



2014 – 2015 SAT Report

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Randolph County School System 2015 SAT Reasoning Test

This report summarizes the SAT Reasoning Test (formerly the Scholastic Assessment Test) performance of graduating seniors in the Randolph County School System (RCSS) from 2005 to 2015 as reported by the College Board. Comparative data are provided for RCSS, North Carolina (NC), and the United States (US) where these exist.

In 2015, the average Grand Total for RCSS was 1415; 13 percentage points higher than the previous year (1402). SAT scores for NC decreased by five percentage points (1478) while the US decreased by seven percentage points. The nation reflects the lowest composite score on the SAT (1490) in the past decade. There were declines in NC and the nation on all three sections of the test; critical reading, math, and writing.

The RCSS participation rate increased by 4.1 percentage points in 2015 in comparison to the previous year, and North Carolina's participation rate decreased by five percentage points. The US participation rate increased by 2.3 percentage points.

In 2010, the College Board began including students in its report for a particular year who took the SAT through March. However, starting with 2013, all scores have been adjusted to reflect seniors who took the SAT through June. These scores are not directly comparable to those based on other cohorts.

About the SAT

The SAT Reasoning Test (SAT) is generally taken by college bound juniors and seniors. The SAT measures the types of critical thinking skills that students learn in school to analyze and solve problems. The exam is designed to measure a student's chance of success at the college level. Though students may take the SAT more than once, only the score for the last administration of the test is reported.

The SAT was revised in March of 2005. The revised test is longer than the older version, and it consists of three sections: Critical Reading (formally Verbal), Mathematics, and Writing. Also, in the revised SAT, analogies items were removed from the Critical Reading section and quantitative comparison items were removed from the Mathematics section. The Mathematics section now covers three years of high school mathematics.

Scores on each section range from 200 to 800 and have a mean of about 500. The College Board has maintained a scoring system of a total of 800 percentage points per section. On the two sections of the old test, a perfect score would have been 1600. Students can now score up to 800 on each of three sections, or a perfect score of 2400. Scores on the revised SAT may be compared with scores on the older version of the test by using only the critical reading and math sections.

The writing section includes an essay and multiple-choice questions on writing. The critical reading section is different from the old verbal section. The analogies section has been dropped and a new sentence completion section has been added. While the analogies section was eliminated, analogical reasoning was not; questions of this nature are imbedded in the short reading passages. In the math section, Algebra II content was added and quantitative comparisons were eliminated.

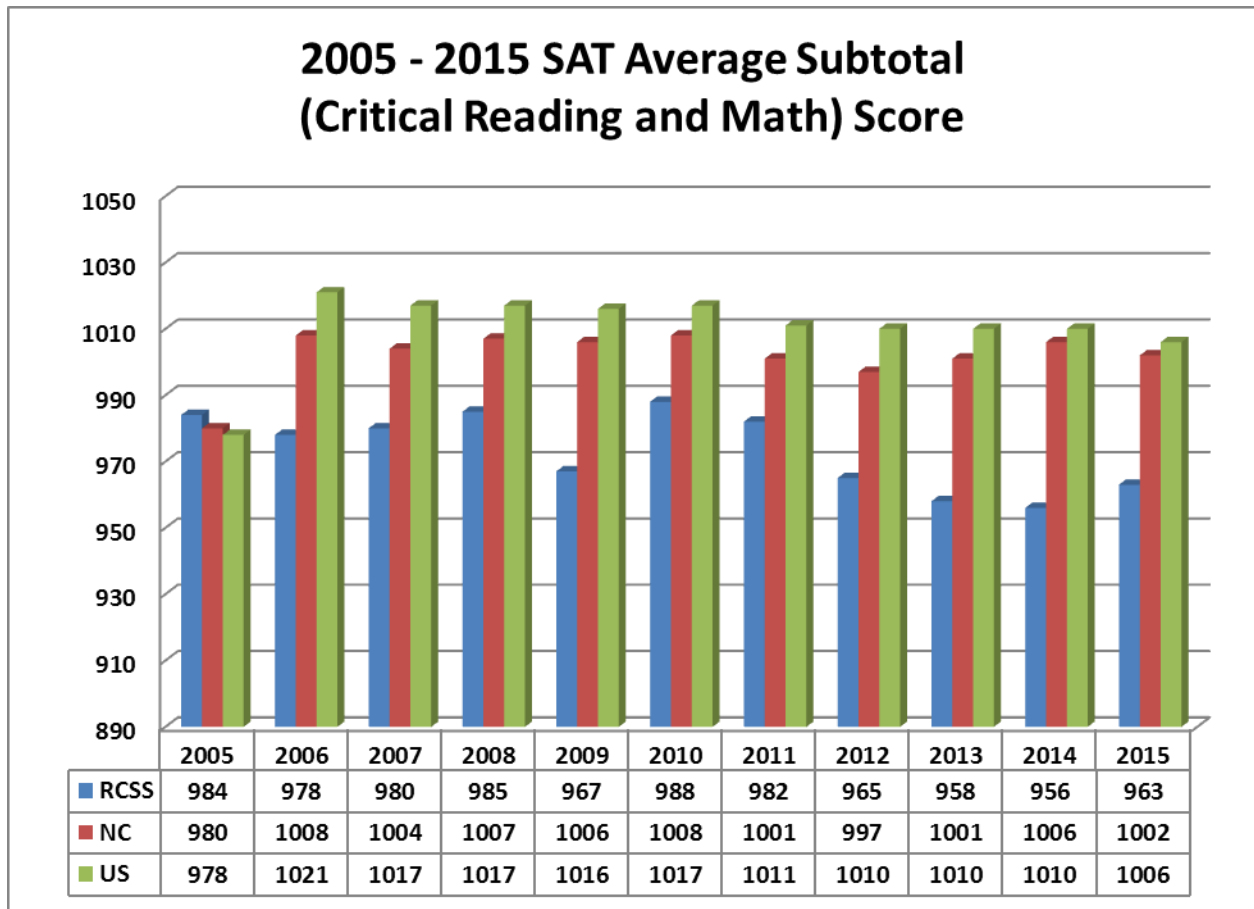
Previously, scores on the Verbal (now Critical Reading) and Mathematics sections were combined to get a Total Score average for the SAT. With the addition of the Writing section, the combined Critical Reading and Mathematics averages will be referred to as the **Subtotal** average, and the combined averages for all three sections will represent the **Grand Total** average.

