

STAMFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS SAT REASONING (SAT) TEST RESULTS
Class of 2009

HIGHLIGHTS

1. A total of 660 students (66.7%) of the Stamford Public Schools (SPS) graduating Class of 2009 participated in the SAT Reasoning (SAT) testing program of the College Board.

Table 1.
SAT I Participation Rate for the
Classes of 2005-2009 in Stamford Public Schools

Class of	Participation Rate
2005	68.3%
2006	69.0%
2007	72.4%
2008	68.3%
2009	66.7%

2. The demographic profile of Class of 2009 SAT participants in SPS varies somewhat from Connecticut and the nation, which make comparisons of SAT achievement challenging. According to the College Board:

The SAT is a strong indicator of trends in the college-bound population, but it should never be used alone for such comparisons because demographics and other nonschool factors can have a strong effect on scores.

Table 2 indicates the participation by self-reported subgroup:

Table 2.
SAT Participation by Self-Reported Subgroup, Class of 2009
Stamford Public Schools, Connecticut, Nation

	SPS		CT		Nation	
	N	% of Test Takers	N	% of Test Takers	N	% of Test Takers
American Indian	0	0.0%	132	0.4%	8,974	0.6%
Asian	40	6.1%	1,621	4.5%	158,757	10.4%
Black	135	20.5%	3,403	9.5%	187,136	12.2%
Hispanic	127	19.2%	3,015	8.4%	206,584	13.5%
White	319	48.3%	25,062	70.0%	851,014	55.6%
Other	18	2.7%	925	2.6%	51,215	3.3%
No Response	21	3.2%	1,641	4.6%	66,448	4.3%
TOTAL	660	100.0%	35,799	100.0%	1,530,128	100.0%

Furthermore:

- a. 13% of SPS test takers' first language was not English, compared to 7% statewide and 10% nationally;
- b. Approximately 21% of SPS test takers were Black, compared to 10% statewide and 12% nationally, and 19% of SPS test takers were Hispanic, compared to 8% statewide and 14% nationally;

- c. 50% of SPS test takers come from families in which parents have a college or graduate degree, compared to 58% statewide and 55% nationally.
3. SPS students in the Class of 2009 demonstrated similar performance on the SAT as the Class of 2008, with a slight increase on the SAT Critical Reading, no increase/decrease on the Math exam and a decline on the Writing exam:
- a. The mean Critical Reading score for the SPS Class of 2009 reached 487, a three point increase from the Class of 2008, following an 11 point increase from the Class of 2007. Statewide and nationwide, there was no comparable increase from the Class of 2008 to the Class 2009, where rates remained flat or decreased slightly. The SPS Class of 2009 averaged 22 points below the State mean of 509 and 14 points below the national average of 501 in Critical Reading.

Table 3a.
SAT Critical Reading Mean Scores, Classes of 2005-2009
Stamford Public Schools, Connecticut, Nation

Group	Class of 2005	Class of 2006	Class of 2007	Class of 2008	Class of 2009	1-Year Change, 2008 to 2009	5-Year Change
SPS	487	478	473	484	487	+3	0
Connecticut	517	512	510	509	509	0	-8
Nation	508	503	502	502	501	-1	-7

- b. The mean Math score for the SPS Class of 2009 remained at 490, the same level as the Class of 2008, following an 11 point increase from the Class of 2007. State and national mean scores also remain unchanged from the Class of 2008. The SPS Class of 2009 averaged 23 points below the State mean of 513 and 25 points below the national average of 515 in Math. Over five years (2005 to 2009), SPS students demonstrated a one point increase, compared to moderate decreases statewide and nationwide.

Table 3b.
SAT Math Mean Scores, Classes of 2005-2009
Stamford Public Schools, Connecticut, Nation

Group	Class of 2005	Class of 2006	Class of 2007	Class of 2008	Class of 2009	1-Year Change, 2008 to 2009	5-Year Change
SPS	489	481	479	490	490	0	+1
Connecticut	517	516	512	513	513	0	-4
Nation	520	518	515	515	515	0	-5

- c. The mean Writing score for the SPS Class of 2009 dropped to 487, a five point decrease from the Class of 2008. The SPS Class of 2009 scored 25 points below the State mean of 512 and six points below the national average of 493 in Writing.

