

BOARD BRIEF

Date: October 24, 2018

For ACTION _____

For INFORMATION X

Board Agenda: Yes _____

No X

FROM: Jennifer Whitson, Evaluation & Assessment Analyst, Department of Accountability
Clinton Page, Chief Accountability Officer, Department of Accountability

THROUGH: Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Ramee Gentry, Chair, and Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: 2018 SAT Digest

BACKGROUND:

Annually, in the fall, the College Board releases SAT scores for the previous year's graduating senior class. The planned release of school, state, and national data from the College Board is scheduled for October 25, 2018. March 2016 marked the first administration of the reconstructed SAT. The attached report provides SAT results for the 2018 graduating seniors who represent the second cohort to take the reconstructed SAT. Further, the 2018 graduating seniors represent the second cohort for which the SAT was offered to all students and the assessment administered during a school day in fall 2017. For this Digest, performance for the 2017 and 2018 graduating cohorts are compared. Enclosed please find nine figures and one table which summarize the SAT results for the ACPS.

The 2018 SAT Facts narrative (pages 1-3) provides general information for the Board and staff members. Please note the return to the 400-1600 total score scale historically used for SAT. Figures 1 and 2 display SAT participation rates within ACPS for the past 15 years. The spike in participation in 2017 is attributed to the aforementioned initiative undertaken at T.C. Williams to offer the SAT to all students. Figures 3 and 4 display average Evidence-based Reading and Writing (ERW) and Mathematics scores for ACPS for 2017 and 2018 compared to the SAT College and Career Readiness Benchmarks. Figures 5 and 6 depict race/ethnic group comparisons across the two years while Figures 7 and 8 show gender comparisons across the two years on the ERW and Mathematics SAT tests, respectively. Table 1 gives SAT results across all subtests for the past 30 years for ACPS, Virginia, and the nation. Comparison data were

BOARD BRIEF

not yet available for 2018 at the time of this report writing. Figure 9 displays SAT participation rates within ACPS compared to enrollment by race/ethnic subgroups.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Superintendent recommends review of the 2018 SAT Digest for possible planning, procedural, programmatic, and/or budgetary changes.

IMPACT:

The 2018 SAT results indicate the highest number of SAT test-takers in the history of T.C. Williams. This increase is attributed to T.C. Williams offering the SAT to all seniors in the fall starting in 2016 and administering the assessment during the course of a regular school day. Approximately 81% of seniors took the SAT during their high school career. In regards to performance, scores increased on both the Evidence-based Reading and Writing as well as Mathematics subtests. Comparison data should be interpreted with the expanded access provided to ACPS seniors and higher participation rates (81%) than seen at the state and national levels (~50%) in mind. The gap in achievement across subgroups continues to warrant attention.

CONTACT PERSON: Jennifer Whitson

ATTACHMENT: (1) *2018 SAT Digest*