Shrewsbury High School Testing Report

Class of 2017



Presented to the School Committee December 6, 2017

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Shrewsbury High School Testing Report Class of 2017

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Summary Statements

Redesigned SAT:

Page 6	 Average Scores—1600 scale (Figures 1) The redesigned SAT is reported for the first time this year. The score is based on two section scores: Evidence Based Reading & Writing and Math with a score range from 200-800. As a result of the redesigned SAT, scores are not directly comparable to the old SAT. Based on the 1600 scale, Shrewsbury's SAT scores remain well above the state and national averages of 1103 and 1070, respectively.
Page 6-7	 SAT: Individual Critical Reading, and Math scores On each individual section, Shrewsbury's scores are: Evidenced Based Reading & Writing score is 588. (Figure 2) Math score is 608. (Figure 3)
Page 8	 SAT: Critical Reading, Math scores by Gender (Figure 4) In the Evidence Based Reading & Writing and Math scores, Shrewsbury females and males scored higher than the state and national trends. Shrewsbury females and males scored the same on the Evidence Based Reading & Writing section of the SAT similar to the state (F/M - 553/554) and national (F/M - 539/537) trends. Shrewsbury females scored lower than males (F/M - 593/624) in the Math section also similar to state (F/M - 539/563) and national (F/M - 522/544) trends. Evidence Based Reading & Writing (F - 588; M - 588) Math (F - 593; M - 624)
Page 9	 SAT: Participation Rates—Local School Districts (Figure 5) All students at Shrewsbury High School are encouraged to take the SAT in preparation for college admissions. For the Class of 2017, 91% of seniors took the SAT, a particularly high percentage compared to most other high schools locally, statewide, and nationally.
Page 10	 SAT: Comparison of Local School Districts (Figure 6) Shrewsbury students in the Class of 2017 are compared to high schools in the region.
Pages 11	 SAT: Shrewsbury High School One-Year and Five-Year Comparisons As result of the redesigned test, the 2017 SAT test scores cannot be

As result of the redesigned test, the 2017 SAT test scores ca accurately compared to prior SAT scores.

Subject Test Scores:

Page 12-15 Summary of SAT Subject Tests (Figures 7 – 13)

- In five of the seven SAT Subjects Tests (Literature, US History, Math I, Math II, Biology Molecular), Shrewsbury students score higher when compared to students in Massachusetts and the nation. Individual Subject Test scores are summarized over the next several pages.
- This year, there is a notable gain compared to last year in the Math I Subject Test (p.13) of 43 points compared to the state average and 57 points when compared to the national average.
- Students taking the Biology Subject Test (p.14) have an option to take the test with an emphasis on Molecular Biology or Ecological Biology. More students at Shrewsbury elected to take the Molecular Biology Subject test this year resulting in scores that outpaced state and national averages. The Ecological Biology and Chemistry subject tests show a decrease in scores when compared to the state and/or national standards.

<u>ACT:</u>

Pages 16-18 ACT Participation Rates and Mean Scores (Figure 14,15,16)

- As a whole, Massachusetts has one of the lowest participation rates in the country. Shrewsbury has seen a decrease in the number of students electing to take the ACT. Of the 398 students in the Class of 2017, 131 students (33%) took the ACT. This is a decrease of 7% compared to last year.
- The average ACT score for the Shrewsbury's Class of 2017 is 26.0 (based on a scale of 1 36). This score is equivalent to about 1260 on the SATs.

Advanced Placement Exams:

Page 19Appropriate 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, 72% of all AP Exams were taken by juniors and seniors.
- Of all students taking AP Exams nationally, 37% of students take three or more exams; in the class of 2017, 39% of Shrewsbury students take three or more exams.

Page 20 Participation Rates (Figure 17)

- The number of exams administered has increased by 122 exams to a total of 668 exams. The number of students taking AP exams increased by sixty-eight students.
- The number of Seniors that took AP exams is 212.
- The number of Juniors that took an AP exam is 130.
- Fifty-three percent (53%) of the students in the Class of 2017 took at least one AP exam.

