

Research Brief

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ACT & SAT District Report: A Three-Year Summary 2003-2005

About This Report

For this research brief, data was taken from ACT and SAT reporting services which use the most recent test scores of seniors only. A technical report is available from RDA.

Student Performance

ACT

Over the last five years the APS average ACT Composite score has been higher than both state and national averages except for 2000-2001 when the average APS composite was the same as the average national Composite score and last year when the Composite was .1 lower than the average national Composite (Figure 1). *It is important to keep in mind that small differences like .1 are probably not (statistically) significant and may be a mere “chance” occurrence.*

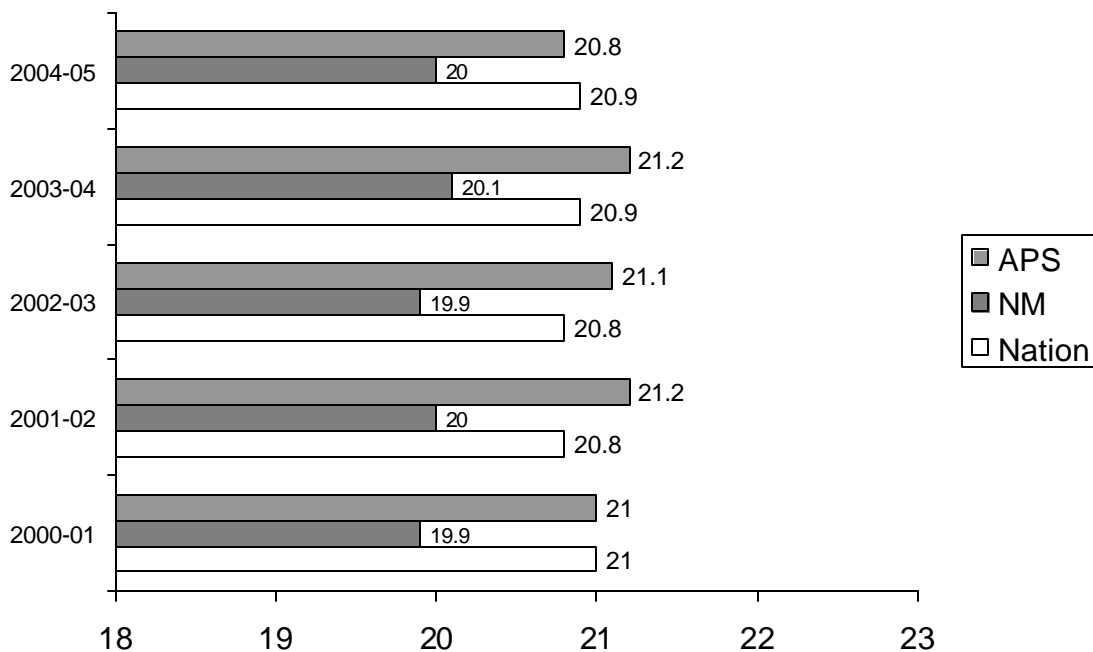


Figure 1. ACT Composite Scores

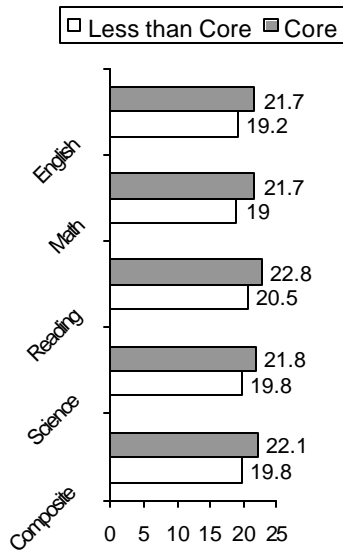


Figure 2 . 2004-05 Average ACT Composite & Subject Scores

For two decades ACT has emphasized that to be ready for college, students need four years of English, and three years each of math, science, and social studies. Starting with the graduating classes of 2008 and 2009, respectively, all students will be required to take three years of math and three years of science.

SAT

Over the last five years the APS average Verbal and Math SAT I scores have been significantly higher than both state and national Verbal and Math scores.