Table 3c.
SAT Writing Mean Scores, Classes of 2006*-2009
Stamford Public Schools, Connecticut, Nation

Group	Class of 2006	Class of 2007	Class of 2008	Class of 2009	1-Year Change, 2008 to 2009	4-Year Change
SPS	480	480	492	487	-5	+7
Connecticut	511	511	513	512	-1	+1
Nation	497	494	494	493	-1	-4

* Writing was added to the SAT in 2006.

4. SAT results for the Class of 2009 continue to show lower mean scores for Hispanic and Black students in Critical Reading, Math and Writing. The SAT scores for these students trail those of their peers in Connecticut and the nation.
5. The percent of SPS students who report completing four or more years of math has increased steadily over five years, from 67% for the Class of 2005 to 76% for the Class of 2009. Similarly, the percent of SPS students who report completing four or more years of English and Language Arts has increased steadily over five years, from 83% for the Class of 2005 to 91% for the Class of 2009. Students also report an increase in completing three or more years of science, from 89% for the Class of 2005 to 92% for the Class of 2009.
6. A total of 23% of the 660 students in the SPS Class of 2009 who participated in the SAT testing program also took one or more of the SAT II subject tests. SPS students outperformed their peers in Connecticut and/or the nation in U.S. History, Math Level II, Molecular Biology, Chemistry and Spanish (shaded, below).

Table 6.
SAT II Subject Test Mean Scores for Class of 2009
Stamford Public Schools, Connecticut, and Nation

Subject Test	N Tested	SPS	Connecticut	Nation
		Mean Score	Mean Score	Mean Score
Literature	50	608	622	580
U.S. History	84	653	645	599
World History	3	Not reported	626	589
Math Level I	52	612	620	599
Math Level II	60	694	681	648
Biology (Ecological)	20	618	622	598
Biology (Molecular)	20	669	662	641
Chemistry	31	694	656	638
Physics	14	655	662	655
Chinese with listening	1	Not Reported	739	763
French	5	598	624	618
French with listening	0	Not Reported	640	637
German	0	Not Reported	667	616
German with listening	0	Not Reported	597	609
Modern Hebrew	0	Not Reported		650
Italian	1	Not Reported	634	667
Japanese with listening	1	Not Reported	691	689
Korean with listening	0	Not Reported	781	763
Latin	0	Not Reported	617	618
Spanish	13	668	625	646
Spanish with listening	1	Not reported	626	652

7. Different patterns of mean score achievement emerged at each SPS high school from the Class of 2008 to the Class of 2009. In Critical Reading, Stamford High School (SHS) increased two points to 471, Westhill High School (WHS) decreased four points to 495 and AITE increased 29 points to 502. In Math, SHS increased four points to 483, WHS decreased 14 points to 495 and AITE increased 41 points to 486. In Writing, SHS increased two points to 482, WHS decreased 15 points to 490 and AITE increased 16 points to 489. Participation rates decreased from 2008 to 2009 overall and at SHS and AITE. Participation increased two percentage points at WHS.

Table 7.
Critical Reading, Math, and Writing SAT Mean Scores by High School
Class of 2008 and Class of 2009

Subject Test	Stamford High				Westhill High				AITE				SPS Total			
	Mean Score		Participation Rate		Mean Score		Participation Rate		Mean Score		Participation Rate		Mean Score		Participation Rate	
	Class of		Class of		Class of		Class of		Class of		Class of		Class of		Class of	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
Critical Reading	469	471			499	495			473	502			484	487		
Math	479	483	71.4%	65.6%	509	495	63.5%	66.1%	445	486	86.1%	74.7%	490	490	68.3%	66.7%
Writing	480	482			505	490			473	489			492	487		

Figure 1: Mean SAT CRITICAL READING Scores
 Stamford, State, and Nation
 Class of 2005 - Class of 2009