Page 21 Average Scores—Shrewsbury High School and Nationally (Figure 18)

 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 3.1—and ten out of sixteen had an average score of 4.0 and above. All scores were above the state and national averages.

Page 22 AP Exams: Comparison of Local School Districts (Figure 19)

• Most colleges award students scoring a 3 or higher with college credit. Shrewsbury students in the Class of 2017 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 23-24 Exam Results—Shrewsbury High School

- The percentage of students in the Class of 2017 scoring 3 or above is 92%.
- Eleven out of sixteen AP courses offered at Shrewsbury had at least 90% of their students scoring at a 3 or above.
- Thirty-eight percent (38%) of the exams administered resulted in a score of 5—the highest possible score available. (Figure 20)

Page 24 Scholars

- The total number of AP scholars in 2017 is 105.
- One hundred five of the 212 seniors (50%), who took AP exams were named AP Scholars or above. Four students were named AP 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 25-26 National Merit Scholarship Program

• One student from the Class of 2017 was named a National Merit Finalist and was a Scholarship Recipient.

Final Comments

Page 26-27 Final Overview of the 2016–2017 School Year

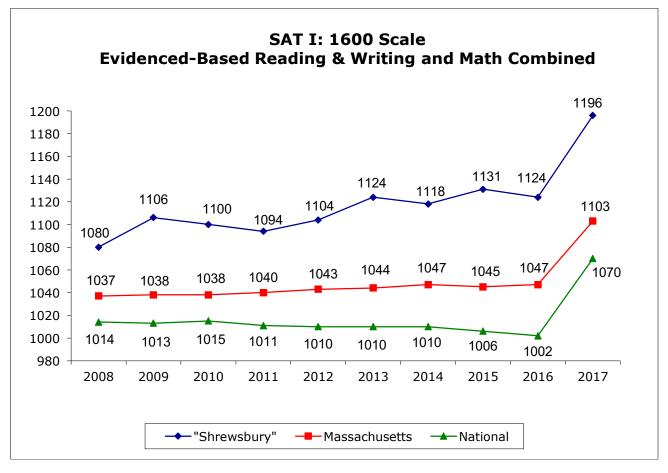


Figure 1

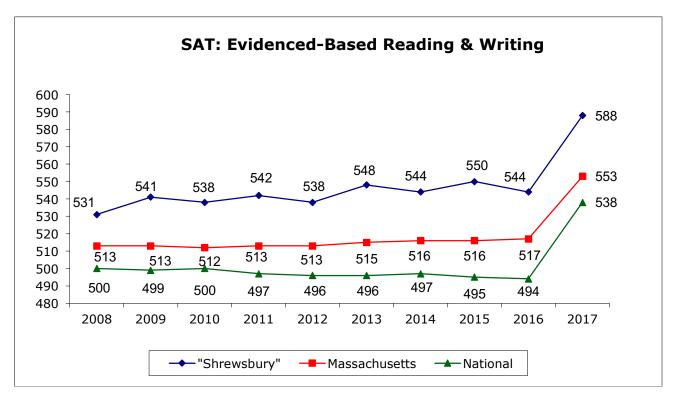


Figure 2

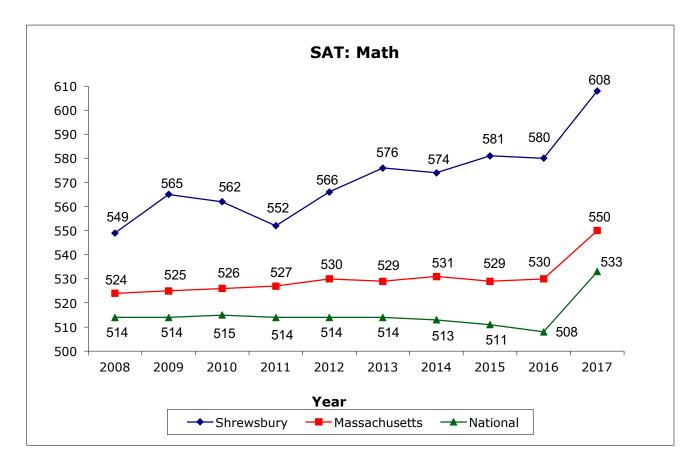


Figure 3

Evidenced-Based Reading & Writing, and Math Scores by Gender Shrewsbury High School, Massachusetts, and Nationally