The SAT is scheduled to be overhauled in March of 2016. The Writing section will be made optional and the math and reading sections will be updated in an attempt to test students on what they learn in school. This means fewer questions based on logic puzzles, and more questions based on classroom curriculum. Math and vocabulary sections will be updated to test students on problems and words that they may encounter at college or in the workplace.

Randolph County School System Performance

As shown in Figure 1, the 2015 Subtotal (Critical Reading and Math) average of 963 for RCSS seniors was seven percentage points higher than the 2014 average of 956. The subtotal average decreased for NC and the US by four percentage points.

Figure 1



The 2015 RCSS Average Critical Reading Score of 476 showed a six percentage point increase compared with the 2014 average of 470 (Figure 2). The US Critical Reading score decreased by two percentage point in 2015. The Average Critical Reading score for NC also decreased by one percentage points from 499 in 2014 to 498 in 2015.

Figure 2

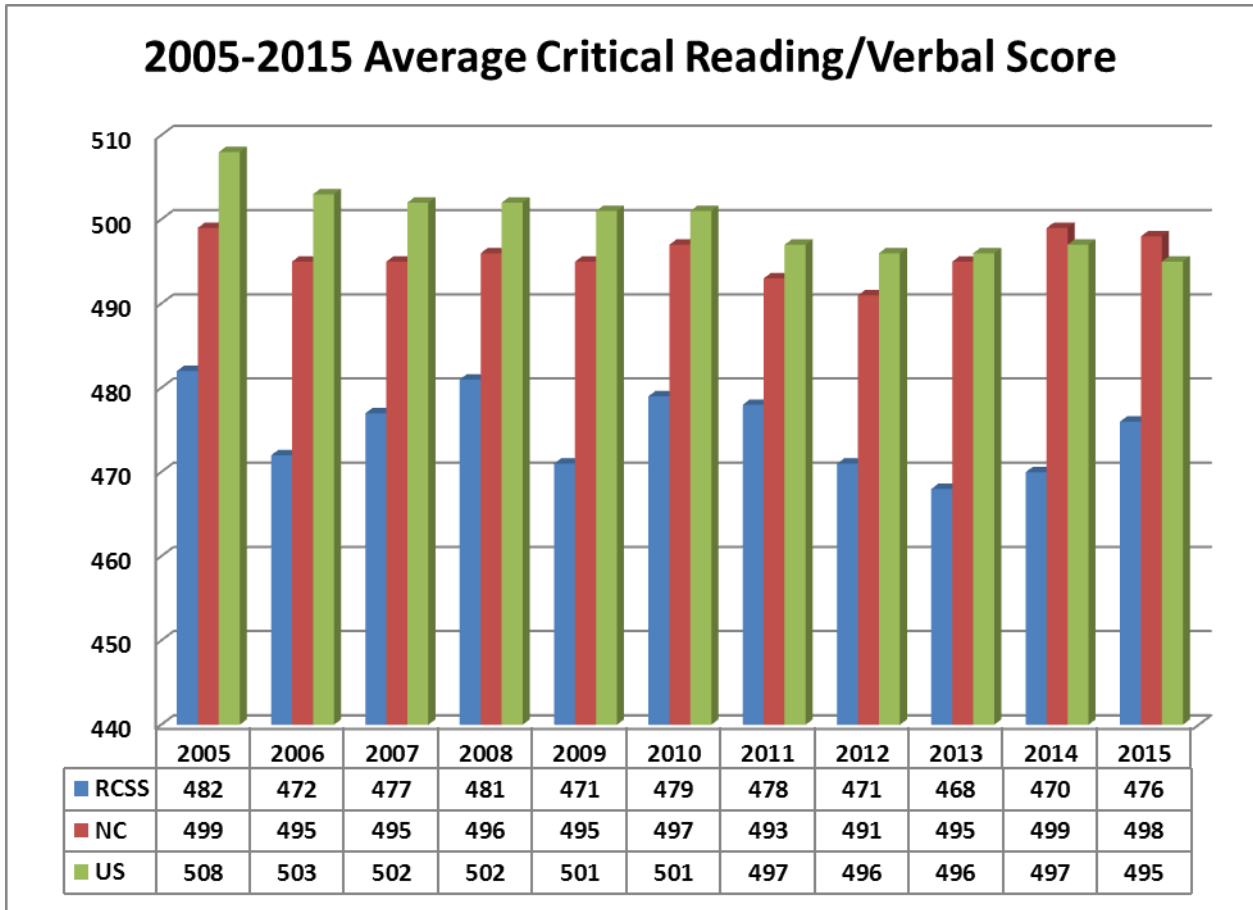
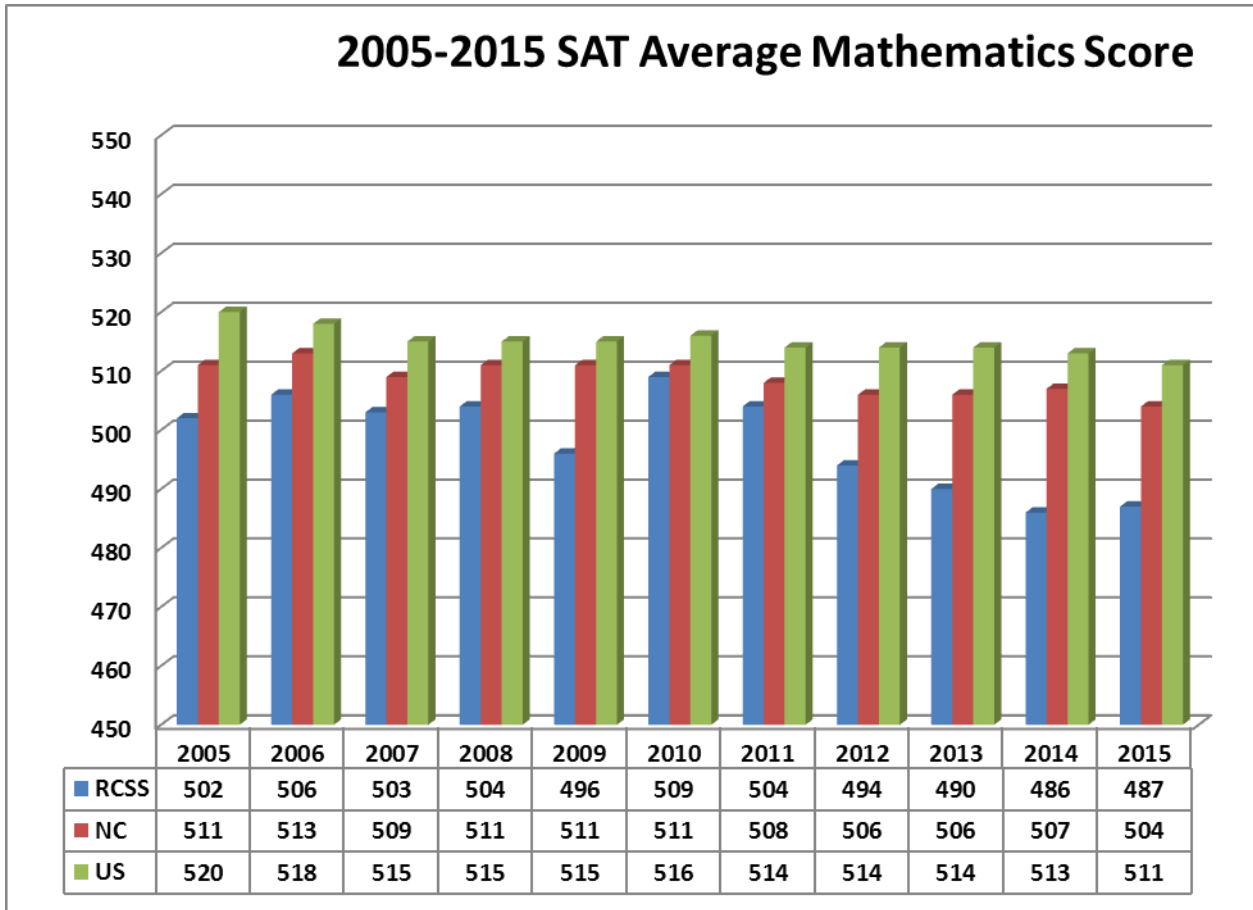


