

Shrewsbury High School Testing Report

Class of 2015



**Presented to the School Committee
November 4, 2015**

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Shrewsbury High School Testing Report Class of 2015

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Summary Statements

SAT (formerly referred to as the SAT I or SAT Reasoning Test):

- Page 6 **Average Scores—1600 scale and 2400 scale (Figures 1 and 2)**
- Based on the 1600 scale, Shrewsbury’s SAT scores increased thirteen points from 1118 to 1131. Even with the increase, these scores remain well above the state and national averages of 1045 and 1006, respectively.
 - Based on the 2400 scale, Shrewsbury’s SAT scores increased fifteen points from 1663 to 1678. Once again, with the increase, these scores remain well above the state and national averages of 1552 and 1490, respectively.
- Page 7-8 **SAT: Individual Critical Reading, Math, and Writing scores**
- On each individual section, Shrewsbury’s scores had a increase:
 - Critical Reading score increased by 6 points. **(Figure 3)**
 - Math score increased by 7 points. **(Figure 4)**
 - Writing score increased by 2 points. **(Figure 5)**
- Page 9 **SAT: Critical Reading, Math, and Writing scores by Gender (Figure 6)**
- In the Critical Reading scores, Shrewsbury females scored higher than males unlike the state and national trends. Partially consistent with state and national trends, Shrewsbury females score higher on the Writing section of the SAT while Shrewsbury males score higher on the Math section of the SAT.
- Page 10 **SAT: Participation Rates—Local School Districts (Figure 7)**
- All students at Shrewsbury High School are encouraged to take the SAT in preparation for college admissions. For the Class of 2015, 96% of seniors took the SAT, a particularly high percentage compared to most other high schools locally, statewide, and nationally.
- Page 11 **SAT: Comparison of Local School Districts (Figure 8)**
- Shrewsbury students in the Class of 2015 are compared to high schools in the region.
- Pages 12 **SAT: Shrewsbury High School One-Year and Five-Year Comparisons (Figure 9)**
- Shrewsbury experienced a rise in scores compared to last year. However, when scores are compared to 5 years ago, they continue to be higher by 8 points in Critical Reading, 29 points in Math, and 8 points in Writing. With an overall increase of 37 points over the past 5 years on the 1600 scale.

Subject Test Scores:

- Page 13-16 **Summary of SAT Subject Tests (Figures 10 – 16)**
- Overall, Shrewsbury students score higher on the SAT Subject Test compared to students in Massachusetts and the nation. Individual Subject Test scores are summarized over the next several pages.
 - Students taking the Biology Subject Test have an option to take the test with an emphasis on Molecular Biology or Ecological Biology. The majority

of students at Shrewsbury elected to take the Ecological Biology Subject test this year, and scores outpaced state and national averages by 62 and 78 points, respectively. Across the board, Shrewsbury students scored above average in all subject tests. This year, there is a notable gain as (compared to a decrease last year) in the Literature subject test of 32 points compared to the state average and 39 points when compared to the national average.

ACT:

Pages 17-18 **ACT Participation Rates and Mean Scores (Figure 17,18,19)**

- As a whole, Massachusetts has one of the lowest participation rates in the country. However, Shrewsbury has seen an increase in the number of students electing to take the ACT in addition to the SAT over the past few years. Of the 411 students in the Class of 2015, 141 students (34%) took the ACT.
- The average ACT score for the Shrewsbury's Class of 2014 is 25.6 (based on a scale of 1 – 36). This score is equivalent to about 1160 on the SATs.

Advanced Placement Exams:

Page 20 **Appropriate Grade Levels for AP Courses**

- The College Board does not recommend students in the 9th grade for AP courses. Instead, students should “develop the necessary skills and conceptual understandings in foundational courses prior to enrolling in AP.”
- Nationally, 79% of all AP Exams were taken by juniors and seniors.
- Of all students taking AP Exams nationally, 21% of students take three or more exams; in the class of 2015, 51.2% of Shrewsbury students take three or more exams.

Page 21 **Participation Rates (Figure 20)**

- The number of exams administered has increased by 107 exams to a total of 670 exams. The number of students taking AP exams increased by thirty-seven students, 313 (juniors and seniors combined).
- **Fifty-three percent (53%) of the students in the Class of 2015 took at least one AP exam.**

Page 22 **Average Scores—Shrewsbury High School and Nationally (Figure 21)**

- Scored on a scale of 1 – 5, the average AP Exam scores of Shrewsbury students are particularly impressive. All of the sixteen AP courses at Shrewsbury had an average score above 3.4—and eleven out of sixteen had an average score of 4.0 and above.

Page 23 **AP Exams: Comparison of Local School Districts (Figure 22)**

- Most colleges award students scoring a 3 or higher with college credit. Shrewsbury students in the Class of 2015 ranked third out of ten comparable high schools in the region when comparing the percentage of students earning a score of 3 or higher.

Pages 24-25 **Exam Results—Shrewsbury High School**

- The percentage of students in the Class of 2015 scoring 3 or above is 94%.
- Thirteen out of 16 AP courses offered at Shrewsbury had at least 90% of their students scoring at a 3 or above.
- Forty-six percent (46%) of the exams administered resulted in a score of 5—the highest possible score available. **(Figure 23)**

Page 25 **Scholars**

- The total number of AP scholars in 2015 is 121.
- One hundred-six of the 217 seniors (49%), who took AP exams were named AP Scholars. Two students were named a National Scholar, granted to students who receive an average grade of 4 on all AP exams taken **and** a grade of 4 or higher on eight or more exams.

PSAT/NMSQT

Page 26-27 **National Merit Scholarship Program**

- The number of students recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation has slightly declined for the past six years. One student was named National Merit Finalists and one student from the Class of 2015 was named a Scholarship Recipient.

