



PRESS RELEASE

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Poway Unified SAT Scores Move Higher in 2007 Bucking State and National Trends

Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores have recently been released and Poway Unified School District is pleased to report the performance of its students. The total PUSD mean score of 1648 moved overall performance four points higher in 2007 compared to 2006. The performance gains bucked state and national trends as California and the nation each realized seven point declines in 2007.

PUSD's overall gain can be attributed to a four-point increase in critical reading. Math and writing scores fluctuated one point, with math posting a one-point gain and writing a one-point decline.

Student performance on the mathematics portion of the test remained the district's strength, as in years past. Students posted a mean score of 569 in math, a mean score of 541 on the critical reading test, and 538 on the writing test. The three scores combined yield the district's overall score of 1648.

In 2007, 1,774 (69%) of PUSD's graduates took the SAT test at least once while in high school, up from 67% in 2006. The district's goal is to achieve a 74% participation rate for all schools and all subgroups by 2008. In 2006, Rancho Bernardo High School was the first PUSD high school to achieve a 74% achievement rate. This year, Mt. Carmel High School becomes the second PUSD high school to exceed the district's goal of a 74% participation rate. Statewide, 50% of the graduates took the test, and nationwide 49% of the graduates participated.

Performance among PUSD's four comprehensive high schools showed some variation. The 48-point difference between the district's highest scoring school (Rancho Bernardo High) and lowest scoring school (Mt. Carmel High) was seven points greater in 2007. Westview High realized the greatest gain (+25) with ten-point gains in reading and writing. Mt. Carmel High School registered the greatest gain in participation (+22%).

The performance of ethnic subgroups shows a continuing achievement gap, however the Latino group, which the College Board further refers to as three subgroups: Mexican American, Puerto Rican, and other Hispanic, showed that Poway Unified students in the Latino-Mexican American subgroup achieved significant gains in 2007. African American students' scores were unchanged in 2007 and below district averages.

Poway Unified males performed better in mathematics and females performed better in the language arts.

The "New SAT" went into effect last year with the graduating class of 2006. The New SAT includes several new features that the publisher hopes better align the tests with high school course work and college entrance expectations. The most noticeable of these changes is the addition of a writing test worth 800 points. This addition raised the total possible scale score from 1600 to 2400. Other, less well-publicized but significant changes included:

- Revision of the math test to include Algebra II content while eliminating quantitative comparisons.
- Revision of the verbal test into a "Critical Reading" test
- The new SAT is a longer test, increasing from 3:00 hours to 3:35 hours.

These revisions interrupted longitudinal comparisons and created a new baseline from which year-to-year growth should be measured. Multiple year trend comparisons are no longer valid or appropriate.

Don Phillips, PUSD Superintendent, said, "We are please to see that the number of students taking the SAT continues to grow and that now two schools have reached our target goal for 2008. We continue to encourage our students to take the SAT and to complete all options so that they are college ready. It is particularly significant that our students are continuing to improve their scores even though the state and nation are not experiencing this positive trend."

(continued)

**Poway Unified School District
Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) Results
2006-2007**

	Number of Test Takers		Mean Critical Reading		Mean Math		Mean Writing		Mean Total		Mean GPA	
	06	07	06	07	06	07	06	07	06	07	06	07
PUSD	1,679	1,774	537	541	568	569	539	538	1,644	1,648	3.32	3.35
CA	191,740	195,406	501	499	518	516	501	498	1,520	1,513	--	--
USA	1,465,744	1,494,531	503	502	518	515	497	494	1,518	1,511	--	--
MCH S	301	384	526	531	562	566	528	518	1,616	1,615	3.29	3.31
PHS	442	443	545	545	567	566	544	541	1,657	1,652	3.32	3.37
RBHS	504	515	539	541	578	577	546	545	1,663	1,663	3.32	3.32
WHS	432	432	535	545	561	566	533	543	1,629	1,654	3.33	3.39

**Subgroup Performance
Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) Results
2006-2007**

Ethnic	Number of Test Takers		%		Critical Reading		Math		Writing		Totals	
	06	07	06	07	06	07	06	07	06	07	06	07
All PUSD	1,679	1,774	100	100	537	541	568	569	539	538	1,644	1,648
American Indian	15	12	1	.06	514	571	524	553	509	537	1,547	1,661
Asian	393	427	23	24	542	550	603	604	546	549	1,691	1,703
African American	40	51	2	3	490	490	509	491	487	485	1,486	1,466
Latino - Mexican American	67	74	4	4	500	514	511	531	508	504	1,519	1,549
Latino – Puerto Rican	13	7	1	.03	521	473	544	567	506	483	1,571	1,523
Latino – Other Hispanic	29	62	2	3	503	529	547	521	511	514	1,561	1,564
White	912	910	54	51	540	539	561	564	543	539	1,644	1,642
Other	97	109	6	6	514	545	546	563	519	534	1,579	1,642
No Response	113	122	7	7	568	564	589	574	556	551	1,713	1,689
Gender												
Male	799	842	48	47	533	539	580	586	527	531	1,640	1,656
Female	880	932	52	53	541	543	557	554	550	543	1,648	1,640

