



PULASKI COUNTY SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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“District Superintendent Recommending New Plan to School Board to Further Improve SAT-9 Student Test Scores”

Following last year's edging up of student test scores on the state mandated national achievement test, Stanford Achievement Test-9, which is required at grades 5, 7, and 10, Dr. Gary Smith, Superintendent of Education, said that, "This year's slight declines are a bit disappointing as they come on the heels of two years of grade-level to grade-level increases." But there is more "positive" to report than at first glance if you look carefully at the scores, Smith said, because a number of individual schools showed increases and the overall declines were only one or two percentile points.

Looking at the performance of the same students, last year's fourth grade students scored at the 40th percentile, while this year the same group of students scored at the 44th percentile as fifth graders on the *Complete Battery* of the SAT-9. That is a significant increase. Last year's sixth grade students scored at the 47th percentile—and as seventh graders this year they scored at the 46th percentile, down just one percentile point. Ninth grade students who took the SAT-9 in fall 2000 scored at the 45th percentile, while the same group as tenth graders increased to the 47th percentile. That is a significant increase also.

The superintendent emphasized that increased student achievement continues as top priority in the District. He indicated he was moving forward by recommending a comprehensive plan to the School Board that would focus on increasing student achievement among all students and reducing disparity. Dr. Smith went on to say, “The plan I am recommending to the Board is structured to address a comprehensive and continuous school-year plan for increasing SAT-9 test scores and the scores on the Arkansas benchmark exams.” This plan will address student learning at all levels and will also place emphasis on the needs of at-risk students who often score below the District’s average, Smith said.

Dr. Smith reluctantly speculated that the events of September 11th, one week before the SAT-9 tests were administered, “may have distracted student concentration on these tests.” We might have had even higher results, but that is something we will never know, Smith added.

Dr. Smith commended principals and teachers on the continued development of individual School Action Plans and increased emphasis on strategies to improve individual student test scores. Dr. Smith credited the District’s Department of Educational Accountability and the Division of Learning Services for providing the schools with School Profile software, a powerful tool to identify grade level strengths and weaknesses. Dr. Smith concluded his comments by saying, “I know we are on the right track—I see our students engaged in learning as I visit schools throughout the District. We will continue our hard work and our high expectations—we will continue to move forward,” Dr. Smith said.

(This press release and prior year’s test scores may be found on the District’s website at <http://pcssdweb.k12.ar.us>)

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PCSSD: SAT-9 Complete Battery – 5th Grade

Gains vs. Decreases Compared to Previous Year

General Population/Complete Battery	Fall 00	Fall 01	UP	Down
District-Wide 5 th Grade	45	44		-1
Adkins Elementary	30	30	Steady	
Arnold Dr. Elementary	64	70	6	
Baker Elementary	65	60		-5
Bates Elementary	31	34	3	
Bayou Meto Elementary	47	43		-4
Cato Elementary	46	46	Steady	
Clinton Elementary	31	40	9	
College Station Elementary	71	75	4	
Crystal Hill Elementary	40	43	3	
Dupree Elementary	55	57	2	
Harris Elementary	36	26		-10
Jacksonville Elementary	42	28		-14
Landmark Elementary	30	31	1	
Lawson Elementary	41	53	12	
Oak Grove Elementary	31	37	6	
Oakbrooke Elementary	59	48		-11
Pine Forest Elementary	57	58	1	
Pinewood Elementary	50	44		-6
Robinson Elementary	58	35		-23
Scott Elementary	13	25	12	
Sherwood Elementary	39	38		-1
Sylvan Hills Elementary	46	46	Steady	
Taylor Elementary	31	39	8	
Tolleson Elementary	53	69	16	

PCSSD: SAT-9 Complete Battery – 7th Grade
Gains vs. Decreases Compared to Previous Year

General Population/Complete Battery	Fall 00	Fall 01	UP	Down
District-Wide Middle School/Junior High 7 th Grade	47	46		-1
Fuller Middle School	56	46		-10
Jacksonville Middle School	46	42		-4
Northwood Middle School	46	51	5	
Oak Grove Junior High School	39	49	10	
Robinson Middle School	50	49		-1
Sylvan Hills Middle School	46	43		-3

PCSSD: SAT-9 Complete Battery – 10th Grade

Gains vs. Decreases Compared to Previous Year

General Population/Complete Battery	Fall 00	Fall 01	UP	Down
District-Wide 10 th Grade	49	47		-2
Jacksonville High School	47	41		-6
Mills High School	58	49		-9
North Pulaski High School	44	46	2	
Oak Grove High School	48	48	Steady	
Robinson High School	49	47		-2
Sylvan Hills High School	50	54	4	

PCSSD: SAT-9 Complete Battery Cohort Comparisons

General Population/Complete Battery	Fall 00	Fall 01	UP	Down
Student Cohort Comparison Groups	4th Grade	5th Grade		
	40	44	4	
	6th Grade	7th Grade		
	47	46		-1
	9th Grade	10th Grade		
	45	47	2	

Please note that the District's recent transition to the middle school model precludes a school-to-school cohort comparison for this year's 7th and 10th grade students. However, a school-to-school cohort comparison is possible for this year's 5th grade students and follows this page.

PCSSD: SAT-9 Complete Battery 4th & 5th Grade Cohort Comparison

Gains vs. Decreases Compared to Previous Year for Cohort Group

General Population/Complete Battery	Fall 00 4 th Grade	Fall 01 5 th Grade	UP	Down
District-Wide	40	44	4	
Adkins Elementary	33	30		-3
Arnold Dr. Elementary	62	70	8	
Baker Elementary	65	60		-5
Bates Elementary	33	34	1	
Bayou Meto Elementary	39	43	4	
Cato Elementary	42	46	4	
Clinton Elementary	35	40	5	
College Station Elementary	73	75	2	
Crystal Hill Elementary	36	43	7	
Dupree Elementary	45	57	12	
Harris Elementary	26	26	Steady	
Jacksonville Elementary	33	28		-5
Landmark Elementary	24	31	7	
Lawson Elementary	43	53	10	
Oak Grove Elementary	33	37	4	
Oakbrooke Elementary	39	48	9	
Pine Forest Elementary	57	58	1	
Pinewood Elementary	38	44	6	
Robinson Elementary	36	35		-1
Scott Elementary	22	25	3	
Sherwood Elementary	35	38	3	
Sylvan Hills Elementary	42	46	4	
Taylor Elementary	38	39	1	
Tolleson Elementary	62	69	7	