Final Comments

Page 27-28 **Final Overview of the 2014 – 2015 School Year**

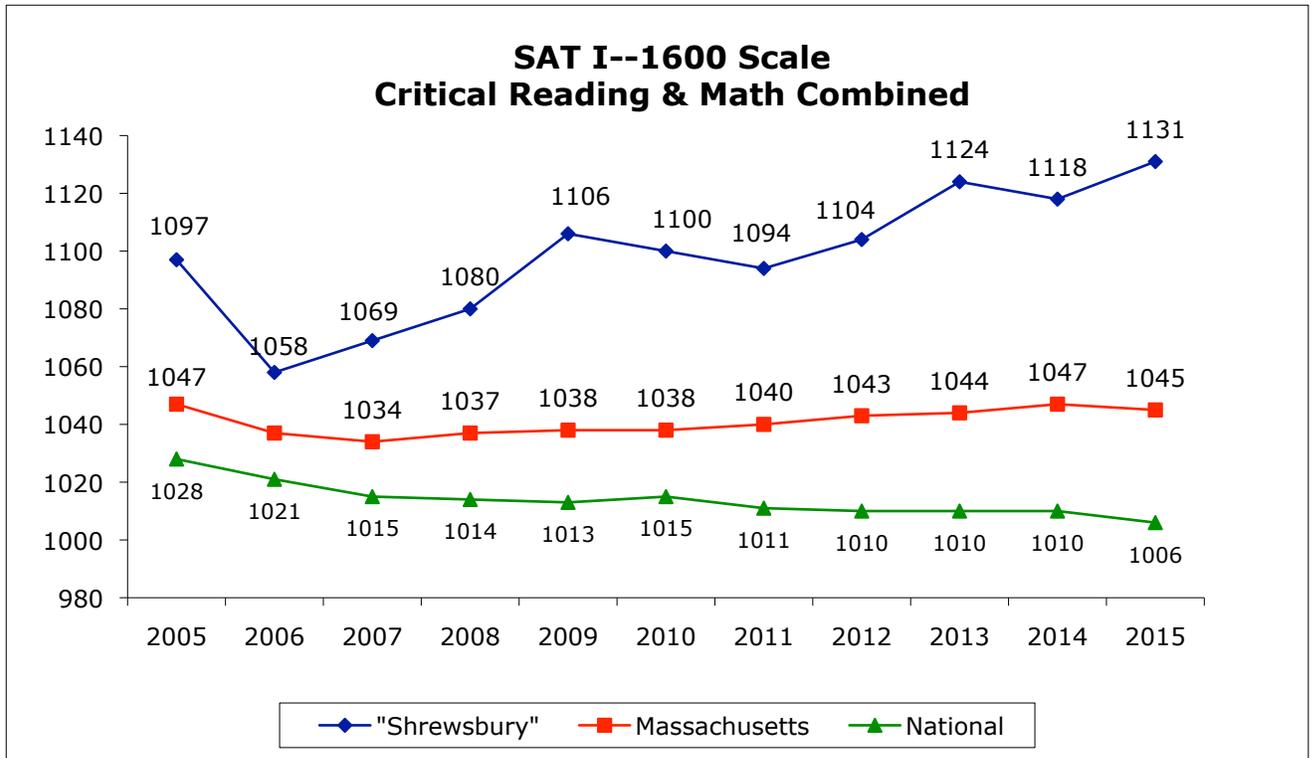


Figure 1

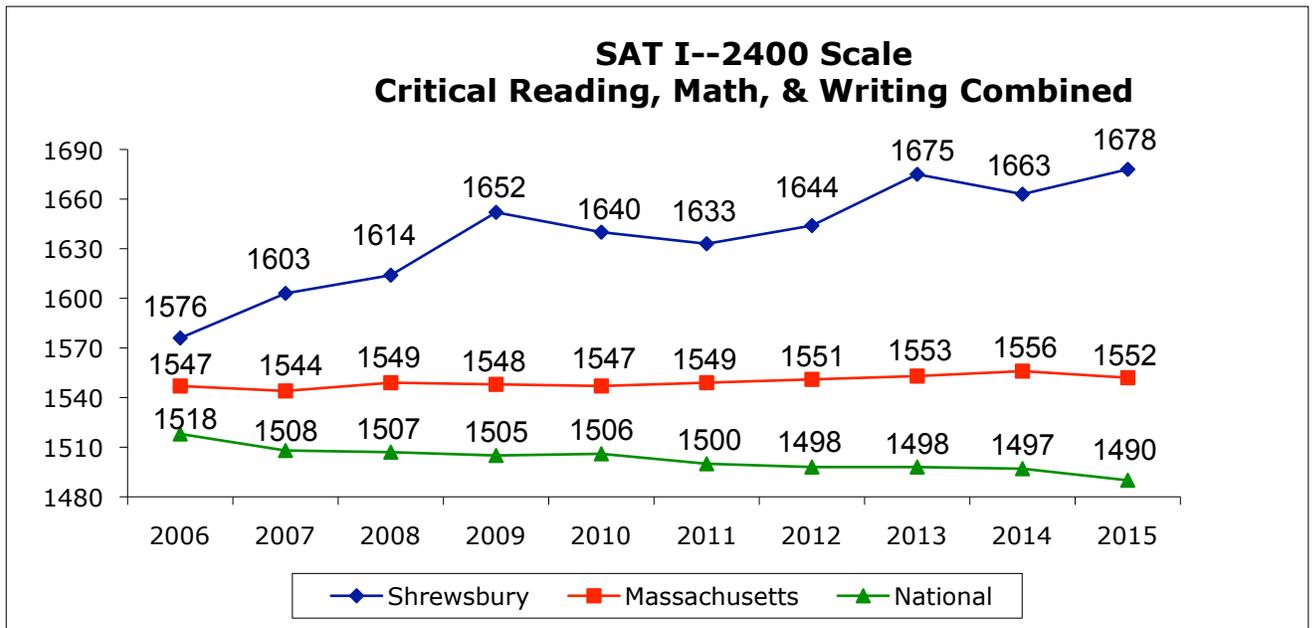


Figure 2

Critical Reading & Math Sections

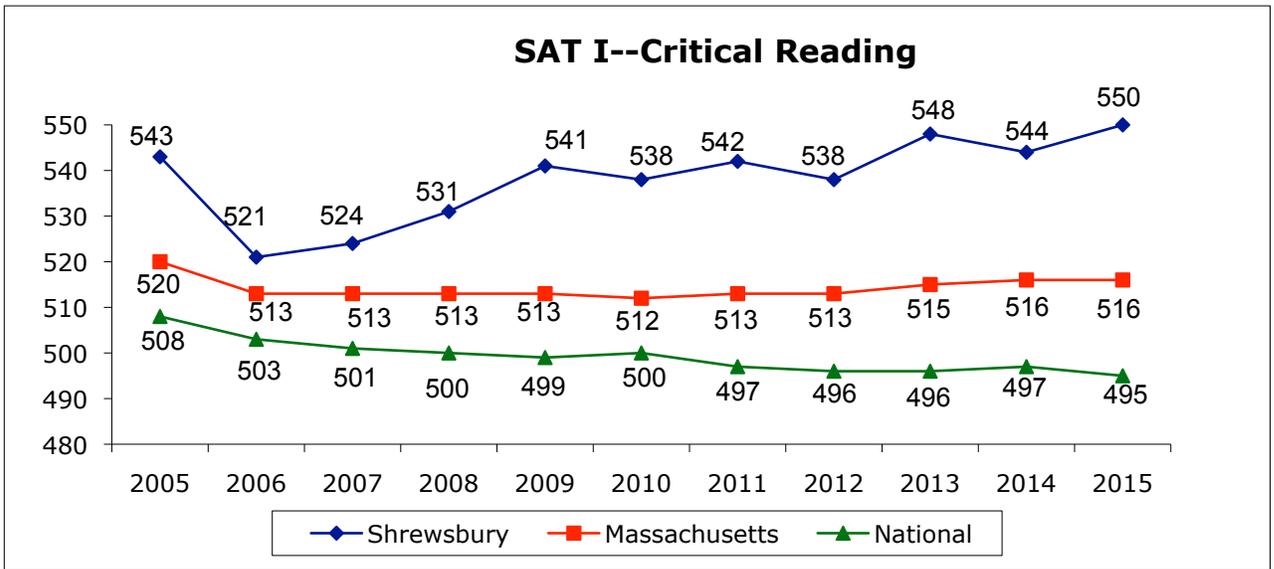


Figure 3

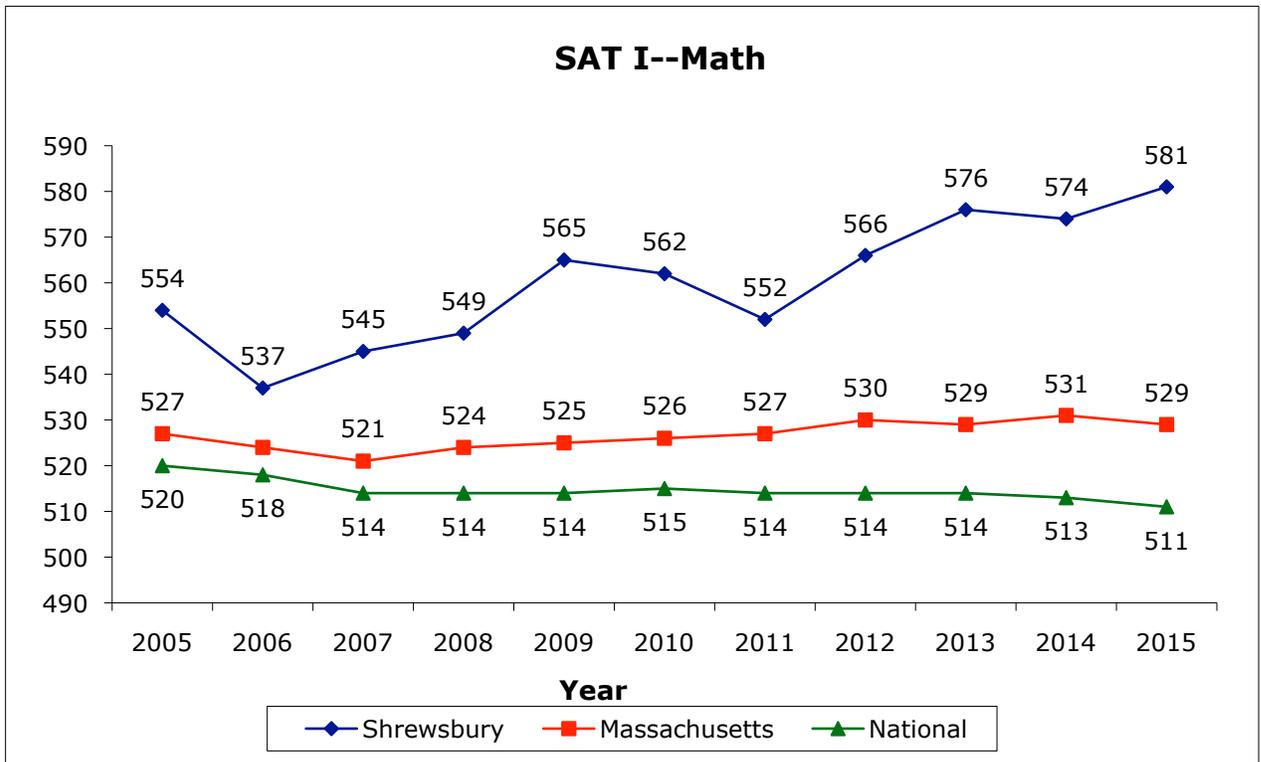


Figure 4

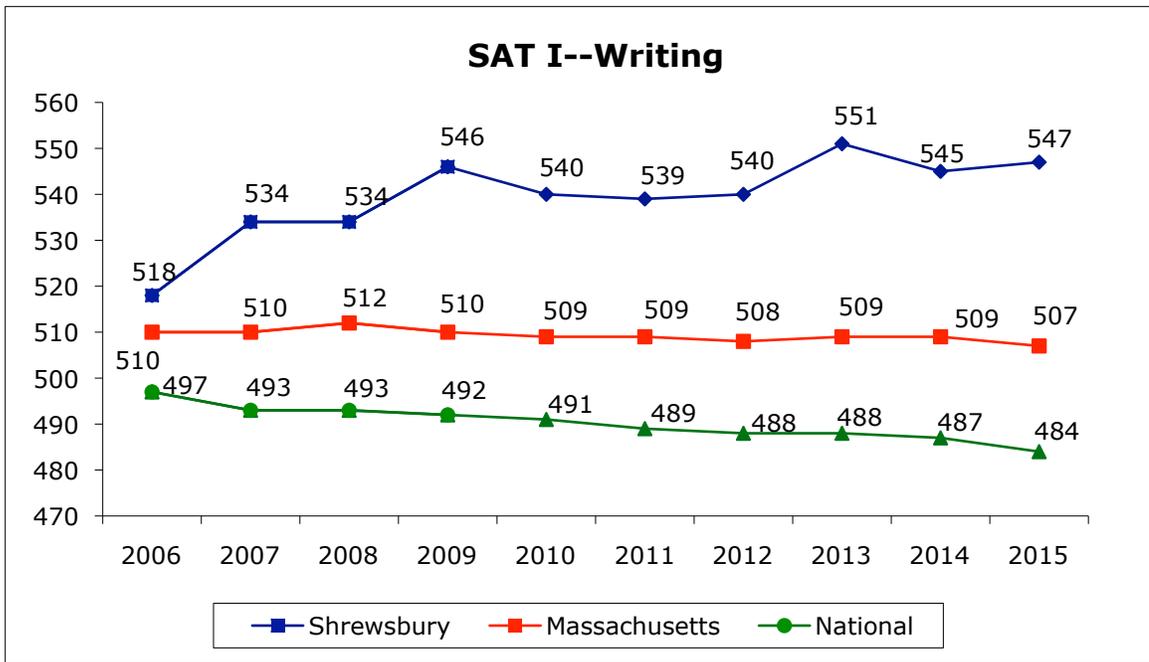


Figure 5

**Critical Reading, Math, and Writing Scores by Gender
Shrewsbury High School, Massachusetts, and Nationally**

| Critical Reading | SHS | Massachusetts | National |
|---------------------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Males | 541 | 521 | 497 |
| Females | 557 | 512 | 493 |
| Male-to-Female Difference | -16 | +9 | +4 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Math | SHS | Massachusetts | National |
| Males | 589 | 547 | 527 |
| Females | 575 | 514 | 496 |
| Male-to-Female Difference | +14 | +33 | +31 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Writing | SHS | Massachusetts | National |
| Males | 531 | 503 | 478 |
| Females | 561 | 511 | 490 |
| Male-to-Female Difference | -30 | -8 | -12 |

