

Richland County School District One Summary Report



Fall 2003 Results of the Preliminary SAT (PSAT)

Office of Research and Evaluation

February 2004

In October 2003, selected Richland District One students in grades six through eleven participated in the national administration of the College Board's Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). This assessment measures verbal reasoning, critical reading, math problem-solving, and writing skills developed throughout a student's life. The PSAT is considered a practice test for the SAT as well as a test for qualifying for scholarship and merit programs. It consists of two 25-minute verbal sections, two 25-minute math sections, and one 30-minute writing section. The PSAT yields a verbal, a math, and a writing score with each score ranging from 20 to 80. Scores from the PSAT taken in eleventh grade are used for qualifying for the National Merit Scholarship Corporation's (NMSC) scholarship programs.

Richland District One PSAT Performance for 2002 and 2003 by Grade

Chart 1 provides a comparison of the percent of students included in the 45-day Average Daily Membership (ADM) who were tested with the verbal sections of the PSAT in grades seven through eleven for 1999 to 2003. For the 2003 administration of this assessment, higher percentages of students in grades seven through nine participated in PSAT testing when compared to 2002 while smaller proportions of tenth and eleventh grade students participated this year. Chart 2 displays the average verbal scores for Richland District One students by grade over the past two years. Between 2002 and 2003, slight decreases in verbal scores occurred for grade seven (-1.7), grade nine (-0.5), and grade ten (-0.1); however, scores for eighth grade students remained constant, and eleventh grade scores slightly increased (+0.2).

Please note that for all historic charts and tables, data for grade seven for 1999 through 2001 are not available. Also, for charts where two numbers appear above each grade level, the number at the left top represents the change from the first year shown to the last year shown while the number in parentheses gives the change between the last two years. For charts where one number appears above each grade level, the number at the top of each grade represents the change between 2002 and 2003.

Chart 1
Percent Tested of 45-Day ADM for 1999 through 2003 by Grade
Verbal

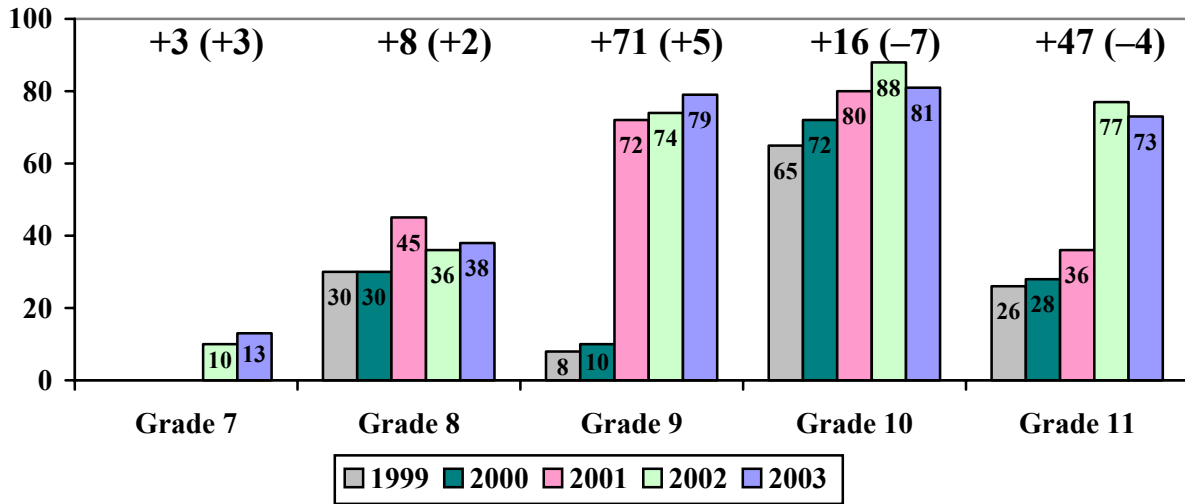
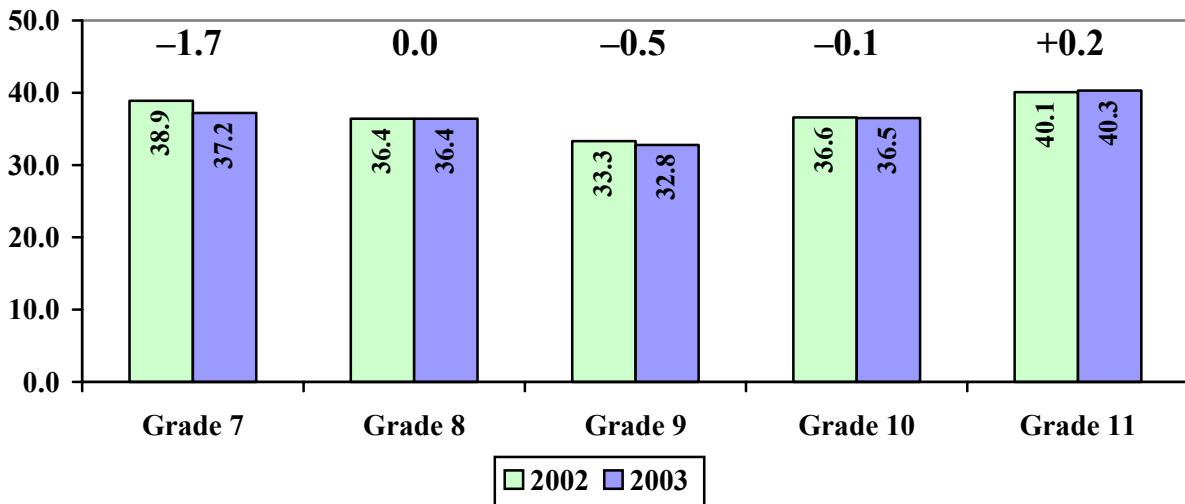