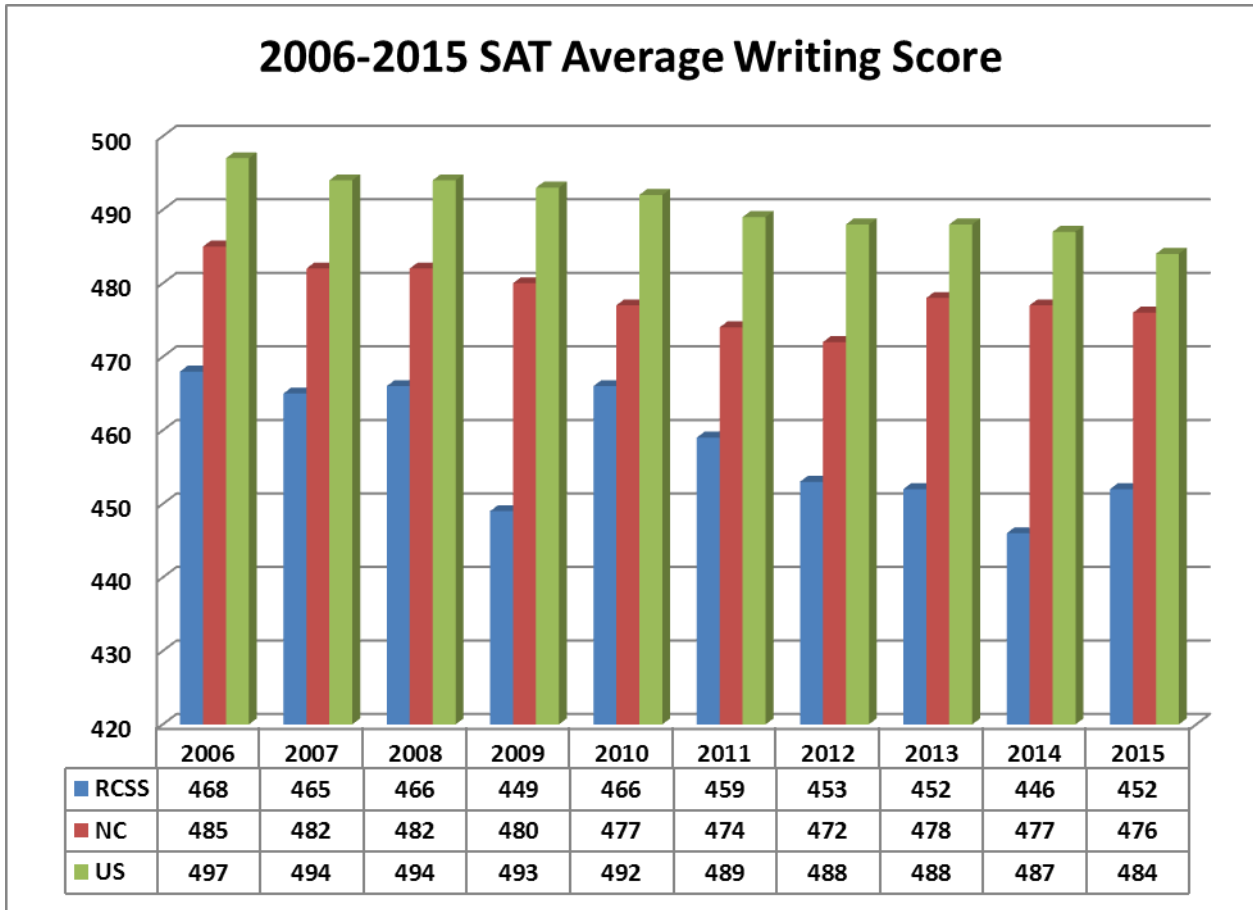
Figure 3 shows average Mathematics scores for RCSS, NC, and the US. In 2015, the average Mathematics scores for RCSS increased by one percentage point, from 486 to 487. NC decreased by three percentage points to 504, and the US Mathematics score decreased by two percentage points in comparison to the previous year.