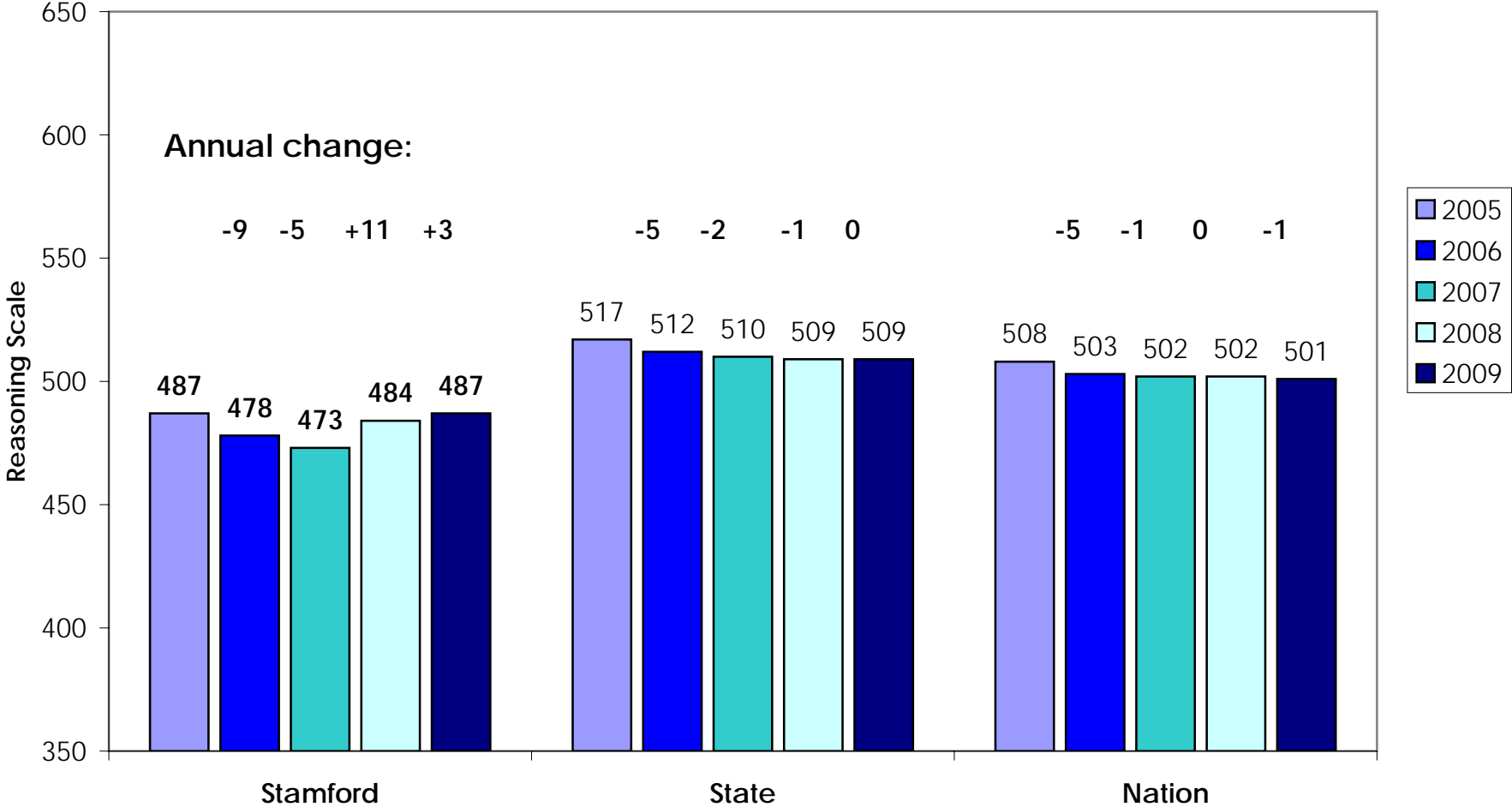


Figure 2: Mean SAT MATH Scores
Stamford, State, and Nation
Class of 2005 - Class of 2009