Chart 2
PSAT Average Scores for 2002 and 2003 by Grade
Verbal



The percent of students tested for 1999 through 2003 and the average scores for the math sections of the PSAT for 2002 and 2003 by grade are given in Charts 3 and 4 respectively. Although slightly fewer students were tested in math, the percentages of 45-day ADM remain unchanged when comparing verbal and math participation for 2003 except for eleventh grade where there was a small percentage decrease (1%). Average PSAT math scores experienced a small rise when considering the past two years for grades seven (+0.3) and eight (+0.1), but 2003 students showed lower performance than their 2002 peers for grades nine (-0.7), ten (-0.5), and eleven (-0.1).

Chart 3
Percent Tested of 45-Day ADM for 1999 through 2003 by Grade
Math

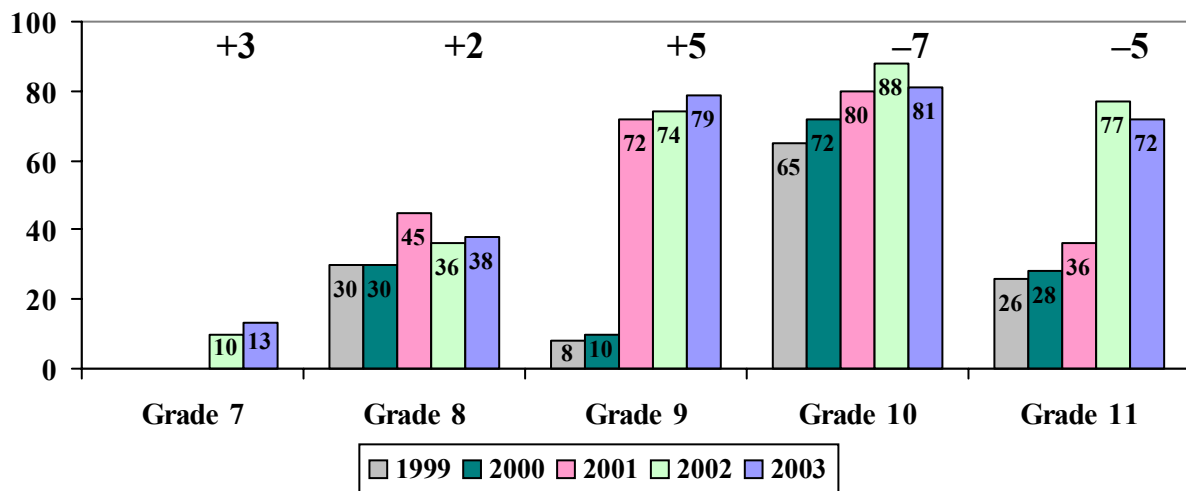
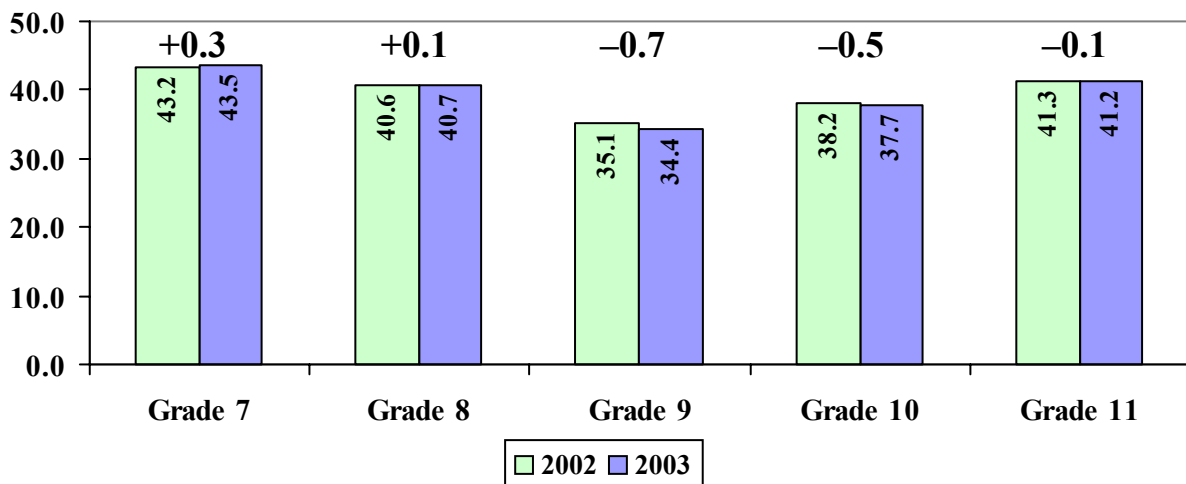