Figure 3



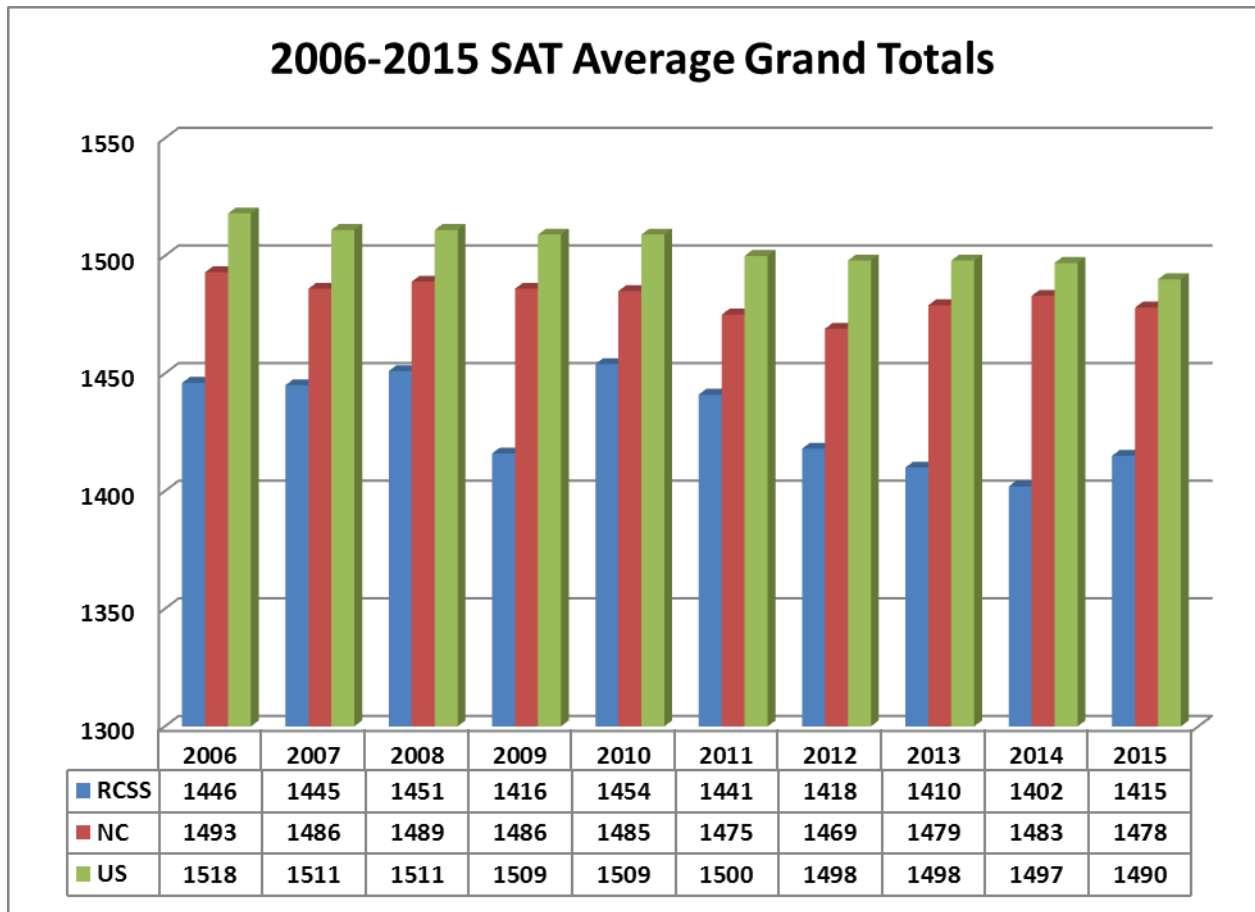
In March 2005, the revision of the SAT included a new Writing section. Figure 4 shows average Writing scores for RCSS, NC, and the U.S. from 2006 to 2015. The RCSS average of 452 for 2015 was six percentage points higher than the 2014 score of 446. Writing scores for NC and the US in 2015 decreased by one and three percentage points respectively.