**SAT—Scores by Gender
Shrewsbury High School**

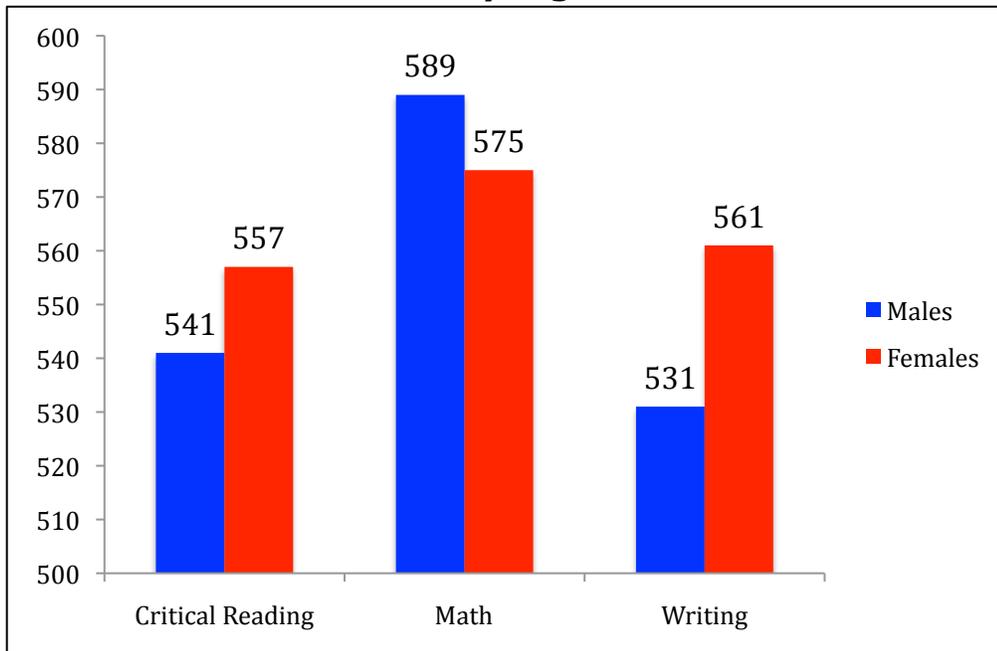


Figure 6

SAT Participation Rates Local School Districts

| School | # of test takers | Class 2015 Class Size | Participation Rate (%) |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Wachusett | 420 | 508 | 79% |
| Chelmsford | 357 | 413 | 86% |
| Nashoba | 235 | 254 | 93% |
| Hopkinton | 268 | 293 | 92% |
| Acton-Boxborough | 446 | 481 | 93% |
| Franklin | 365 | 397 | 92% |
| Westboro | 270 | 293 | 92% |
| Westford Academy | 395 | 419 | 94% |
| Algonquin | 341 | 354 | 96% |
| Shrewsbury | 394 | 411 | 96% |

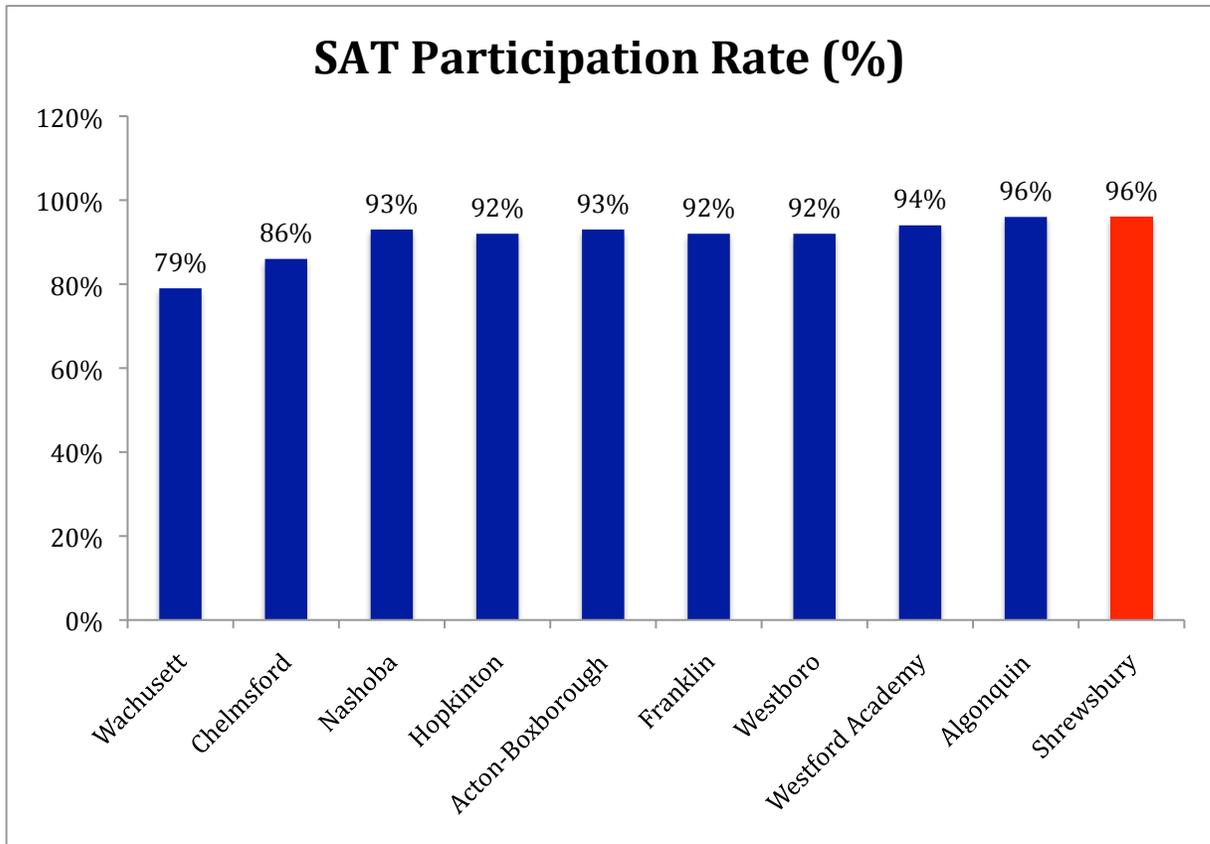


Figure 7

SAT Mean Scores

Local School Districts

| School | # of test takers | Critical Reading | Math | Combined CR and Math | Writing | Total--all three sections |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------|----------------------|---------|---------------------------|
| Wachusett | 420 | 529 | 544 | 1073 | 523 | 1596 |
| Chelmsford | 357 | 528 | 552 | 1080 | 512 | 1592 |
| Franklin | 365 | 546 | 555 | 1101 | 534 | 1635 |
| Hopkinton | 268 | 557 | 547 | 1104 | 547 | 1651 |
| Algonquin | 341 | 555 | 572 | 1127 | 555 | 1682 |
| Shrewsbury | 394 | 550 | 581 | 1131 | 547 | 1678 |
| Nashoba | 235 | 557 | 578 | 1135 | 546 | 1681 |
| Westboro | 270 | 560 | 584 | 1144 | 547 | 1691 |
| Westford Academy | 395 | 580 | 603 | 1183 | 566 | 1749 |
| Acton-Boxborough | 446 | 608 | 635 | 1243 | 609 | 1852 |

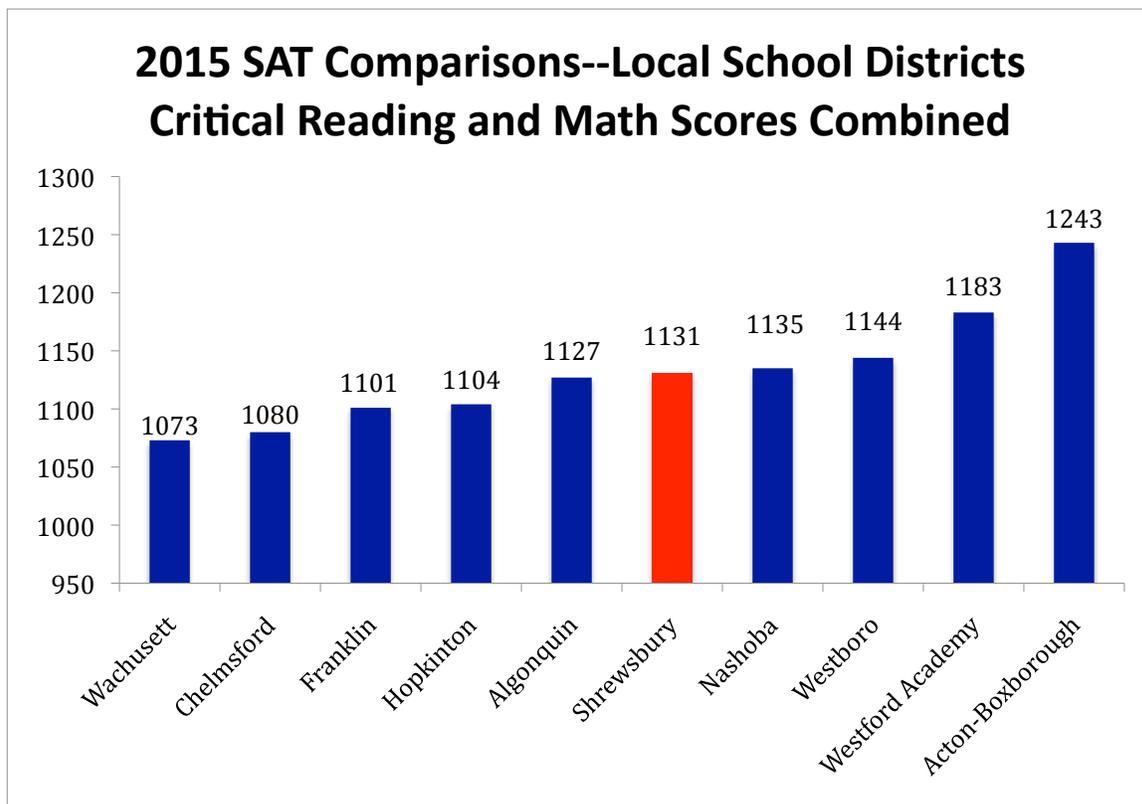


Figure 8

Shrewsbury High School One-Year and Five-Year Comparisons

| SAT: | 2015 Scores | 2014 Scores | One-Year Differential | 2011 | 5-Year Trend |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|------|--------------|
| Critical Reading | 550 | 544 | +6 | 542 | +8 |
| Math | 581 | 574 | +7 | 552 | +29 |
| Writing | 547 | 545 | +2 | 539 | +8 |
| 1600 Total | 1131 | 1118 | +13 | 1094 | +37 |
| 2400 Total | 1678 | 1663 | +15 | 1633 | +45 |

