

Summary – Tenth Grade PSAT and PLAN Participation in 2008

Attached are tables showing statewide participation in PSAT and PLAN 10th grade testing for 1999 through 2008 and participation by district and by school for 2005 through 2008.

Participation Statewide

- After significant year-to-year increases through 2004, the overall percentage taking the PSAT has reached a plateau. In fall 2008, 66.8 percent of the 10th graders in Florida public schools took the PSAT, about the same as for the last five years.
- The proportion of 10th graders taking the PLAN increased from 12.9 percent in 2007 to 13.4 percent in 2008. (Please note that the numbers taking the two tests should not be summed since some students take both tests.)
- The 2008 PSAT was taken by 83 percent of Florida's Asian 10th graders, 74 percent of Hispanics, 58 percent of white non-Hispanics, and 59 percent of African Americans. As is true with respect to the SAT and ACT, females are more likely to take the tests than are males (68 percent and 63 percent, respectively).
- Long term, the percentages of 10th graders taking either the PSAT or PLAN have increased from 21 percent in 1999 to 66.8 percent in 2008 for the PSAT and from 4 percent to 13.4 percent for PLAN, with the greatest increases among racial-ethnic minorities. During that ten-year period, the proportion taking the PSAT rose by 58 percentage points for Hispanics, 45 percentage points for African Americans, and 35 percentage points for white non-Hispanics.
- The race codes used in the DOE student data base are based on the student's official school record. The race codes in PSAT and PLAN records are based on the information reported by students when they took the test. Therefore, the designations used are not synonymous. The codes are also slightly different. DOE records include the category *multiracial*; College Board codes include three categories for Hispanic groups and the category *other* but none for multiracial; and ACT codes include two for Hispanics, a multiracial category, and a category *Prefer not to Respond* (which potentially could encourage non-responses). In 2008 four percent of the PSAT test takers and three percent of the PLAN test takers did not indicate their race.

Participation by District

- In 2008 the PSAT was the predominant test for 32 of the 67 county school districts and PLAN was the predominant test for 35 districts.
- In 41 of the school districts, 75 percent or more of the students took either the PSAT or PLAN or both. In only one district did the number tested fall below 50 percent.
- Among PSAT districts 78.5 percent of the 10th graders took the PSAT. Among PLAN districts, 79% took PLAN.
- Many districts offer both tests, at least in specific schools. One or more students in 54 districts took the PSAT, including 22 districts for which PLAN was the predominant test. This may be related to the fact that the PSAT is used as the qualifying test for National Merit and other related scholarships.
- One or more students in 41 districts took PLAN, including 6 districts for which PSAT was the predominant test.
- Tenth graders enrolled in PSAT districts represent 84.4 percent of all 10th graders in the 67 districts. Enrollments in PLAN districts represent 16.4 percent of all 10th graders.