Figure 4



The 2015 average grand total for all three sections of the SAT (Critical Reading, Mathematics, and Writing) is shown in Figure 5. In 2015, the average Grand Total for RCSS was 13 percentage points higher (1415) than the previous year of (1402). SAT scores for NC decreased by five percentage points while the US score decreased from 1497 to 1490.

Figure 5



Participation Rate

As shown in Figure 6, the number of 2015 SAT test takers in RCSS increased by five students over that of 2014. The higher the percentage of students taking the SAT (participation rate), the lower the average SAT scores (The College Board, 2009). While this is true where there is a -0.88 correlation between mean total SAT scores and participation rates, the opposite association is observed for public schools in North Carolina. In 2010, the Pearson correlation between the percent of students taking the SAT and the mean total SAT score for *public schools* was 0.27. These correlations suggest that participation rate is a lesser factor in predicting SAT scores for public school systems and public schools in North Carolina. In view of the above correlations, schools and school systems in North Carolina should exercise caution when attributing decreases or increases in mean SAT scores to changes in participation rate.

Figure 6
2005 – 2015 Number of Students Taking the SAT

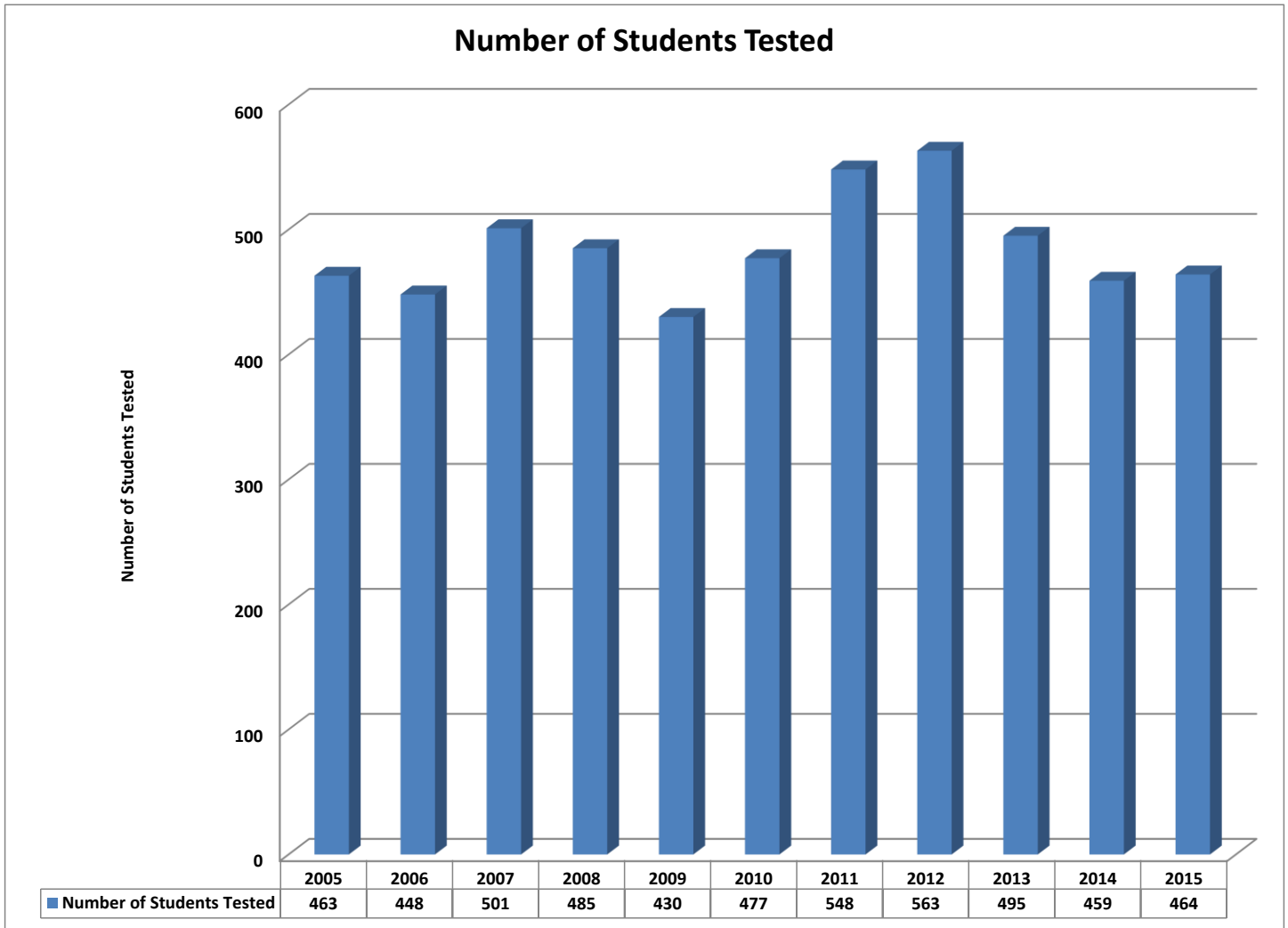


Table 1 provides SAT scores and participation rates for each RCSS high school, RCSS, NC, and the US for the 2005-2015 time periods. Participation rates are derived by dividing the number of test takers (the most recent scores of students scheduled to graduate in a given year) by the eighth month membership for the 12th grade for a particular year.