SAT Scores—Shrewsbury High School One-Year Comparisons and Five-Year Trends

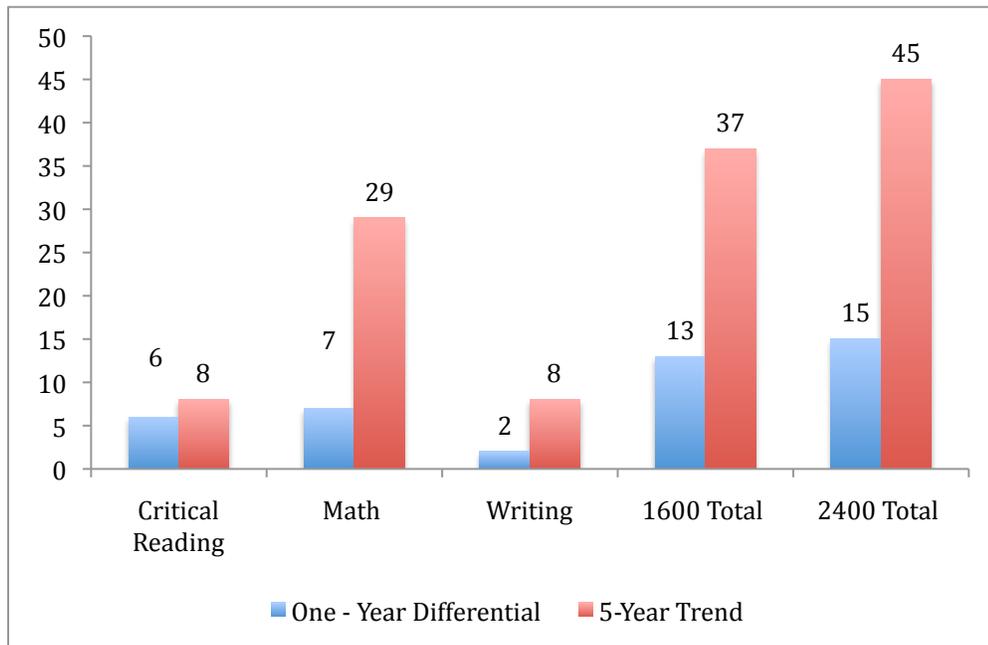


Figure 9

SAT Subject Tests

Most colleges do not require the Subject Tests; in fact, only 40 – 50 colleges in the United States requires students to submit SAT Subject Tests as part of the application process. Subject Tests offer colleges a way to gauge a student’s knowledge of particular subjects. Most colleges requiring students to submit their Subject Test scores require two or three Subject Test scores.

Each SAT Subject Test is one hour in length, and students may take one, two, or three Subject Tests on each test date.

Along with several different language tests, SAT Subject Tests are offered in the following areas:

- **English:**
 - Literature
- **Mathematics**
 - Math I
 - Math II
- **Science:**
 - Biology—Ecological
 - Biology—Molecular
 - Chemistry
 - Physics
- **History:**
 - World History
 - U.S. History

