



Dr. Brian Otott
Superintendent

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Paulding SAT Scores Equal National Average, Draw Closer to Statewide Average in 2019

For the first time Paulding County students have equaled the nationwide average SAT score, while also narrowing the gap with the statewide average score, recently released results from the College Board show. Despite an increase in the number of test takers in 2019, the Paulding County School District's average combined SAT score decreased just one point, from 1040 to 1039, compared to 2018. Meanwhile, the national average decreased 10 points, from 1049 to 1039, and the state average decreased six points, from 1054 to 1048.

The number of test takers in Paulding continued to climb in 2019, increasing from 1,204 to 1,245. The average ERW (Evidence-based Reading and Writing) score decreased four points from 533 to 529 compared to 2018, while the average Math score increased three points from 507 to 510.

“We would love to see our average SAT score increase every year and will continue to focus on providing our students with the instruction and resources to do so. In a year where both the national and state average scores dropped significantly, I’m pleased that we essentially held the line in Paulding,” said Superintendent Dr. Brian Otott. “Typically, scores decline as the number of test takers expands. It’s impressive that we are seeing more students take the SAT and that we have also narrowed the gap with the statewide average. That’s a testament to our students, as well as the teachers who work hard every day preparing them for these important national assessments.”

(The charts on the following pages summarize PCSD data)

Press Inquiries Please Contact:

Paulding County School District Office of Public Information
communications@paulding.k12.ga.us



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**SAT Summary Brief
2019**

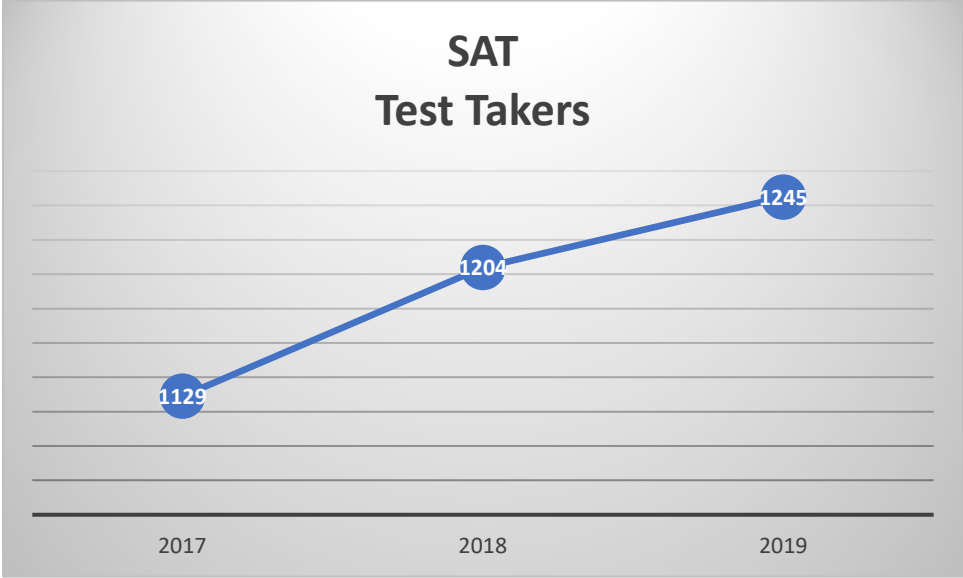
The SAT is the benchmark standardized assessment of the critical reading, mathematical reasoning, and writing skills students have developed over time and that they need to be successful in college. Each year, more than two million students take the SAT. Nearly every college in America uses the test as a common and objective scale for evaluating a student's college readiness.

The SAT was redesigned in the spring of 2017. Several changes were made to the SAT including the essay becoming optional for students and reading writing became combined as ERW. Rather than focusing on general reasoning skills, the redesign focused on knowledge, skills, and understandings that research has identified as most important for college and career success. There is a greater emphasis on the meaning of words in context and how word choice shapes meaning, tone, and impact, rather than the old version which emphasized vocabulary in limited context. The scoring has been simplified to right scores only. Scores range from 400 to 1600.

Paulding County School District SAT Scores for 2019

2019 Scores	SAT 2019			
	High School	SAT Test Takers	Mean Composite Score	ERW Score
East Paulding High School	243	1031	525	507
Hiram High School	195	1013	517	496
North Paulding High School	378	1069	544	524
Paulding County High School	207	1032	530	502
South Paulding High School	222	1025	519	506
Paulding County School District	1245	1039	529	510
State of Georgia	67594	1048	533	515
U.S. Public Schools	2.2 million	1039	524	515

The PCSD increased the number of students taking the SAT for the third consecutive year, increasing participation from 1129 students in 2017 to 1204 students in 2018 to 1245 students in 2019.



Both nationally and statewide, SAT scores dropped from 2018 to 2019. The state of Georgia saw a drop of six points, from 1054 to 1048, which was consistent with the decrease in U.S. Public schools of 10 points from 1049 to 1039. The PCSD score dropped just 1 point from 1040 in 2018 to 1039 in 2019. This denotes the first time since the redesign of the SAT in 2017 that the PCSD has scored at the nation average while also increasing participation and closing the gap between the state and district average composite scores.