Chart 4
PSAT Average Scores for 2002 and 2003 by Grade
Math



District results from the writing section of the PSAT are supplied in Charts 5 and 6. Slightly fewer students participated in this final section of the test than in the previous two areas with noticeable percent decreases for students in grades nine through eleven. Mean scores in writing for all grades increased from 2002 to 2003 with students in grades eight (+1.2) and eleven (+1.0) improving performance by at least one point.

Chart 5
Percent Tested of 45-Day ADM for 1999 through 2003 by Grade Writing

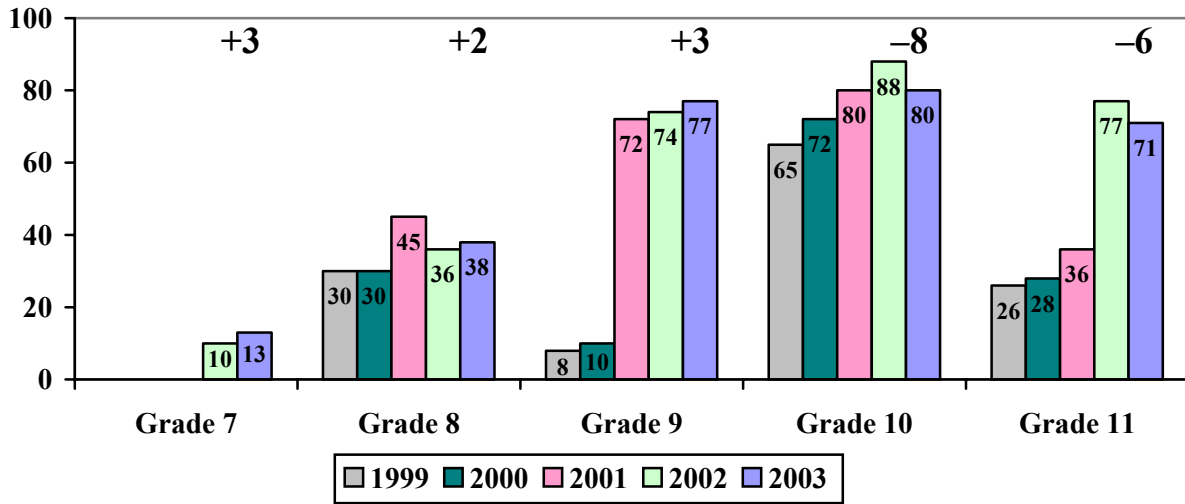


Chart 6
PSAT Average Scores for 2002 and 2003 by Grade Writing

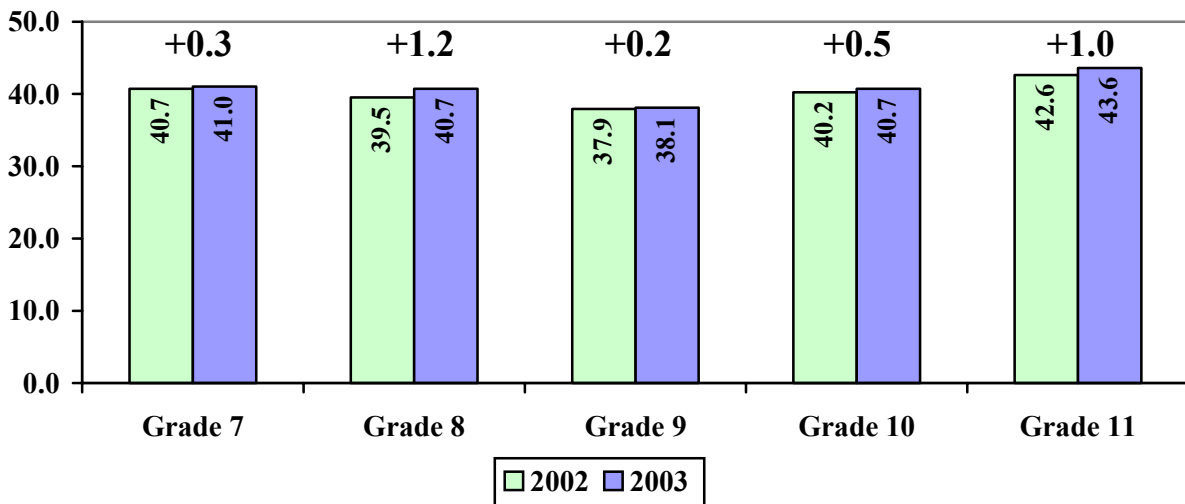


Table 1 provides detailed statistics for 1999 through 2003 performance by grade including the number of students tested, the percent of 45-day ADM tested, and the mean score for each area of the PSAT.

Table 1
PSAT Performance for 1999 through 2003 by Grade

Grade	Year	Verbal			Math			Writing		
		# Tested	% ADM	Mean Score	# Tested	% ADM	Mean Score	# Tested	% ADM	Mean Score
