



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PRELIMINARY SAT RESULTS PRESENTED TO STATE BOARD,
PARTICIPATION UP AND RESULTS REMAIN STEADY**

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(BOISE) – This spring, 19,323 juniors – up 1,254 from 2016 – took the college entrance exam on SAT School Day April 11 in 106 school districts and 206 high schools increasing participation by 6.9 percent from the prior year.

With the increase of students participating in the exam makeup day on April 25, and the COMPASS exam no longer being available, scores declined slightly.

“It’s not uncommon, just like the ISAT, to see a slight decline in overall scores when you see a significant increase in participation,” said Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra. “I’m pleased to see an additional 1,200 students take advantage of this opportunity that is provided by the state. I have also heard from several students that the practice test is beneficial, and we plan to conduct a student survey to gather feedback.”

Idaho requires all students to take a college entrance exam to graduate from high school. Most juniors take the SAT because a state contract provides the test at no cost to the student and allows them to forward results to four colleges free.

In addition to supporting high school graduation requirements, the SAT results provide districts and school boards a tool for monitoring annual progress toward college and career readiness in local Continuous Improvement Plans. Rules adopted by the legislature this spring, require districts to set benchmarks for the number and percentage of students meeting the college ready benchmark in mathematics and English Language Arts on a state recognized college entrance exam.

Participating juniors scored an average of 506 in Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, and an average of 492 in Mathematics. With the slight decrease in reading and writing, and slight increase in Mathematics, the overall mean score of 998 shows that results remain steady considering the large increase in participation.

The percent of test takers “college ready” on the SAT’s benchmark score also held steady from year ago with 60% reaching the reading and writing benchmark and 34% meeting the math [benchmark as established by the College Board](#).

Results released today are preliminary, and the College Board will release final state and national numbers this September. The State Department of Education Additional information on SAT School <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/assessment/college/>. Questions may be directed to Jeff Church at (208) 332-6934 or by email at jchurch@sde.idaho.gov.

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Note for Reporters: Junior enrollment was 21,282 in March 2016 and 21,543 in March 2017—an increase of only 261 students compared to the increase in participation of 1,254.