Shrewsbury High School

Literature

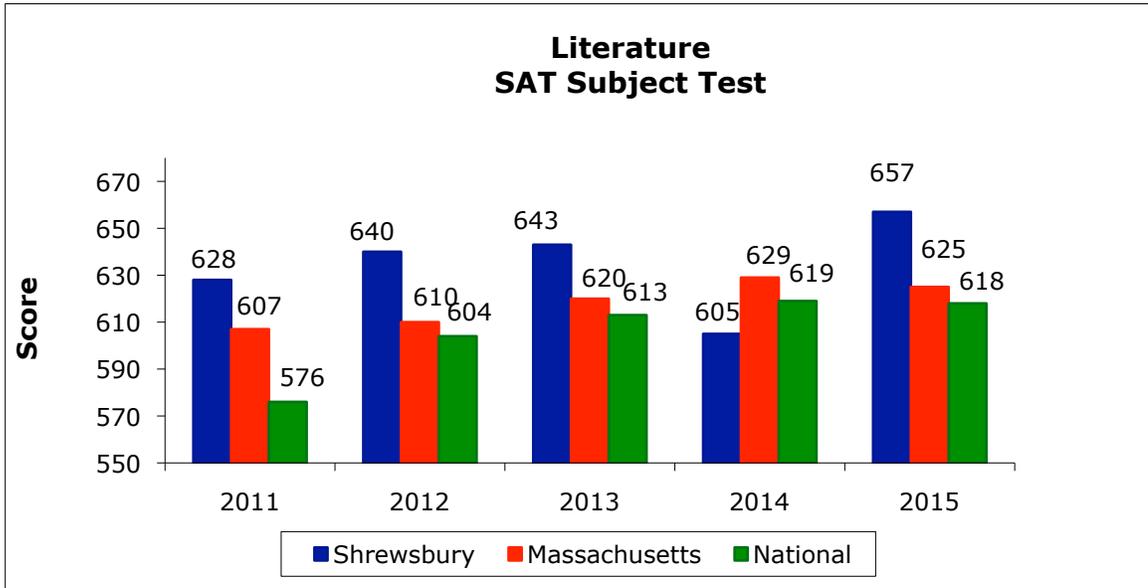


Figure 11

U.S. History

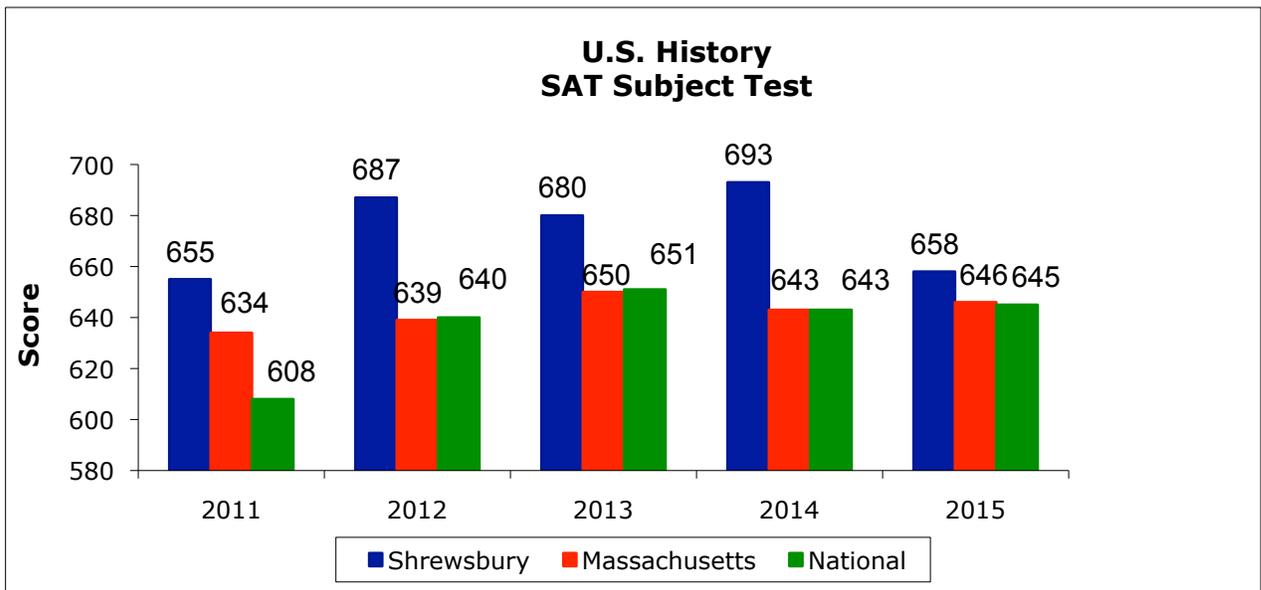


Figure 12

Shrewsbury High School

Math I

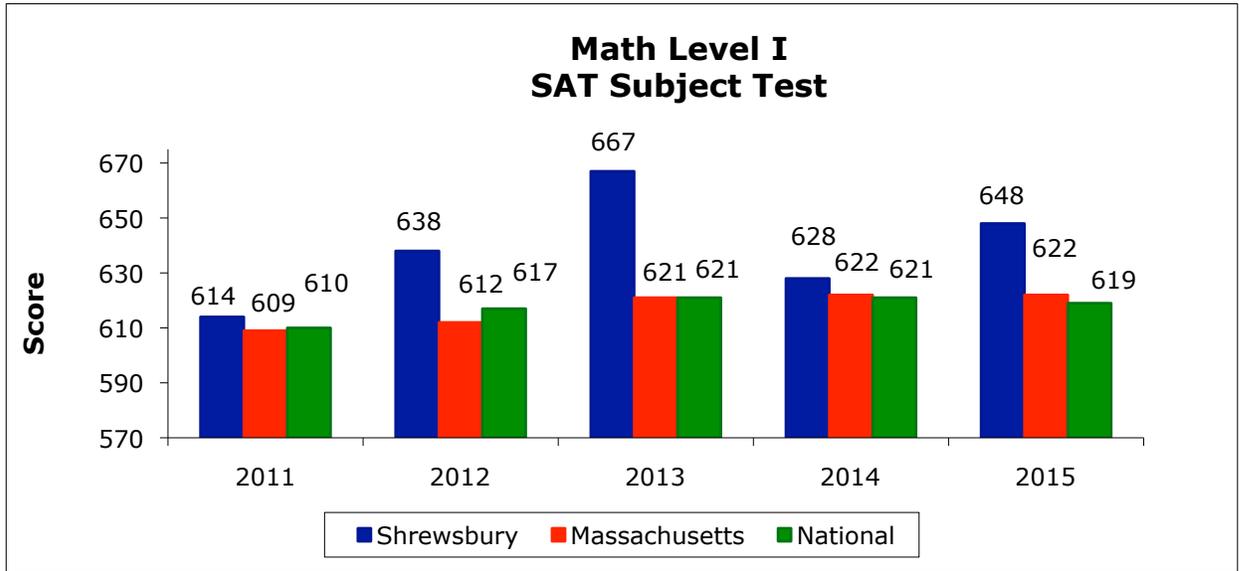


Figure 13

Math II

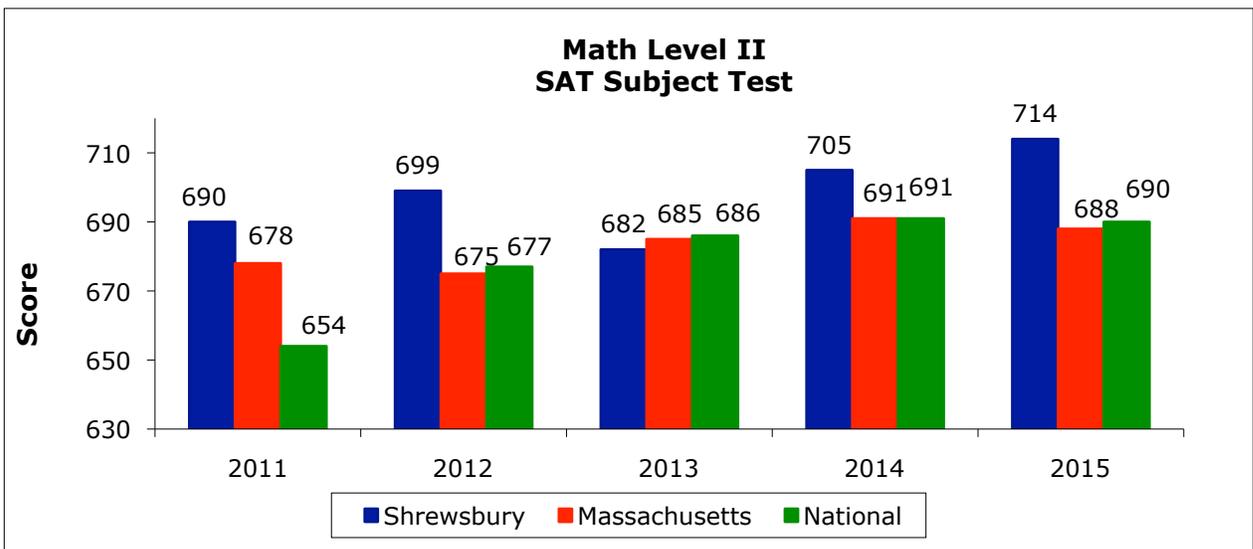


Figure 14

Shrewsbury High School

Biology—Ecological

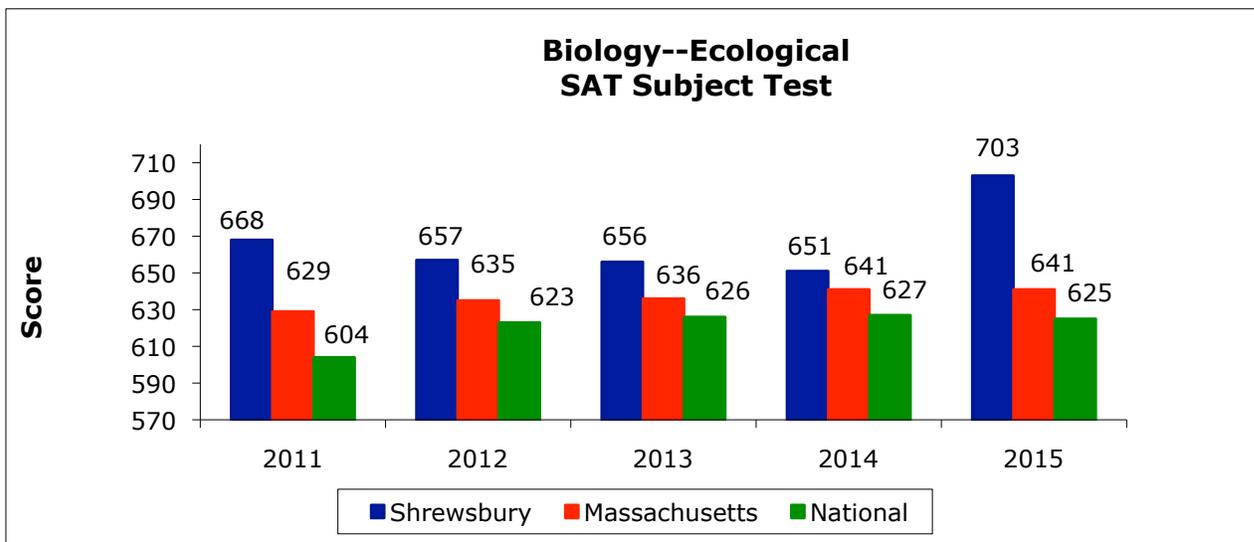


Figure 15

Chemistry

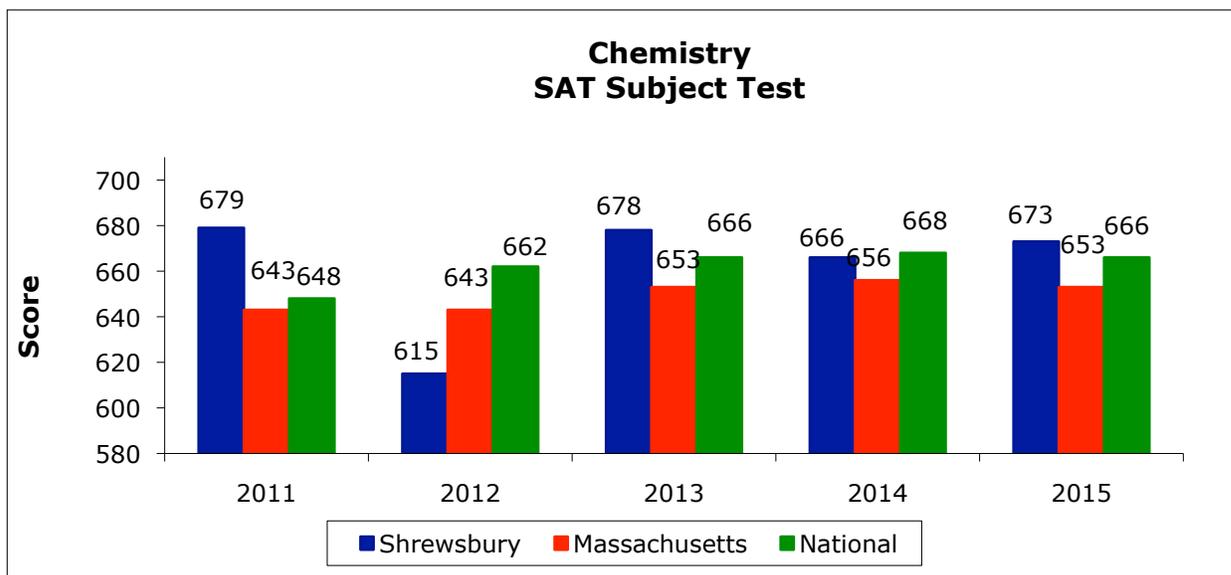


Figure 16

ACT

The ACT measures critical skills in English, mathematics, reading, writing, and science. ACT was previously known as the American College Testing Program, but that name has been dropped and today it's officially just the ACT (pronounced A-C-T).

Students receive six different scores—a composite score along with an individual score in English, Math, Reading, Science Reasoning, and Writing.

| ACT STRUCTURE | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Section | Time | # of Ques. | Scoring |
| English | 45 mins. | 75 | 1 – 36 |
| Math | 60 mins. | 60 | 1 – 36 |
| Reading | 35 mins. | 40 | 1 – 36 |
| Science Reasoning | 35 mins. | 40 | 1 – 36 |
| Writing (Optional) | 30 mins. | 1 essay | 2 – 12 |

Students may take the ACT™ more than once, and similarly to the relatively new SAT-reporting policy, students may specify which test date's score you'd like colleges to see.

Shrewsbury High School Score Results

Although growing in popularity, Massachusetts has one of the lowest ACT participation rates in the country. Historically, most schools in the mid-West and West encourage students to take the ACT. At the same time, most high schools in New England and the East Coast encourage students to take the SAT. On a national basis, 1.7 million students took the SAT last year and 1.9 million students took the ACT.