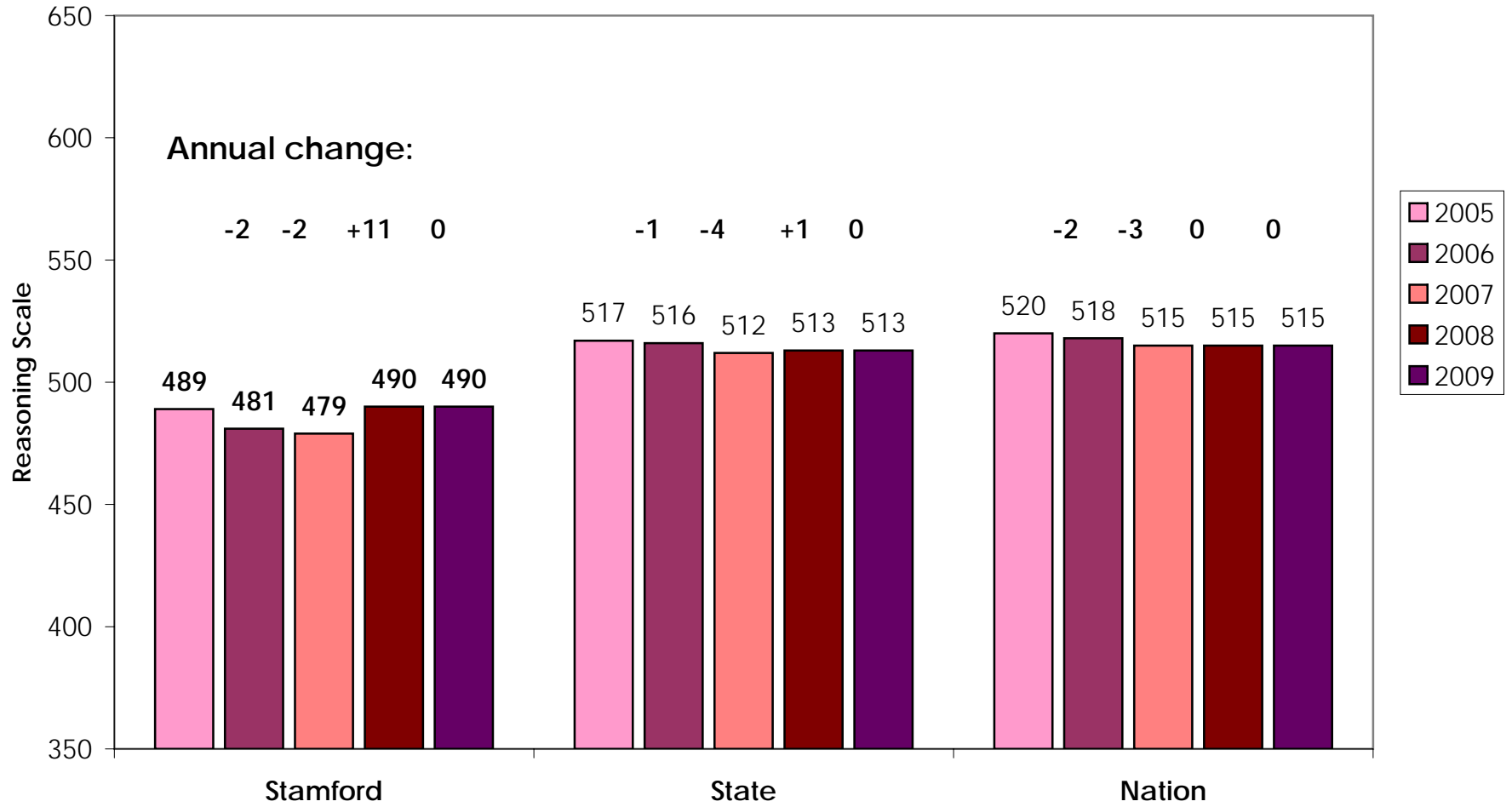


Figure 3: Mean SAT WRITING Scores
Stamford, State, and Nation
Class of 2006 - Class of 2009