7	1999	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2001	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2002	206	10%	38.9	206	10%	43.2	206	10%	40.7
	2003	263	13%	37.2	263	13%	43.5	262	13%	41.0
8	1999	548	30%	40.2	548	30%	42.3	548	30%	41.3
	2000	563	30%	39.1	563	30%	41.6	563	30%	41.1
	2001	850	45%	36.6	850	45%	38.9	850	45%	38.5
	2002	734	36%	36.4	734	36%	40.6	734	36%	39.5
	2003	724	38%	36.4	723	38%	40.7	722	38%	40.7
9	1999	225	8%	46.8	225	8%	47.6	225	8%	47.3
	2000	265	10%	45.9	265	10%	45.8	265	10%	46.1
	2001	2092	72%	34.3	2092	72%	35.5	2092	72%	37.5
	2002	2031	74%	33.3	2031	74%	35.1	2031	74%	37.9
	2003	2246	79%	32.8	2236	79%	34.4	2183	77%	38.1
10	1999	1302	65%	38.2	1302	65%	38.6	1302	65%	40.5
	2000	1367	72%	37.7	1367	72%	38.4	1367	72%	40.0
	2001	1507	80%	38.3	1507	80%	39.0	1507	80%	40.4
	2002	1674	88%	36.6	1674	88%	38.2	1674	88%	40.2
	2003	1547	81%	36.5	1546	81%	37.7	1527	80%	40.7
11	1999	384	26%	46.9	384	26%	48.5	384	26%	47.9
	2000	430	28%	49.2	430	28%	48.9	430	28%	49.4
	2001	556	36%	47.6	556	36%	47.4	556	36%	48.6
	2002	1245	77%	40.1	1245	77%	41.3	1245	77%	42.6
	2003	1148	73%	40.3	1145	72%	41.2	1127	71%	43.6