ACT Participation over a Five-Year Span

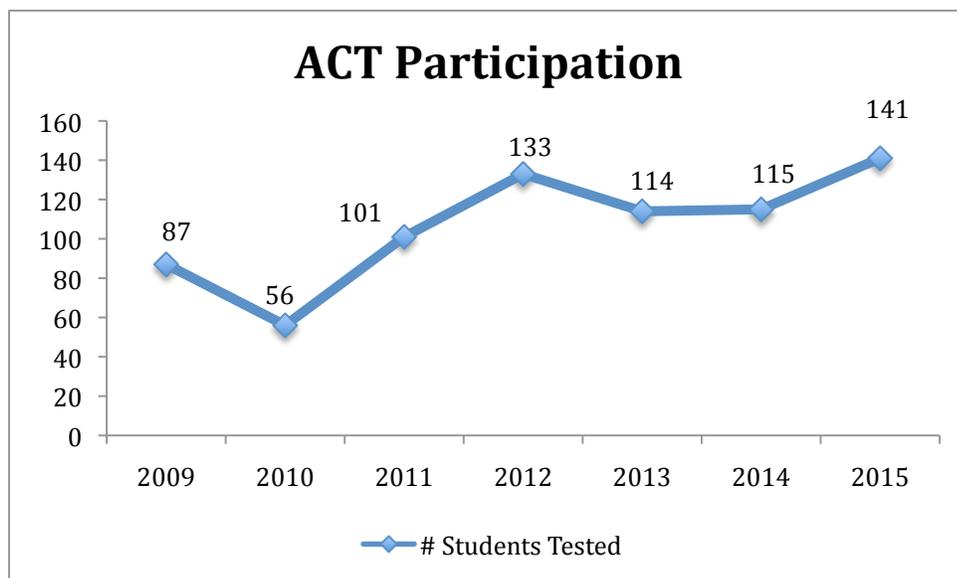


Figure 17

Of the **411** students in the Class of 2015, **141** students took the ACT with the following results in each section compared over a three year span. :

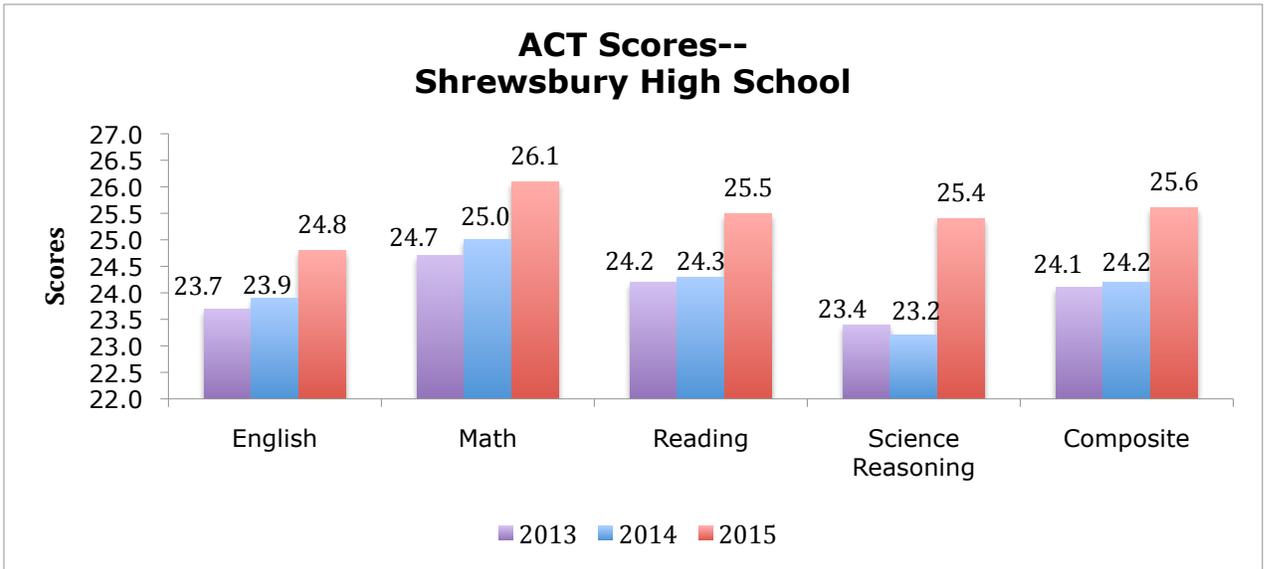


Figure 18

2015 SHS Mean ACT scores are compared with State and National Means:

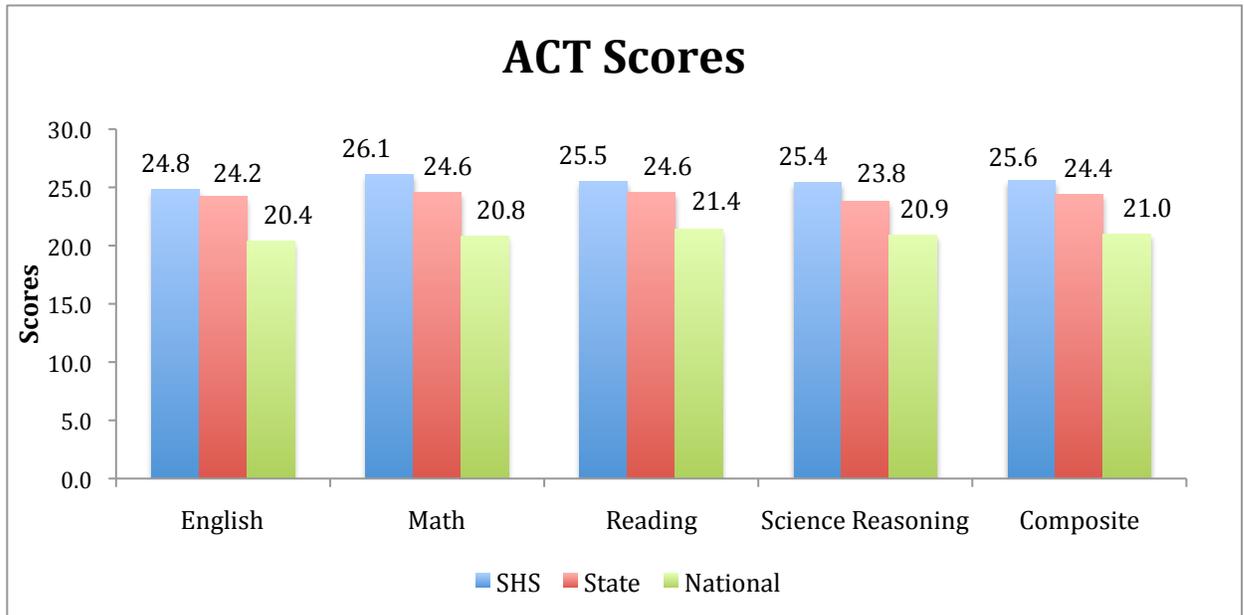


Figure 19

SAT – ACT Conversion Chart

| SAT to ACT | | ACT to SAT | |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| SAT score Critical Reading + Math | ACT Composite Score | ACT Composite Score | SAT score Critical Reading + Math |
| 1600 | 36 | 36 | 1600 |
| 1540-1590 | 35 | 35 | 1560 |
| 1490-1530 | 34 | 34 | 1510 |
| 1440-1480 | 33 | 33 | 1460 |
| 1400-1430 | 32 | 32 | 1420 |
| 1360-1390 | 31 | 31 | 1380 |
| 1330-1350 | 30 | 30 | 1340 |
| 1290-1320 | 29 | 29 | 1300 |
| 1250-1280 | 28 | 28 | 1260 |
| 1210-1240 | 27 | 27 | 1220 |
| 1170-1200 | 26 | 26 | 1190 |
| 1130-1160 | 25 | 25 | 1150 |
| 1090-1120 | 24 | 24 | 1110 |
| 1050-1080 | 23 | 23 | 1070 |
| 1020-1040 | 22 | 22 | 1030 |
| 980-1010 | 21 | 21 | 990 |
| 940-970 | 20 | 20 | 950 |
| 900-930 | 19 | 19 | 910 |
| 860-890 | 18 | 18 | 870 |
| 820-850 | 17 | 17 | 830 |
| 770-810 | 16 | 16 | 790 |
| 720-760 | 15 | 15 | 740 |
| 670-710 | 14 | 14 | 690 |
| 620-660 | 13 | 13 | 640 |
| 560-610 | 12 | 12 | 590 |
| 510-550 | 11 | 11 | 530 |

Shrewsbury’s composite ACT average score of 25.6 converts to approximately 1160 on the SATs.

Advanced Placement Program

The Advanced Placement (AP) Program consists of a series of college-level courses and exams for secondary school students. Satisfactory completion of an AP Exam makes it possible for a student to earn college credit or advanced standing in college prior to arrival on the college campus. AP Exams are rigorous, multiple-component tests that are administered each May.

Of the 411 students in the Class of 2015, 217 students (53% of the class) took at least one AP Exam. Overall, 670 exams were administered to students in 2015.

The following AP courses were offered during the 2014 – 2015 school year:

- Biology
- Calculus AB
- Calculus BC
- Chemistry
- English Language
- English Literature
- Environmental Science
- French Language
- Human Geography
- Latin
- Psychology
- Physics B
- Spanish Language
- Statistics
- Studio Art Drawing
- U.S. History

Appropriate Grade Levels for AP Courses

The College Board's policy related to the appropriate grade levels for AP courses reads as follows:

"The AP Program recognizes the autonomy of secondary schools and districts in setting the AP course participation policies that best meet their students' unique needs and learning goals. At the same time, AP courses are specifically designed to provide challenging, college-level coursework for willing and academically prepared high school students. Student performance on AP exams illustrate that in many cases, AP courses are best positioned as part of a student's 11th and 12th grade academic experience. Some subject areas, however, such as World History and European History, can be successfully offered to academically prepared 10th grade students.

Educators should be mindful of the following when considering offering AP to younger students. AP courses are rarely offered in 9th grade, and exam results show that, for the most part, 9th grade students are not sufficiently prepared to participate in a college-level course. Therefore, the College Board believes these students would be better served by coursework focusing on the academic building blocks necessary for later, successful enrollment in college-level courses. Many college admissions officers support this position, feeling that students should not be rushed into AP coursework, but should instead develop the necessary skills and conceptual understandings in foundational courses prior to enrolling in AP. AP coursework completed in 9th grade is not often deemed credible by the higher education community."

National Participation Rate in the AP Program

Of all students taking AP exams, the percentage of students at each grade level is indicated below. In other words, last year, 79% of all AP Exams were taken by juniors and seniors.