E-B Reading & Writing	SHS	Massachusetts	National
Males	588	554	537
Females	588	553	539
Male-to- Female Difference	0	+1	-2
Math	SHS	Massachusetts	National
Males	624	563	544
Females	593	539	522
Male-to- Female Difference	+31	+24	+22

SAT—Scores by Gender 2017 Shrewsbury High School

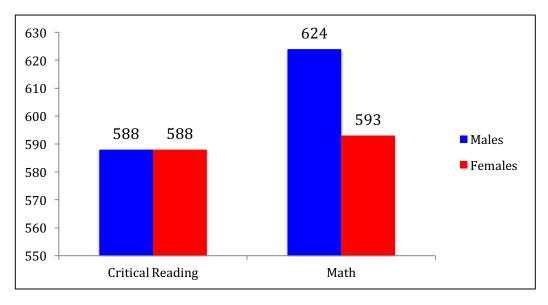


Figure 4

SAT Participation Rates Local School Districts

School	# of test takers	Class 2017 Class Size	Participation Rate (%)	
Hopkinton	201	278	72%	
Wachusett	418	516	81%	
Algonquin	314	357	88%	
Nashoba	217	248	88%	
Westford Academy	349	398	88%	
Chelmsford	331	373	88%	
Franklin	361	404	89%	
Westboro	218	246	90%	
Acton-Boxborough	425	467	91%	
Shrewsbury	361	398	91%	

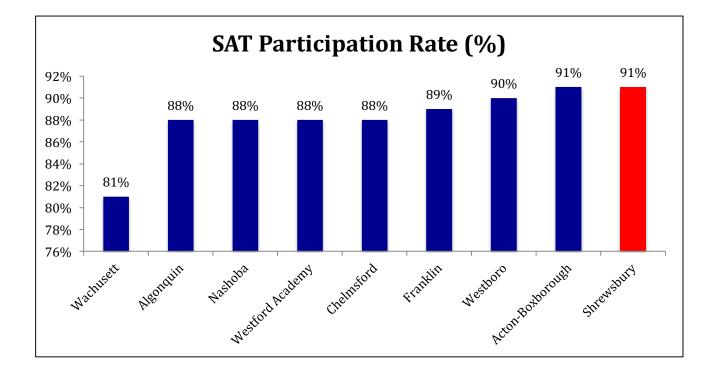


Figure 7

SAT Mean Scores

Local School Districts 2017

School	# of test takers	Evidenced Based Reading and Writing	Math	Combined EBRW and Math
Wachusett	418	575	567	1142
Franklin	361	585	578	1163
Chelmsford	331	580	587	1167
Algonquin	314	594	596	1190
Shrewsbury	361	588	608	1196
Westboro	225	601	604	1205
Nashoba	217	603	609	1212
Hopkinton	201	606	618	1224
Westford Academy	349	611	624	1235
Acton-Boxborough	425	638	651	1330

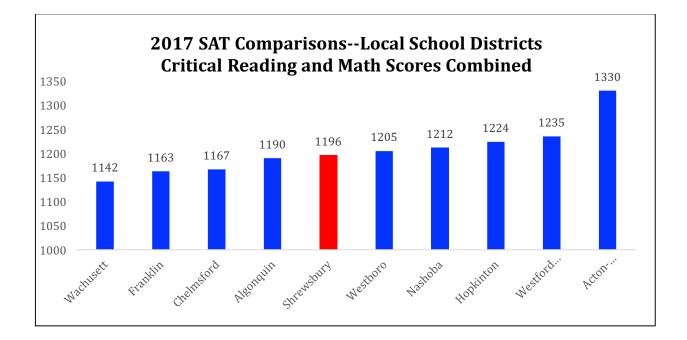


Figure 8

Shrewsbury High School One-Year and Five-Year Comparisons

As result of the redesigned test, the 2017 SAT test scores cannot be accurately compared to prior SAT scores.