Table 1
SAT 2005 – 2015 Average Scores and Participation Rates

School	Year	Critical Reading/ Verbal	Math	Subtotal (Critical Reading/ Verbal and Math)	Writing	Grand Total	Participation
Eastern Randolph	2005	469	486	955			57.3
	2006	472	497	969	467	1436	48.0
	2007	474	491	965	452	1417	48.1
	2008	479	505	984	463	1447	46.3
	2009	473	492	965	449	1414	47.3
	2010	473	504	977	445	1422	47.3
	2011	451	485	936	432	1368	49.3
	2012	467	494	961	434	1395	45.3
	2013	463	479	942	439	1381	43.9
	2014	466	446	912	434	1346	34.4
	2015	455	456	911	432	1343	51.4
Providence Grove	2009	423	452	875	386	1261	42.7
	2010	469	489	958	452	1410	53.3
	2011	487	516	1003	461	1464	58.3
	2012	466	494	960	449	1409	57.6
	2013	476	490	966	458	1424	49.7
	2014	454	478	932	437	1369	36.5
	2015	495	494	989	474	1463	37.7
Randleman	2005	470	476	946			49.7
	2006	455	486	941	449	1390	47.7
	2007	481	498	979	468	1447	50.0
	2008	468	502	970	454	1424	51.5
	2009	468	488	956	441	1397	39.0
	2010	460	481	941	457	1398	36.9
	2011	487	497	984	463	1447	49.4
	2012	458	480	938	439	1377	42.0
	2013	439	473	912	438	1350	36.3
	2014	445	472	917	427	1344	33.0
	2015	456	475	931	433	1364	41.9
Randolph Early College	2010	503	515	1018	493	1511	82.6
	2011	504	516	1020	487	1507	63.5
	2012	503	505	1008	477	1485	68.5
	2013	504	513	1017	486	1503	70.8
	2014	515	517	1032	484	1516	68.3
	2015	524	527	1051	472	1523	61.5
Southwest	2005	491	511	1002			51.1
	2006	476	505	981	471	1452	42.9
	2007	470	509	979	462	1441	39.9
	2008	491	502	993	471	1464	38.3
	2009	484	503	987	449	1436	34.2
	2010	492	541	1033	481	1514	40.5
	2011	487	509	996	461	1457	41.5
	2012	477	507	984	454	1438	44.3
	2013	475	499	974	447	1421	31.7
	2014	476	494	970	440	1410	31.0
	2015	476	496	972	472	1444	32.2