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| 12 th grade | 53% |
| 11 th grade | 26% |
| 10 th grade | 4% |
| 9 th grade | <1% |

Number of AP Exams per Student—SHS and Nationally

The figures below show the cumulative number of exams individual students (from the Class of 2015 at Shrewsbury High School and nationally) took during their high school career from the years 2012 to 2015.

| # of Exams Taken by Students | Class of 2015 National % | Class of 2015 Cumulative % National | SHS # of Students Taking Exams | Class of 2015 SHS % | Class of 2015 Cumulative % SHS |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | 54.4% | 54.4% | 55 | 25.3% | 25.3% |
| 2 | 24.4% | 78.8% | 51 | 23.5% | 48.8% |
| 3 | 12.4% | 91.2% | 41 | 18.9% | 67.7% |
| 4 | 5.6% | 96.8% | 36 | 16.6% | 84.3% |
| 5 | 2.2% | 99.0% | 21 | 9.7% | 94.0% |
| 6 or more | 1.0% | 100% | 13 | 6.0% | 100% |

Advanced Placement Participation Rates Shrewsbury High School

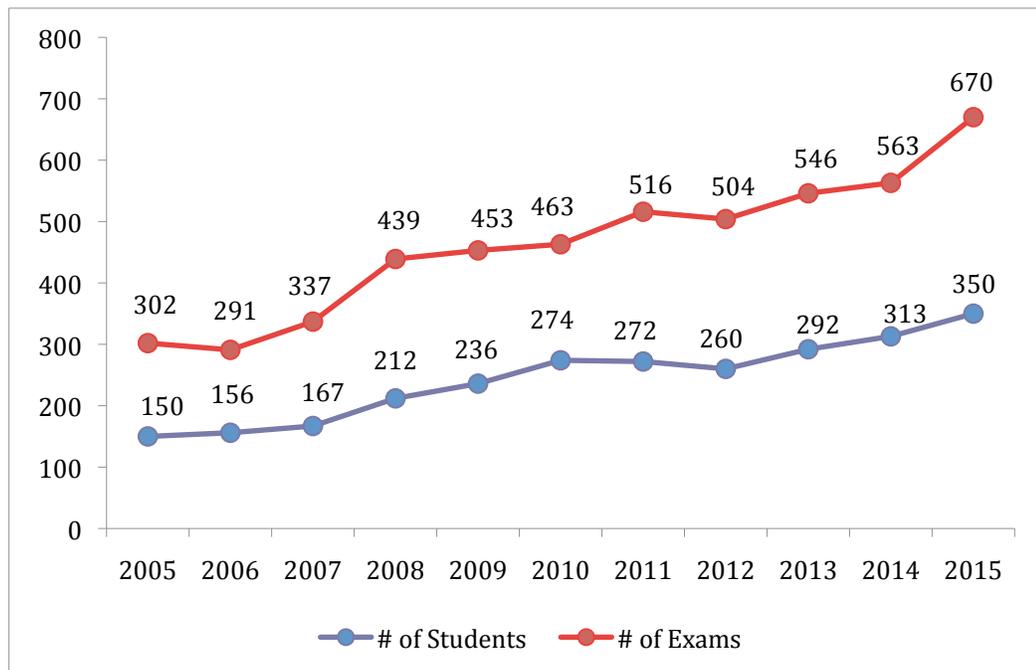


Figure 20

Advanced Placement Exams 2015

Average Scores Shrewsbury High School, Massachusetts, and Nationally

| | # of Tests Taken | SHS | Mass | National |
|--------------------|------------------|-----|------|----------|
| Biology | 43 | 3.7 | 3.1 | 2.9 |
| Calculus AB | 57 | 4.4 | 3.2 | 2.8 |
| Calculus BC | 62 | 4.8 | 4.1 | 3.7 |
| Chemistry | 29 | 4.2 | 3.1 | 2.6 |
| English Language | 48 | 4.2 | 3.2 | 2.8 |
| English Literature | 26 | 4.5 | 3.2 | 2.8 |
| Environmental Sci | 21 | 3.4 | 2.8 | 2.6 |
| French Language | 10 | 4.4 | 3.8 | 3.2 |
| Human Geography | 22 | 4.1 | 3.1 | 2.7 |
| Latin | 10 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 3.0 |
| Psychology | 104 | 4.5 | 3.3 | 3.1 |
| Physics 1 | 21 | 3.9 | 2.4 | 2.3 |
| Spanish Language | 21 | 4.2 | 3.9 | 3.8 |
| Statistics | 94 | 3.7 | 2.9 | 2.8 |
| Studio Art Draw | 14 | 4.3 | 3.4 | 3.3 |
| US History | 59 | 4.0 | 3.3 | 2.6 |

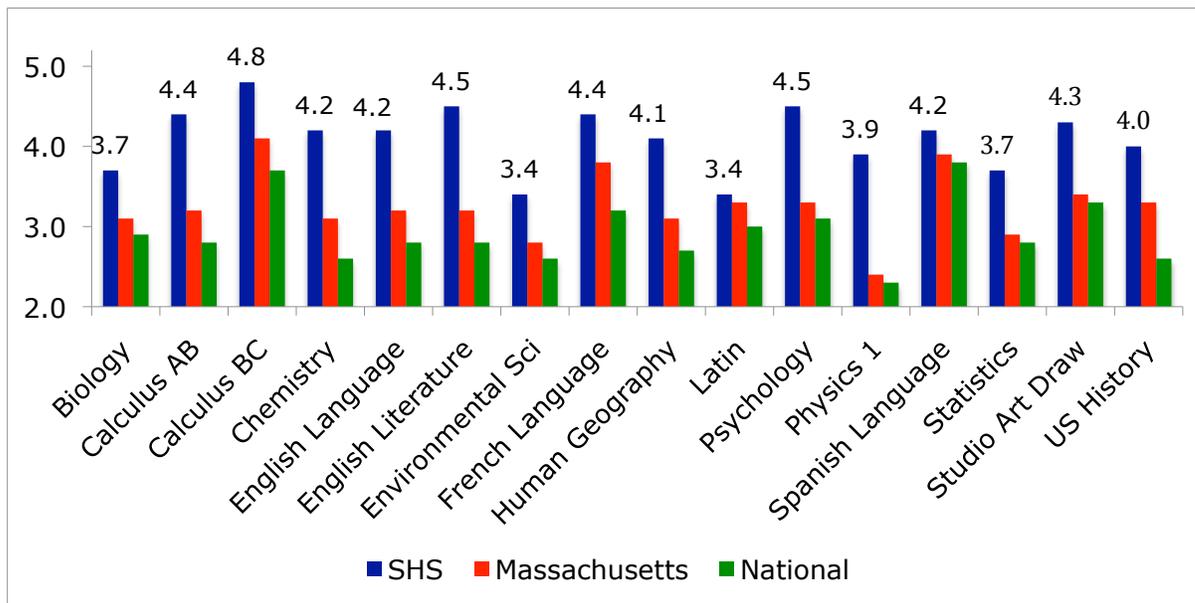


Figure 21

AP Exam Scores
Local School Districts

| School | # of Test Takers | Total Exams Taken | % of Exams with Scores of 3, 4, or 5 |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Franklin | 325 | 623 | 76% |
| Chelmsford | 232 | 419 | 83% |
| Hopkinton | 451 | 840 | 84% |
| Bromfield | 125 | 206 | 85% |
| Nashoba | 258 | 466 | 87% |
| Algonquin | 386 | 715 | 89% |
| Westborough | 212 | 434 | 93% |
| Shrewsbury | 350 | 670 | 94% |
| Westford Academy | 398 | 723 | 95% |
| Acton-Boxborough | 494 | 1037 | 96% |

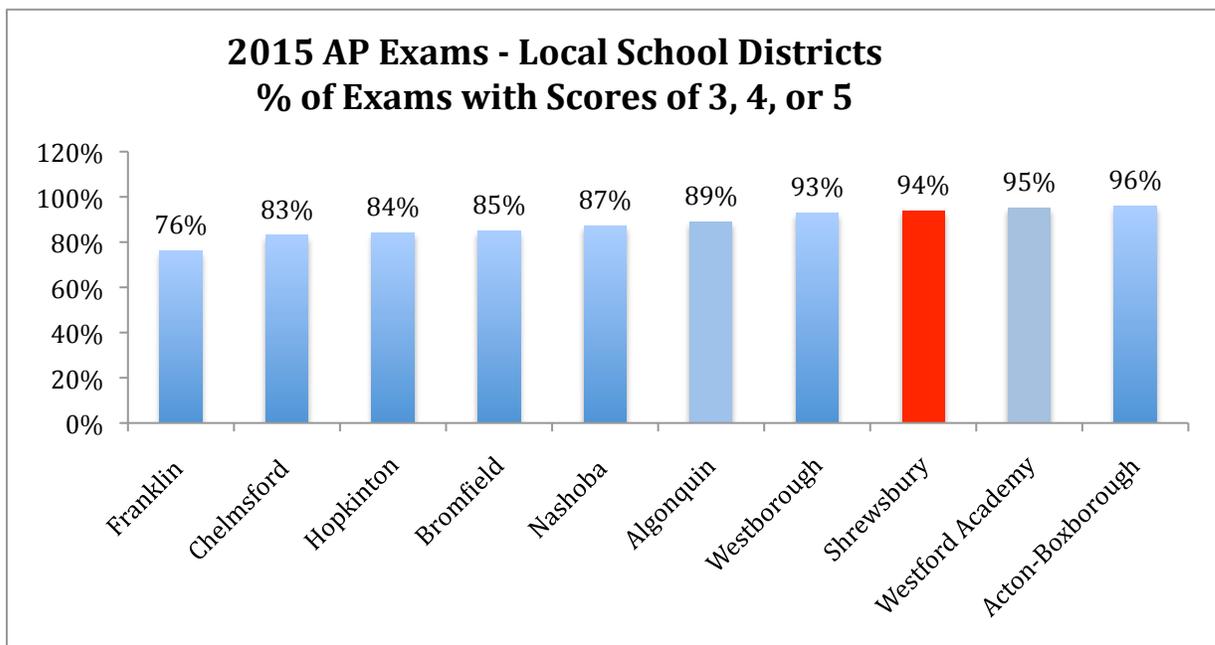


Figure 22

2015 Advanced Placement Exam Results

| | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | # of tests administered | % scoring 5 | % scoring 4 or above | % scoring 3 or above | 2014 % scoring 3 or above |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|---|-------------------------|-------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Biology | 9 | 16 | 15 | 3 | 0 | 43 | 21% | 58% | 93% | 95% |
| Calculus AB | 34 | 15 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 57 | 54% | 86% | 95% | 100% |
| Calculus BC | 52 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 62 | 84% | 92% | 100% | 100% |
| Chemistry | 10 | 16 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 29 | 34% | 90% | 97% | 95% |
| English Language | 19 | 18 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 48 | 37% | 77% | 98% | 98% |
| English Literature | 15 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 26 | 58% | 92% | 100% | 100% |
| Environmental Science | 0 | 12 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 21 | 0% | 57% | 86% | 94% |
| French Language | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 50% | 90% | 100% | 100% |
| Human Geography | 7 | 11 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 22 | 32% | 82% | 100% | 97% |
| Latin | 2 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 20% | 30% | 90% | 100% |
| Physics 1 | 6 | 10 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 21 | 29% | 76% | 81% | 100% |
| Psychology | 68 | 23 | 10 | 3 | 0 | 104 | 65% | 88% | 97% | 92% |
| Spanish Language | 7 | 11 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 33% | 86% | 100% | 100% |
| Statistics | 25 | 30 | 29 | 9 | 1 | 94 | 27% | 59% | 89% | 92% |
| Studio Art Draw | 6 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 43% | 86% | 100% | 100% |
| US History | 27 | 13 | 12 | 6 | 1 | 59 | 46% | 68% | 88% | 90% |
| Totals | 292 | 200 | 113 | 33 | 3 | 641 | 46% | 77% | 94% | 96% |