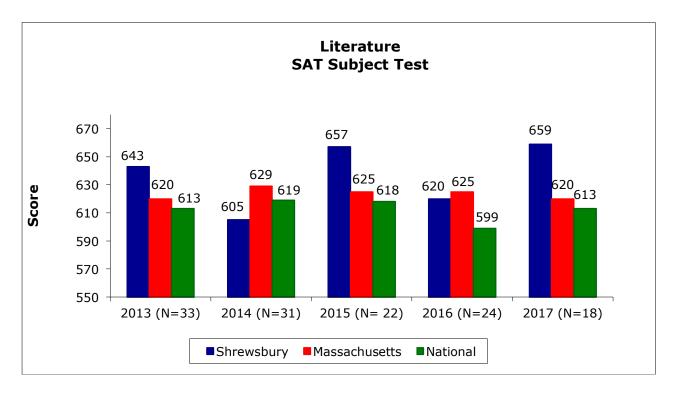
SAT Subject Tests

Most colleges do <u>not</u> 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.

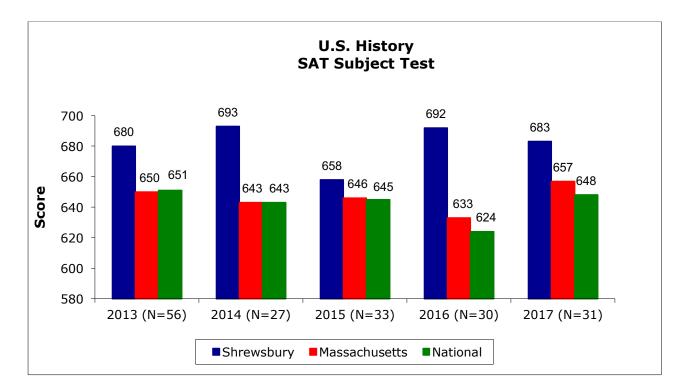
Along with several different language tests, SAT Subject Tests are offered in the following areas:

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



Shrewsbury High School

Figure 10



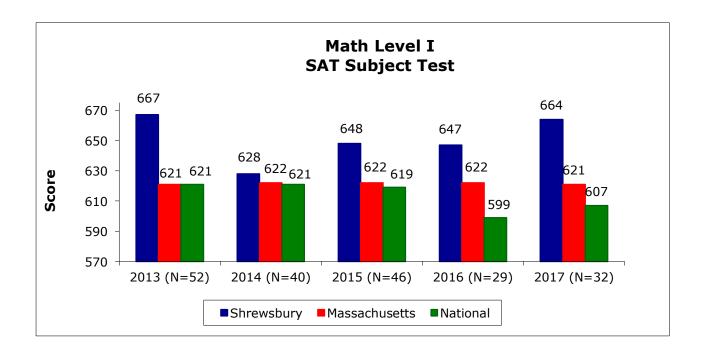


Figure 12

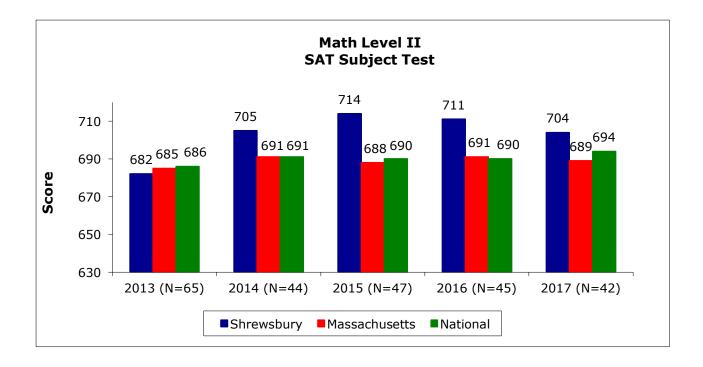


Figure 13

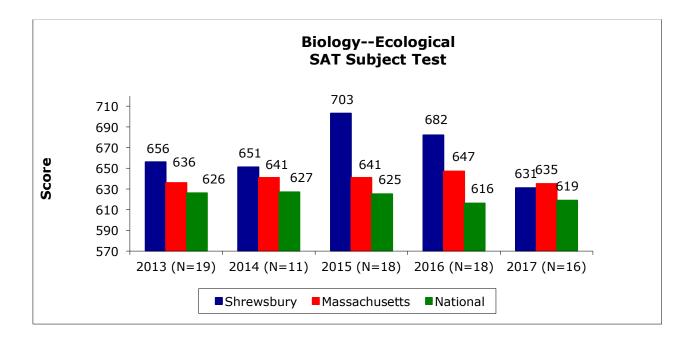


Figure 14

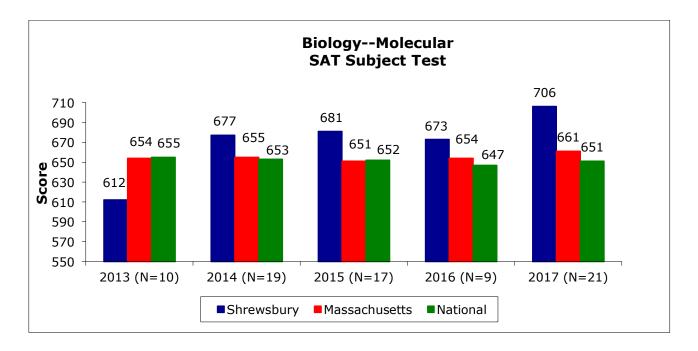


Figure 15

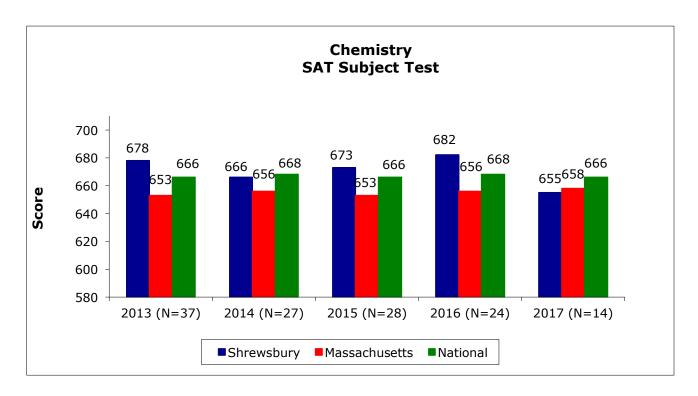


Figure 16

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).

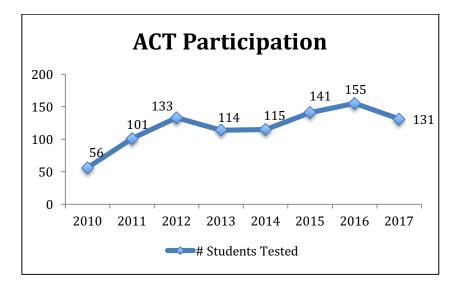
Students receive six different scores—a composite score along with an individual score in English, Math, Reading, Science Reasoning, and Writing.

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 score they want colleges to see.

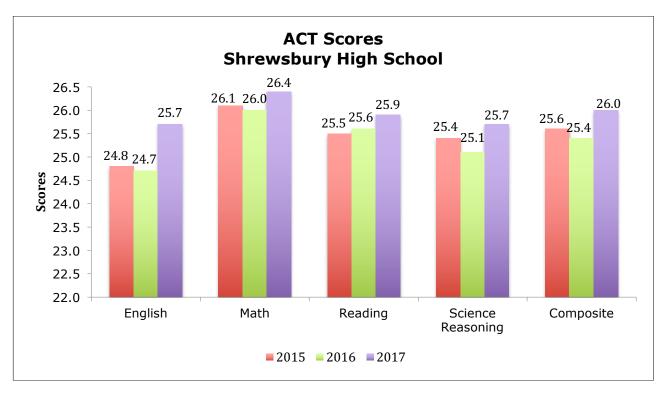
Shrewsbury High School Score Results

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, 1.64 million students took the SAT last year and 2 million students took the ACT.



