

PSAT

Test Brief for 2016–2017

Cobb County School District

According to the [College Board](#), the PSAT measures the knowledge and skills that research shows are the most essential for college and career readiness and success. The test includes questions on reading, writing, language, and math. The PSAT was redesigned for the 2015–2016 school year, and this test brief reports on the scores from the second year of the new test.

The PSAT is scored in two sections: evidence-based reading and writing (ERW) and math. The scale score on either section varies from 160 to 760. The total score is the sum of the ERW and math sections. The total score can vary from 320 to 1520. The SAT college entrance exam is reported on the same scale with a slightly different range (400 to 1600). As a result, a student with a 950 total score on the PSAT would be expected to score near 950 on the SAT had they taken the SAT on that day instead.

Tables 1 and 2: Participation Rate and Mean Scores by School

Over 10,000 10th and 11th grade students in Cobb County took the PSAT on October 19, 2016. Tables 1 and 2 in this test brief contain the number of test takers and the participation rate for each school for 10th and 11th graders, respectively. The tables also include the mean ERW, math, and total scores and the trend at each school compared to the previous year. The trend was computed by subtracting the mean in 2015 from the mean in 2016. The participation rate calculation is based on the enrollment reported in October by each school in Georgia in the FTE data collection. The same data collection was the source of the enrollment for Georgia. The National Center of Educational Statistics Digest was used to estimate the enrollment in the United States. The trend in participation rate is reported in percentage points not as a percent increase or decrease. The total score and section scores in Tables 1 and 2 may not add exactly due to rounding effects.

Tables 3 and 4: College-ready Benchmark Performance by School

As a part of the PSAT, the College Board also reports college-readiness benchmarks that signify whether or not students are college ready based on their performance on the PSAT. Tables 3 and 4 in this brief include the percentage of students that met the benchmarks. The tables also show the trend in meeting benchmarks from 2015 to 2016. The trend is reported in percentage points. For example, a +3 trend would mean that 3% more students met the benchmark in 2016 compared to 2015 (that is, an increase from 80% to 83% would be a +3 trend).

Caution when Interpreting Scores

Exercise caution when comparing the performance of students from different schools in the county. In particular, the participation rate varies widely among Cobb schools especially for 11th grade. Eleventh grade test takers were self-selected and tend to be students trying to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program. If the percentage of students taking the test at two schools are widely different, then the mean scores and percentage meeting benchmarks should not be compared. Likewise, for 10th and 11th grade a comparison of the performance of the students from 2015 to 2016 using the trends at each school should account for the participation rate trend. If the number of students taking the test changed by several percentage points, caution should be used in the comparing the performance on the test in different years.

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Table 1: PSAT Participation and Mean Scores from Fall 2016 for 10th Grade

School	Test Takers			ERW		Math		Total	
	Count	%	Trend	Mean	Trend	Mean	Trend	Mean	Trend
Cobb	7,486	82	+3	495	+10	482	+9	977	+19
Georgia	105,137	77	-1	459	+7	451	+3	909	+9
United States	1,867,767	49	-1	472	+4	466	+2	937	+5
Allatoona	402	91	+5	493	-3	475	+6	967	+2
Campbell HS	499	67	-9	473	+17	459	+16	932	+32
Harrison	479	93	-2	512	+9	503	+18	1015	+27
Hillgrove	591	91	+3	501	+2	481	+4	982	+6
Kell	329	83	+7	488	+13	470	+11	958	+24
Kennesaw Mountain	490	85	-5	513	+7	500	+2	1014	+9
Lassiter	514	96	+3	549	+23	539	+3	1088	+27
McEachern	515	81	+16	443	+19	433	+15	876	+34
North Cobb	645	87	+9	474	+6	452	+7	926	+13
Osborne	322	60	-5	413	+7	406	-3	819	+5
Pebblebrook	405	64	-2	432	+2	414	-9	846	-7
Pope	472	91	+3	546	+17	529	+10	1074	+26
South Cobb	374	75	+4	439	+4	434	+39	873	+43
Sprayberry	384	83	+2	473	+4	448	+0	921	+4
Walton	654	93	-2	578	+22	577	+9	1155	+31
Wheeler	407	72	+23	524	+19	522	+24	1046	+42