Students took the following exams but the related class was not specifically offered at the high school (unless through VHS):

| | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Total # of test administered | % scoring 5 | % scoring 4 or above | % scoring 3 or above | 2013 % scoring 3 or above |
|-------------------------------------|---|----|---|---|---|------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Art History | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Computer Science A | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 33% | 33% | 100% | 100% |
| Macroeconomics | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 30% | 60% | 80% | 33% |
| Microeconomics | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 13% | 63% | 88% | 50% |
| US Government & Politics | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 14% | 57% | 71% | 78% |
| Totals | 6 | 11 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 29 | 21% | 59% | 83% | 66% |

Quick Highlights:

- The number of students taking AP exams is 350 (37 more than last year).
- The number of AP exams administered is 670 (107 more than last year).
- There were 14 self-study students taking 26 exams.
- 53% of seniors took at least one AP exam (11% more than last year), a particularly high percentage compared to most high schools.
- 46% of the exams administered resulted in a score of 5—the highest possible score available (5% increase from last year)

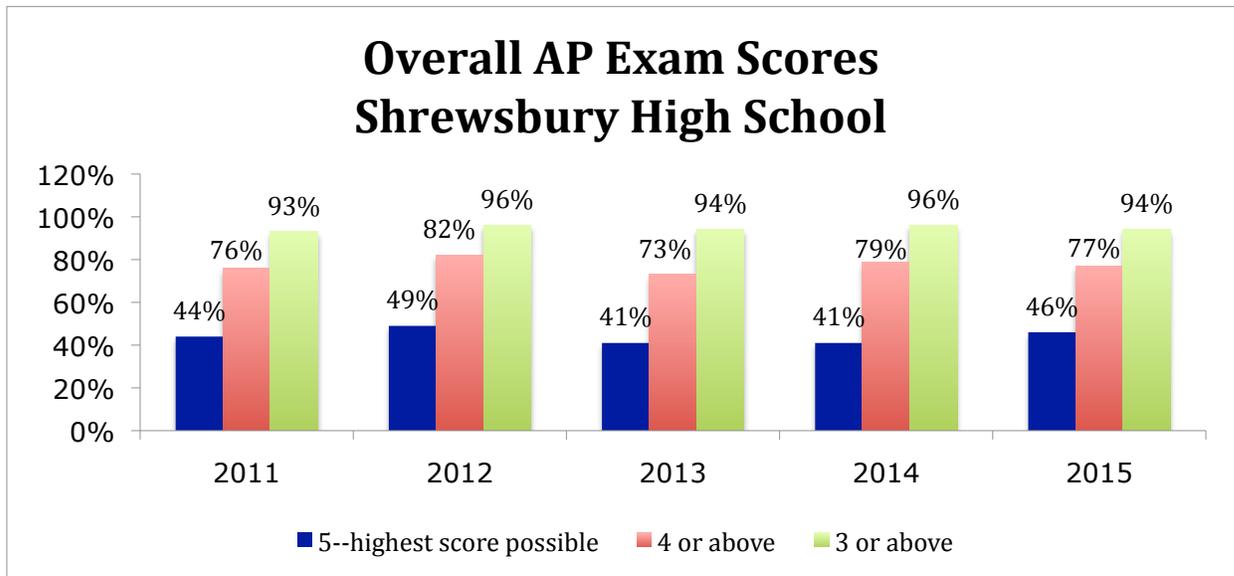


Figure 23

Advanced Placement Scholars

The AP Program offers several AP Scholar Awards to recognize high school students who have demonstrated college-level achievement through AP courses and exams. Although there is no monetary award, in addition to receiving an award certificate, this achievement is acknowledged on any AP Score Report that is sent to colleges the following fall.

Award Levels 2015

AP Scholar: Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.

AP Scholar with Honor: Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, **and** scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

AP Scholar with Distinction: Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, **and** scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

National AP Scholar: Granted to students in the United States who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, **and** scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams. (Students are included in the scholar category.)

| Year | AP Scholar | AP Scholar w/Honors | AP Scholar w/Distinction | AP National Scholar | Total # of AP Scholars |
|------|------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 2015 | 48 | 39 | 37 | 2 | 124 |
| 2014 | 29 | 25 | 31 | 1 | 85 |
| 2013 | 41 | 26 | 31 | 1 | 98 |
| 2012 | 19 | 25 | 44 | 2 | 88 |
| 2011 | 31 | 27 | 25 | 1 | 83 |
| 2010 | 31 | 15 | 19 | 3 | 65 |
| 2009 | 23 | 17 | 38 | 4 | 78 |
| 2008 | 30 | 20 | 32 | 3 | 82 |
| 2007 | 21 | 11 | 16 | 2 | 48 |
| 2006 | 20 | 11 | 16 | 2 | 47 |
| 2005 | 15 | 12 | 26 | 4 | 53 |

PSAT/NMSQT

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) is a program cosponsored by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). It's a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT. It also gives students a chance to enter the NMSC scholarship programs and gain access to college and career planning tools.

Similarly to the SAT, the PSAT/NMSQT measures:

- Critical reading skills
- Math problem-solving skills
- Writing skills

Shrewsbury High School

| Year | Commended | Finalist | Scholarship Recipient | Hispanic Recognition Program |
|------|-----------|----------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 2015 | 19 | 1 | 1 | - |
| 2014 | 14 | 1 | 1 | - |
| 2013 | 17 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| 2012 | 19 | 4 | 1 | - |
| 2011 | 12 | 1 | 1 | - |
| 2010 | 16 | 4 | 1 | - |
| 2009 | 17 | 3 | 1 | - |
| 2008 | 18 | 2 | 1 | - |
| 2007 | 14 | 3 | 1 | - |
| 2006 | 10 | 3 | - | 1 |
| 2005 | 15 | 2 | - | - |
| 2004 | 8 | 2 | 1 | - |
| 2003 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| 2002 | 5 | 3 | - | - |
| 2001 | 4 | 1 | - | - |

National Merit Scholarship Program

Program Recognition: Of the 1.5 million juniors who take the PSAT, the top 2%-3% with the highest combined scores (Critical Reading + Mathematics + Writing Skills) qualify for recognition in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Commended Students: students who score in the top 2% - 3% of all test takers.

Semifinalists: students who score in the top 1% - 1.5% of all test takers. To ensure that academically able young people from all parts of the United States are included in this talent pool, Semifinalists are designated on a state-by-state basis. That is, semifinalists are the highest scoring entrants in each state. To be considered for a National Merit Scholarship, Semifinalists must advance to Finalist standing in the competition by meeting high academic standards.

Finalists: Most students (approximately 90%) who complete the Semifinalist application process will be named National Merit Finalists.

Scholarship Recipients: All winners of Merit Scholarship awards (Merit Scholar® designees) are chosen from the Finalist group, based on their abilities, skills, and accomplishments-

without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, or religious preference. A variety of information is available for NMSC selectors to evaluate—the Finalist's academic record, information about the school's curricula and grading system, two sets of test scores, school official's written recommendation, information about the student's activities and leadership, and the Finalist's own essay.

2014 – 2015 School Year

- **PSAT:**
 - The School Counseling Department offers all juniors and sophomores the opportunity to take the PSAT, which has resulted in a continuous increase in the number of students who took the test. In addition, few freshman students opt to take the PSAT with available tests.

- **ACT:**
 - The ACT and SAT are two different standardized tests that measure completely different skills. While the SAT is an aptitude test (a problem-solving test), the ACT is curriculum-based. That is, students either know the answers or they don't—they can't sit there and try to solve the problem. As a result, there are certain students who will naturally score higher on the ACT than on the SAT. The School Counseling Department encourages students to take both the ACT and SAT.

- **SAT:**
 - The SAT is offered at the high school in October, November, March, May, and June resulting in a greater opportunity for students because of the convenience for students to take the SAT more than once resulting in more familiarity with the test and improved scores.

 - Shrewsbury High School offers an SAT Prep Class throughout the year. For the past few years, Shrewsbury has offered two classes in the spring and one class in the fall with total annual enrollments of 133 students during the 2014-2015 school year. The enrollment fee for the course is \$275. This cost is an affordable option to test preparation compared to most local, regional, and national test preparation companies.

 - The College Board is redesigning the SAT, which will be launched in March 2016. The New SAT will reflect skills will be more similar to classroom skills based on the Common Core. School counselors have attended conferences to learn about details the New SAT. The core academic directors, school counseling director, and administrators have met to discuss the implications of the redesigned SAT and its implications to the curriculum and test preparation.

- **Advanced Placement Courses:**
 - As the number of students taking AP Exams continue to increase, we have had a more difficult time securing an appropriate test center that can hold over 100 students at a time. We have extensively researched potential local sites that may serve as a testing facility. Due to cost and available space, we administered all AP exams on site at Shrewsbury High School utilizing the field house and dance studio for larger exams and smaller classroom and language lab for smaller and language exams.