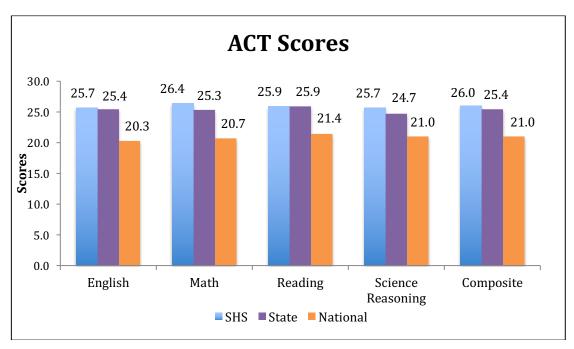
ACT Participation over a Seven-Year Span

Figure 18



Of the <u>398</u> students in the Class of 2017, 131 students took the ACT with the following results in each section compared over a three-year span:

Figure 19



2017 SHS Mean ACT scores are compared with State and National Means:

Figure 20

SAT t	o ACT	ACT to SAT			
SAT score	ACT	ACT	SAT score		
EBRW +	Composite	Composite	EBRW +		
Math	Score	Score	Math		
1600	36	36	1600		
1560-1590	35	35	1570		
1520-1550	34	34	1540		
1490-1510	33	33	1500		
1450-1480	32	32	1470		
1420-1440	31	31	1430		
1390-1410	30	30	1400		
1350-1380	29	29	1360		
1310-1340	28	28	1320		
1280-1300	27	27	1290		
1240-1270	26	26	1260		
1200-1230	25	25	1220		
1160-1190	24	24	1180		
1130-1150	23	23	1140		
1100-1120	22	22	1110		
1060-1090	21	21	1070		
1020-1050	20	20	1030		
980-1010	19	19	990		
940-970	18	18	950		
900-930	17	17	910		
860-890	16	16	870		
810-850	15	15	830		
760-800	14	14	780		
720-750	13	13	750		
630-710	12	12	680		
560-620	11	11	590		

SAT – ACT Conversion Chart

Shrewsbury's composite ACT average score of 26.0 converts to approximately 1260 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 398 students in the Class of 2017, 212 students (53% of the class) took at least one AP Exam. Overall, 668 exams were administered to students in 2017.

The following AP courses were offered during the 2016 – 2017 school year:

- Biology
- Calculus AB
- Calculus BC
- Chemistry
- English Language
- English Literature
- Environmental Science
 - French Language
 - Human Geography
- Music Theory
- Psychology
- Physics 1
- 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, 72% of all AP Exams were taken by juniors and seniors.

12 th grade	35%
11 th grade	37%
10 th grade	20%
9 th grade	6%

Number of AP Exams per Student–SHS and Nationally

The figures below show the cumulative number of exams individual students (from the Class of 2017 at Shrewsbury High School and nationally) took during their high school career from the years 2014 to 2017.

# of Exams Taken by Students	Class of 2017 National %	Class of 2017 Cumulative % National	SHS # of Students Taking Exams	Class of 2017 SHS %	Class of 2017 Cumulative % SHS
1	39.8%	39.8%	76	35.8%	35.8%
2	20.5%	60.3%	54	25.4%	61.2%
3	13.1%	73.4%	28	13.2%	74.4%
4	8.8%	82.2%	19	9.0%	83.4%
5	6.0%	88.2%	11	5.2%	88.6%
6 or more	11.8%	100%	24	11.3%	100%