Table 2: PSAT Participation and Mean Scores from Fall 2016 for 11th Grade

School	Test Takers			ERW		Math		Total	
	Count	%	Trend	Mean	Trend	Mean	Trend	Mean	Trend
Cobb	2,849	37	-8	579	+18	565	+14	1144	+32
Georgia	29,435	24	-3	523	+11	511	+6	1034	+17
United States	1,781,747	49	-1	513	+6	505	+3	1019	+10
Allatoona	189	44	-15	553	+28	523	+19	1076	+46
Campbell HS	113	20	-4	614	+28	595	+29	1209	+58
Harrison	365	78	-10	550	+8	532	+11	1082	+19
Hillgrove	137	23	-16	591	+39	565	+37	1156	+76
Kell	35	10	-7	561	+6	525	+4	1085	+9
Kennesaw Mountain	189	40	+6	612	+26	602	+10	1214	+35
Lassiter	445	80	-6	579	+8	582	+9	1161	+17
McEachern	38	8	+0	531	-10	505	-15	1036	-25
North Cobb	98	16	-16	582	+41	527	+28	1109	+70
Osborne	100	26	-11	454	+10	438	+5	893	+16
Pebblebrook	47	11	-3	538	-1	513	+27	1051	+26
Pope	299	63	-11	584	+23	565	+11	1149	+35
South Cobb	24	5	-8	473	-56	467	-49	940	-105
Sprayberry	51	14	-17	547	+6	506	-8	1053	-2
Walton	592	90	-0	601	+2	597	-11	1199	-8
Wheeler	127	32	-5	651	+14	653	+5	1304	+19

Table 3: Percentage of Students Meeting PSAT College-ready Benchmarks from Fall 2016 for 10th Grade

School	Test Takers			Met None		Met ERW		Met Math		Met Both	
	Count	%	Trend	%	Trend	%	Trend	%	Trend	%	Trend
Cobb	7,486	82	+3	25	-2	72	+2	50	+4	47	+4
Georgia	105,137	77	-1	39	-1	58	+2	35	+1	32	+2
United States	1,867,767	49	-1	33	+0	64	+1	43	+1	40	+2
Allatoona	402	91	+5	18	+4	78	-5	51	+5	47	+4
Campbell HS	499	67	-9	39	-2	59	+3	37	+4	35	+6
Harrison	479	93	-2	13	-2	84	+2	66	+11	63	+11
Hillgrove	591	91	+3	15	-1	81	+1	51	-1	48	-1
Kell	329	83	+7	26	+5	72	-3	47	+10	45	+12
Kennesaw Mountain	490	85	-5	22	+2	75	-1	56	+3	53	+4
Lassiter	514	96	+3	6	-3	91	+5	78	+1	76	+3
McEachern	515	81	+16	43	-8	54	+9	23	+3	20	+5
North Cobb	645	87	+9	32	-1	66	+1	37	+2	34	+2
Osborne	322	60	-5	59	-6	38	+7	14	+4	11	+4
Pebblebrook	405	64	-2	50	+1	47	+1	17	-5	14	-3
Pope	472	91	+3	6	-3	92	+5	78	+6	76	+7
South Cobb	374	75	+4	42	-5	55	+4	28	+7	25	+6
Sprayberry	384	83	+2	31	-2	67	+2	33	+1	31	+1
Walton	654	93	-2	6	+0	94	+2	85	+2	85	+4
Wheeler	407	72	+23	23	-8	74	+7	58	+12	55	+11

Table 4: Percentage of Students Meeting PSAT College-ready Benchmarks from Fall 2016 for 11th Grade

School	Test Takers			Met None		Met ERW		Met Math		Met Both	
	Count	%	Trend	%	Trend	%	Trend	%	Trend	%	Trend
Cobb	2,849	37	-8	8	-3	90	+4	73	+9	72	+9
Georgia	29,435	24	-3	28	-2	70	+3	50	+5	49	+5
United States	1,781,747	49	-1	29	-1	69	+2	48	+3	46	+4
Allatoona	189	44	-15	12	-6	86	+7	60	+14	59	+15
Campbell HS	113	20	-4	3	-9	96	+7	89	+18	88	+16
Harrison	365	78	-10	11	-1	85	-0	63	+12	59	+11
Hillgrove	137	23	-16	2	-7	97	+9	79	+16	78	+17
Kell	35	10	-7	6	-3	91	+6	57	-2	54	+1
Kennesaw Mountain	189	40	+6	3	-6	96	+9	80	+5	79	+7
Lassiter	445	80	-6	5	-0	92	-0	82	+5	79	+4
McEachern	38	8	+0	13	-2	84	+2	63	-2	61	-1
North Cobb	98	16	-16	5	-16	95	+16	67	+17	67	+17
Osborne	100	26	-11	52	-2	46	+1	17	+5	15	+4
Pebblebrook	47	11	-3	6	-11	91	+10	53	+14	51	+13
Pope	299	63	-11	7	-4	92	+5	79	+10	77	+11
South Cobb	24	5	-8	33	+17	62	-21	33	-28	29	-32
Sprayberry	51	14	-17	20	+7	78	-7	51	-4	49	-4
Walton	592	90	-0	5	+1	94	+0	82	+1	81	+2
Wheeler	127	32	-5	5	+2	95	-1	89	-3	89	-2