

## Los Angeles Unified School District

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# News Release

## 2003 SAT SCORES RELEASED, LAUSD REPORTS GAINS

The 2003 Scholastic Assessment Tests (SAT I) scores, used by a majority of colleges and universities in the U.S. as part of their admissions, were announced today with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) reporting modest gains in both verbal and math scores.

The District's SAT I mean verbal scores increased two points in 2003 and mathematics scores increased one point from the previous year. Over a five-year period, the LAUSD's mean verbal score rose four points and the math score increased seven points. Overall, SAT score increases were reported in the state and the nation.

Approximately 80 percent of colleges and universities in the U.S. without open admission policies use SAT I scores in admissions. The SAT I measures students' verbal and mathematical reasoning abilities.

"I am very pleased to see SAT scores continue to move up," said Los Angeles School Superintendent Roy Romer. "Yet there is still more work to be done to raise scores even higher in the District and we have implemented a number of secondary level education programs that we believe will make a difference in students' future SAT scores."

Once again, LAUSD's Van Nuys High School reported the highest SAT averages, with a mean verbal score of 531 and a mathematics score of 557. Those LAUSD high schools with verbal scores equal to or above the national average of 507 are Van Nuys High School (531), Palisades Charter (520), Granada Hills (520), El Camino (518), Cleveland (515) and Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies (LACES) (508).

LAUSD high schools with mathematics scores equal to or above the national average of 519 are Van Nuys (557), Granada Hills (550), El Camino (545), Taft (532), Palisades Charter (524) and Cleveland ((523).

The profile of students in the LAUSD taking the SAT I differs greatly from the SAT I takers across both the state and the nation. These differences include first language learned,

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family income, ethnic background and mean SAT I scores by ethnicity.

The language diversity of LAUSD shows that 66 percent of the students in the District speak another language other than English as their primary home language compared to only 38 percent for California and 21 percent for the nation.

Only 34 percent of LAUSD students reported English as the first language learned. At the state level, students reporting English as the first language learned was 62 percent and for the nation 80 percent.

In California, the mean verbal score increased three points and the mathematics score increased two points in 2003. The state's five year comparison indicates a two point increase in verbal and a five point gain in mathematics scores.

Nationally, the verbal score increased three points over the previous year and the mathematics score also rose three points in 2003. Over a five year period nationally, the verbal score jumped two points and the mathematics score climbed eight points.