Advanced Placement Participation Rates Shrewsbury High School

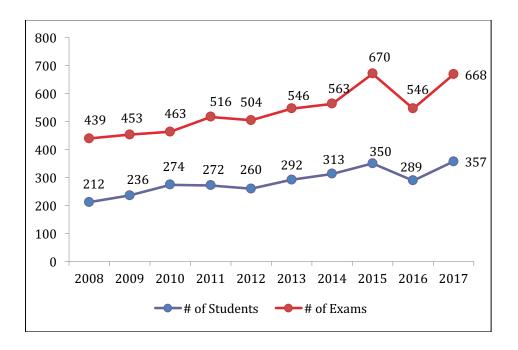


Figure 21

Advanced Placement Exams 2017

	# of Tests Taken	SHS	Mass	National
Biology	49	3.9	3.1	2.9
Calculus AB	54	4.0	3.2	2.9
Calculus BC	37	4.1	4.1	3.8
Chemistry	30	4.6	3.0	2.6
English Language	52	4.2	3.2	2.8
English Literature	27	4.3	3.0	2.7
Environmental Sci	21	4.1	2.9	2.7
French Language	9	4.0	3.7	3.2
Human Geography	21	3.1	2.8	2.5
Music Theory	7	4.0	3.3	3.0
Psychology	129	4.1	3.2	3.1
Physics 1	19	3.9	2.5	2.4
Spanish Language	13	4.6	3.7	3.6
Statistics	110	3.7	2.8	2.7
Studio Art Draw	6	3.6	3.6	3.5
US History	55	3.7	3.2	2.6

Average Scores Shrewsbury High School, Massachusetts, and Nationally

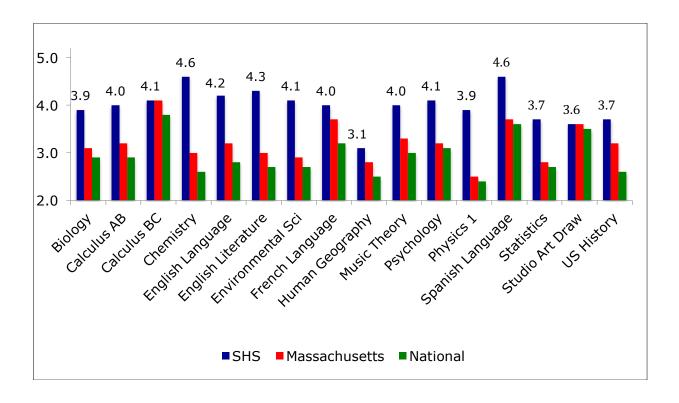


Figure 22

AP Exam Scores

Local School Districts

School	# of Test Takers	Total Exams Taken	% of Exams with Scores of 3, 4, or 5
Franklin	421	797	74%
Chelmsford	305	566	78%
Algonquin	393	745	87%
Wachusett	361	608	88%
Hopkinton	461	997	89%
Nashoba	305	584	90%
Westborough	258	524	91%
Shrewsbury	357	668	92%
Acton-Boxborough	433	973	94%
Westford Academy	390	695	98%

