	489	459	58%	489	496
North Carolina	65%	487	505	467	65%	489	506	469	61%	491	505
Rhode Island	65%	477	480	470	64%	482	482	474	62%	496	501
District of Columbia	64%	401	395	388	60%	404	392	391	60%	400	396
Florida	64%	489	490	472	62%	483	486	466	50%	493	498
Vermont	64%	519	522	504	63%	515	516	503	61%	512	511
Texas	58%	470	496	456	54%	475	500	461	45%	488	499
Hawaii	56%	456	475	440	52%	454	474	441	45%	462	493
Washington	53%	517	528	500	52%	520	527	505	46%	522	528
Oregon	51%	518	521	494	50%	516	520	494	50%	522	528
California	50%	491	510	491	48%	494	513	494	42%	490	516
Alaska	49%	512	510	486	46%	516	514	488	49%	517	522
Nevada	45%	489	491	463	43%	493	495	468	28%	508	519
Montana	25%	535	539	510	23%	539	540	515	23%	544	553
Arizona	24%	516	525	497	24%	515	523	496	27%	518	524
Idaho	17%	546	540	523	17%	542	540	517	15%	539	545

STATE	2012			2011			2002				
	%*	CR	M	W	%*	CR	M	W	%*	CR	M
Colorado	14%	578	587	565	16%	574	580	560	25%	542	551
Ohio	14%	540	553	519	16%	535	545	516	21%	530	541
West Virginia	14%	514	500	493	15%	511	499	494	17%	523	514
New Mexico	10%	539	533	514	9%	535	529	514	10%	544	537
Alabama	7%	530	527	520	7%	539	538	530	8%	559	562
Louisiana	6%	531	529	513	5%	545	543	528	4%	562	559
Kansas	5%	595	599	570	5%	590	598	569	7%	584	587
Minnesota	5%	600	610	575	5%	601	610	578	8%	582	593
Tennessee	5%	579	572	568	5%	577	570	565	11%	556	551
Wyoming	5%	565	584	547	5%	575	575	555	12%	535	542
Illinois	4%	606	630	594	4%	608	633	598	9%	580	606
Kentucky	4%	580	582	565	4%	578	580	563	9%	547	553
Nebraska	4%	574	583	558	4%	582	590	565	7%	559	573
Oklahoma	4%	569	564	542	4%	568	560	541	6%	561	559
Arkansas	3%	565	567	547	4%	568	573	553	4%	560	558
Iowa	3%	608	617	588	3%	602	612	581	4%	595	609
Michigan	3%	587	608	575	4%	583	608	572	9%	555	574
Mississippi	3%	548	530	539	3%	549	529	540	3%	561	549
Missouri	3%	584	587	564	3%	592	592	573	5%	571	581
South Dakota	3%	597	614	574	3%	590	594	565	5%	577	587
Utah	3%	587	588	563	4%	585	580	565	4%	584	584
Wisconsin	3%	600	610	579	3%	595	606	577	5%	587	608
North Dakota	2%	581	605	560	3%	593	620	570	4%	598	614
All students		491	505	481		493	506	482		501	512

* The percentage of high school graduates is based upon the projection of high school graduates in 2002, 2011 and 2012 by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)†, and the number of students in the class of 2002, 2011 and 2012 who took the SAT in each state.

† *Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School Graduates by State and Race/Ethnicity, 1992-2022*, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, March 2008.