School	Year	Critical Reading/ Verbal	Math	Subtotal (Critical Reading/ Verbal and Math)	Writing	Grand Total	Participation
Trinity	2005	500	532	1032			49.6
	2006	481	527	1008	478	1486	53.5
	2007	481	513	994	477	1471	58.4
	2008	485	505	990	474	1464	51.4
	2009	476	507	983	468	1451	49.7
	2010	477	511	988	469	1457	50.4
	2011	461	501	962	459	1421	51.7
	2012	467	493	960	458	1418	56.6
	2013	458	489	947	451	1398	44.0
	2014	475	515	990	459	1449	38.9
	2015	470	505	975	450	1425	45.5
Wheatmore	2011	472	505	977	457	1434	46.2
	2012	467	485	952	461	1413	64.5
	2013	465	487	952	449	1401	58.1
	2014	472	487	959	452	1411	48.6
	2015	486	481	967	447	1414	45.0
RCSS	2005	482	502	984			52.0
	2006	472	506	978	468	1446	48.2
	2007	477	503	980	465	1445	49.0
	2008	481	504	985	466	1451	46.8
	2009	471	496	967	449	1416	43.4
	2010	479	509	988	466	1454	48.8
	2011	478	504	982	459	1441	49.9
	2012	471	494	965	453	1418	52.6
	2013	468	490	958	452	1410	43.9
	2014	470	486	956	446	1402	38.2
	2015	476	487	963	452	1415	42.3
NC	2005	499	511	1010			74.0
	2006	495	513	1008	485	1493	71.0
	2007	495	509	1004	482	1486	71.0
	2008	496	511	1007	482	1489	63.0
	2009	495	511	1006	480	1486	63.0
	2010	497	511	1008	477	1485	63.0
	2011	493	508	1001	474	1475	64.0
	2012	491	506	997	472	1469	68.0
	2013	495	506	1001	478	1479	62.0
	2014	499	507	1006	477	1483	64.0
	2015	498	504	1002	476	1478	59.0
U.S.	2005	508	520	1028			49.0
	2006	503	518	1021	497	1518	48.0
	2007	502	515	1017	494	1511	48.0
	2008	502	515	1017	494	1511	45.0
	2009	501	515	1016	493	1509	46.0
	2010	501	516	1017	492	1509	47.0
	2011	497	514	1011	489	1500	50.0
	2012	496	514	1010	488	1498	52.0
	2013	496	514	1010	488	1498	50.0
	2014	497	513	1010	487	1497	50.0
	2015	495	511	1006	484	1490	52.3

Five RCSS high schools' average SAT scores were well over 1400 for the 2015 school year. Randolph Early College High School had the highest score of 1523 followed by Providence Grove High School at 1463. In comparison to 2014, five of our high schools improved their total SAT score in 2015. The school district as a whole scored an average of 1415.

When interpreting SAT score changes from year to year, the following points should be kept in mind:

- Changes in SAT scores from year-to-year are not unusual.
- Low-volume schools, in terms of participation rate, tend to have larger changes in critical reading, math, and writing scores than medium-volume and high-volume schools.
- The larger the test-taking population, the smaller SAT score changes tend to be.

Table 2 shows that three of our seven high schools tested more students than the previous year and Eastern Randolph High School tested 20 more students when comparing the 2014 and 2015 years. By comparing the data in Table 2 with Table 1, one can see how the number of students tested by school has a significant impact on the change in scores by subtotal scores in Critical Reading, Mathematics, and Writing.

Table 2
Comparison of Number of Students Taking the SAT 2008 thru 2015

School	Number Tested in 2008	Number Tested in 2009	Number Tested in 2010	Number Tested in 2011	Number Tested in 2012	Number Tested in 2013	Number Tested in 2014	Number Tested in 2015
Eastern Randolph High School	132	105	79	73	72	57	55	75
Providence Grove High School	~	35	72	91	95	81	69	61
Randleman High School	105	64	45	82	58	66	62	75
Randolph Early College	~	~	57	54	50	51	43	32
Southwest Randolph High School	98	75	83	97	98	78	86	79
Trinity High School	147	151	141	78	90	62	58	66
Wheatmore High School	~	~	~	73	100	100	86	76
Randolph County School System	482	430	477	548	563	495	459	464

Summary

It is important to note that many College Board tests are taken only by groups of self selected students. Therefore, aggregate results of their performance on these tests usually do not reflect the educational attainment of all students in a school, district, or state. In 2006, after the SAT was revised with the revamping of the Critical Reading and Mathematics sections and the addition of the mandatory Writing portion, RCSS increased its score while the state's scores declined. The patterns of SAT score fluctuations for the nation and NC do not mirror that of RCSS increases in scoring on all three sections of the SAT.

Providence Grove High School had the highest SAT grand total increase of 94 points. Southwestern Randolph High School had an increase of 34 points, followed by Randleman High School at 20 points during the 2015 year.