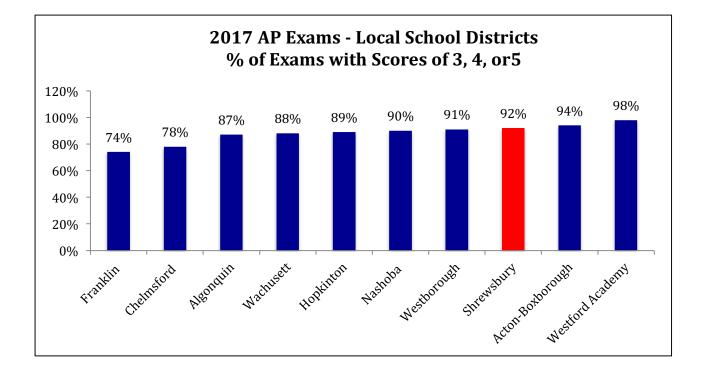


Figure 23

	5	4	3	2	1	# of tests administered	2017 % scoring 5	2017 % scoring 4 or above	2017 % scoring 3 or above	2016 % scoring 3 or above
Biology	11	23	15	0	0	49	16%	72%	98%	98%
Calculus AB	16	23	14	0	1	54	64%	85%	88%	88%
Calculus BC	18	11	3	5	0	37	63%	84%	93%	93%
Chemistry	20	8	2	0	0	30	47%	80%	100%	100%
English Language	21	18	13	0	0	52	53%	90%	100%	100%
English Literature	11	12	4	0	0	27	52%	84%	96%	96%
Environmental Science	8	7	5	1	0	21	11%	50%	72%	72%
French Language	2	5	2	0	0	9	27%	73%	100%	100%
Human Geography	8	9	1	3	0	21	26%	48%	91%	91%
Music Theory	3	1	3	0	0	7	38%	63%	75%	75%
Physics 1	6	8	2	3	0	19	0%	67%	89%	89%
Psychology	57	37	24	9	2	129	50%	76%	93%	93%
Spanish Language	9	3	1	0	0	13	81%	100%	100%	100%
Statistics	37	22	35	12	4	110	35%	73%	89%	89%
Studio Art Draw	1	1	3	0	0	5	33%	67%	100%	100%
US History	17	17	11	8	2	55	53%	86%	98%	98%
Totals	245	205	138	41	9	638	38%	71%	92%	93%

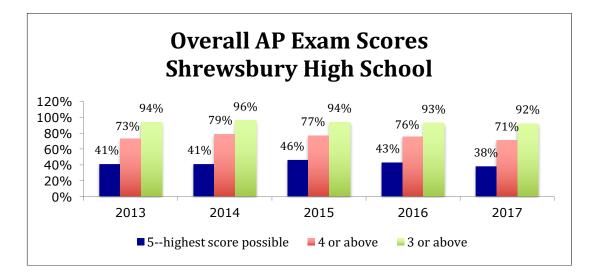
2017 Advanced Placement Exam Results

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	# of tests administered	2017 % Scoring 5	2017 % scoring 4 or above	2017 % scoring 3 or above	2016 % scoring 3 or above
Chinese	0	0	1	0	0	1	0%	0%	100%	-
Computer Science A	1	0	1	0	0	2	100%	100%	100%	100%
German	1	0	0	0	0	1	100%	100%	100%	-
Macroeconomics	1	5	2	2	1	11	23%	54%	69%	80%
Microeconomics	1	6	1	1	1	10	15%	54%	92%	88%
US Government & Politics	1	0	0	1	2	4	0%	100%	100%	71%
World History	0	0	1	0	0	1	0%	0%	100%	-
Totals	6	10	9	3	2	30	20%	53%	83%	83%

Quick Highlights:

- The number of students taking AP exams is 357 (68 more than last year).
- The number of AP exams administered is 668 (122 more than last year).
- There were 30 exams taken by students self-studying or taking VHS courses.
- 53% of seniors took at least one AP exam, a particularly high percentage compared to most high schools.
- 38% of the exams administered resulted in a score of 5—the highest possible score available.





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 2017

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

<u>AP Scholar with Honor</u>: 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.

<u>AP Scholar with Distinction</u>: 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.

<u>National AP Scholar:</u> 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
2017	46	18	37	4	105
2016	47	21	33	6	107
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

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

Year	Commended	Finalist	Scholarship Recipient	Hispanic Recognition Program
2017	15	1	1	-
2016	19	2	2	-
2016	19	2	2	-
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	-	-

Shrewsbury High School

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.

<u>Commended Students:</u> 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.

2016 – 2017 School Year

• <u>PSAT:</u>

 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, a few freshman students opt to take the PSAT with available tests.

• <u>ACT:</u>

Traditionally, 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. With the redesigned SAT, the test sections include more school related subject questions such as science and social studies making the SAT more similar to the ACT. The School Counseling Department encourages students to take both the ACT and SAT.

• <u>SAT:</u>

- 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. The enrollment of the Fall session totaled 45 students and the Spring sessions totaled 83 students. The enrollment fee for the course is \$250 for Shrewsbury residents and \$325 for non-residents. This cost is an affordable option to test preparation compared to most local, regional, and national test preparation companies.
- The College Board redesigned the SAT, which launched in March 2016. The New SAT reflect skills that are 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. This year is the first reporting year of the redesigned SAT.

• Advanced Placement Courses:

- The number of students taking AP Exams has increased for 2016-2017. While students are not recommended to take more than three AP classes per year to help balance a student's schedule and extra-curricular commitments, each student's schedule is considered individually.
- Due to cost and available space, all AP exams are administered 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.