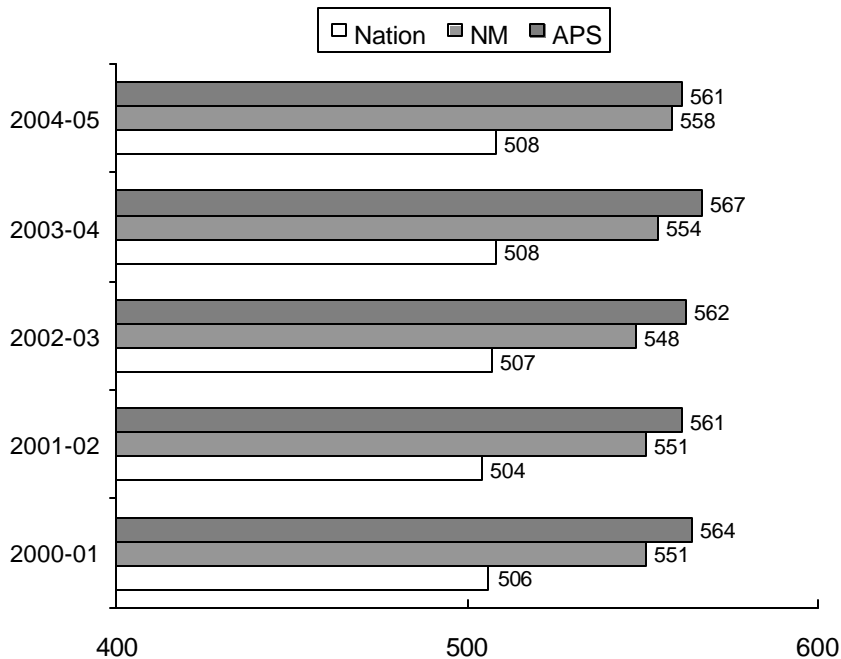


Figure 3 . SAT Verbal Scores

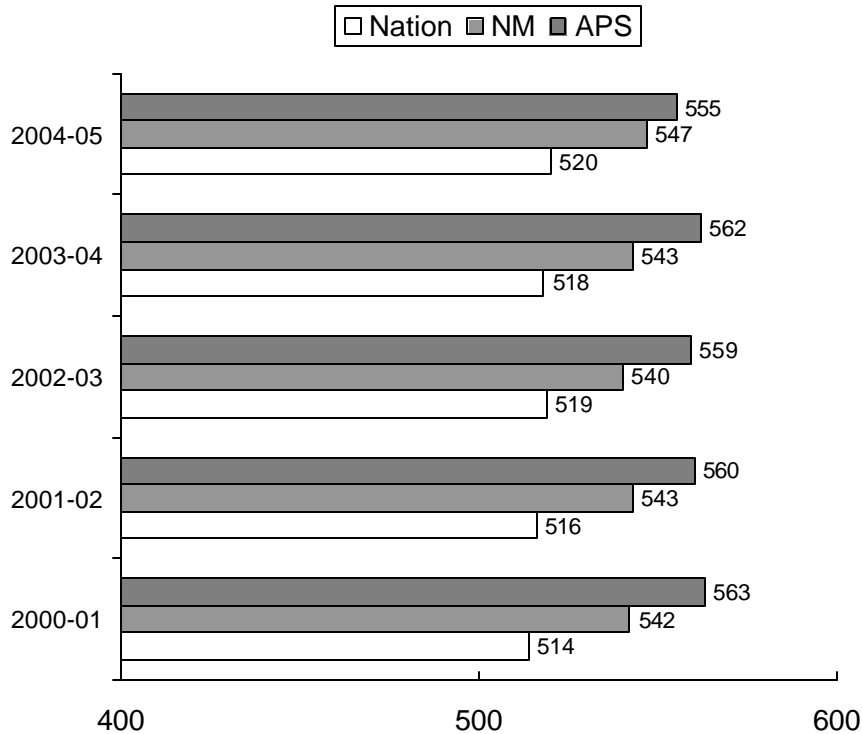


Figure 4. SAT Math Scores

ACT Ethnic Group Participation and Comparisons with the State and Nation

Participation

- A higher percentage of APS students participating in the 2004-05 ACT were minority (39%) compared to the national level (23%) level, but less than the state level (47%). (*It is worth mentioning that for APS an additional 10% of the students noted they were multiracial or “other” and another 11% did not respond.*)
- APS saw the same 2% percent increase in minority participation on the ACT this year, as did the state and national levels.
- The proportion of minority students taking the SAT from APS (30%) is the same as at the state (30%) but less than at the national level (33%).

Comparison to State Scores

- American Indian, Mexican-American, and White students in APS scored higher than their state counterparts.
- African-American and Asian-American students in APS scored lower than their state counterparts.
- For the SAT, there are not enough minority test takers in the district or state to make valid comparisons.

Comparison to National Scores

- African-American, Mexican-American, and White students in APS had higher ACT Composite scores than their national counterparts.
- American Indian and Asian/Pacific Islander students in APS scored lower than their national counterparts.

Individual APS High Schools

Twenty-three percent fewer APS students, the great majority who were White, took the SAT last year than the previous. There are probably several reasons for this:

- Many more students, it seems, are being introduced to college entrance exams with the PLAN, ACT’s sophomore preparatory exam.
- More students are realizing that colleges which perennially accepted the SAT have been accepting the ACT for several years now.
- More students are probably staying in state for college for economic reasons.
- As of March 2005, the SAT now requires a Writing subtest. *(Though this did not affect last year’s senior class, it may have given students reason to re-consider their decision of college entrance exams.)*
- Some students have probably decided to take the ACT since it is perceived by many students to be easier.

Table 1: Two-Year Summary of Individual High Schools.

High Schools	ACT				SAT					
	2003-04		2004-05		2003-04			2004-05		
	N	Composite	N	Composite	N	Verbal	Math	N	Verbal	Math
Albuquerque	157	20.6	123	22.0	49	598	564	31	605	593
Cibola	389	20.9	341	20.5	91	546	523	96	540	528
Del Norte	142	21.1	142	20.2	25	594	580	18	509	503
Eldorado	347	22.3	341	21.9	113	557	555	59	602	585
Highland	151	19.3	151	19.6	38	563	567	36	545	510
La Cueva	372	23.5	374	23.2	143	592	599	107	585	591
Manzano	179	21.7	196	20.9	72	532	539	56	518	515
Rio Grande	127	17.6	142	17.7	6	565	522	3	-	-
Sandia	288	22.5	299	21.7	74	575	579	64	552	558
Valley	221	20.7	226	19.9	34	565	542	26	600	589
West Mesa	152	17.3	145	17.4	8	478	509	5	410	454
Freedom	17	20.6	19	20.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Futures	18	17.4	11	19.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sierra	5	19.2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Evening School	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CEC	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
District	2676*	21.2	2669*	20.8	653	567	562	501	561	555

* Total N for district also reflects charter school students.