

**For immediate release:**

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**Plano students perform exceedingly well on SAT and ACT**

Board of Trustees reviewed these and other post-secondary readiness indicators at the September 15 board work session

**Plano, Texas, September 17, 2009** — At Tuesday’s work session of the Plano ISD Board of Trustees, **Paul Weaver**, the district’s director of counseling and guidance, presented the annual Post Secondary Readiness Indicators Report for 2009. Mr. Weaver reported on ACT, SAT, Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate examinations, as well as the Concurrent Enrollment program with Collin County Community College (Collin College), allowing qualifying Plano ISD juniors and seniors to earn both high school credit for graduation and college credit by taking courses with Collin College.

In addition to exceptional college entrance exam scores, a significant number of Plano ISD students are challenging themselves by taking Advanced Placement courses and participating in the International Baccalaureate program, and concurrent enrollment, noted Mr. Weaver. These statistics indicate a strong dedication of our teachers to work diligently to get more students enrolled and involved in honors and advanced courses.

The results on this report are the envy of any school district, said Board Secretary **Missy Bender**. The practical arrangement of these nationally accepted college readiness measures and the impressive accomplishments of our students make this a very valuable tool for the district.

Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) results show gains by Plano students in mathematics and reading. The 2009 critical reading and math scores for Plano ISD students each increased by four points, with a mean score of 564 and 601, respectively. While statewide, the mean writing score declined by five points (from 480 to 475), Plano ISD remained the same at 553. The national scores for all students were 501 for critical reading, a one-point drop; 515 for math, which represented no change; and 493 for writing, a one-point decline.

**AVERAGE SAT SCORES OF PISD, TEXAS AND U.S. SENIORS, 2007-2009**

Year	Critical Reading			Math			Writing		
	PISD	Texas	U.S.	PISD	Texas	U.S.	PISD	Texas	U.S.
2007	557	492	502	587	507	515	546	482	494
2008	560	488	502	597	505	515	553	480	494
2009	564	486	501	601	506	515	553	475	493

ACT scores increased from 2008 in all subjects—English, Math, Reading and Science Reasoning. The ACT composite score also increased from 25.2 to 25.5. This compares to the statewide composite score of 20.8 and a national composite score of 21.1. It is great news that 1,446 Plano ISD students took the ACT this year as compared to 1,379 last year, said Mr. Weaver.

#### AVERAGE ACT SCORES OF PISD, TEXAS AND US SENIORS, 2007-2009

Year	English			Math			Reading			Science Reasoning		
	PISD	Texas	U.S.	PISD	Texas	U.S.	PISD	Texas	U.S.	PISD	Texas	U.S.
2007	23.9	19.5	20.7	25.4	20.8	21	24.9	20.6	21.5	24.4	20.4	21
2008	24.4	19.8	20.6	26.2	21.2	21	25.1	20.9	21.4	24.5	20.5	20.8
2009	25.1	19.9	20.6	26.3	21.3	21	25.6	20.9	21.4	24.5	20.6	20.9

Additional report highlights:

- 91% of ACT-tested students who are ready for college-level English coursework. If you make an 18 or higher on the English/language arts test, you are considered to have a 50% chance of getting a B in a college English class.
- 7,513 Advanced Placement exams were administered to students at Plano ISD's three senior high schools in 2009. While the number is slightly less than in 2008, Mr. Weaver pointed out that this may be due to the increase of students enrolled in concurrent college courses.
- With 2,802 students taking AP tests for college credit, Plano ISD's AP program is one of the largest in the nation.
- AP test-takers at the high school level (grades 9-10) increased to 1,109 in 2009 from 1,082 in 2008, while the number of tests taken increased from 1,150 to 1,192.
- At the high school level, 64% of students scored a 3 or higher on AP tests. In alignment with district goals, Plano ISD has opened the door for many more students to take AP and honors courses. Mr. Weaver noted that for many of these students, 2009 was the first year they took an AP test, and it's definitely the first year for ninth graders.
- Middle School AP Spanish testing resulted in 80% of student scores rating a 3 or higher. It is remarkable that these young students will begin ninth grade with 4 high school Spanish credits, said Mr. Weaver.

#### About Plano Independent School District

The Plano Independent School District (Plano ISD) – <http://www.pisd.edu/> – endeavors to foster the highest level of student learning. The mission of Plano ISD is to provide an excellent education for all students. Plano ISD is located twenty miles north of Dallas, Texas and serves the residents of approximately 100 square miles in southwest Collin County, including 66 square miles in the city of Plano, northern portions of the cities of Dallas and Richardson and parts of the cities of Allen, Parker and Murphy. Plano ISD employs 7,000 faculty and staff members who serve more than 54,000 students in sixty-seven schools, three special programs including Head Start, and eleven service facilities. Participating in Plano ISD schools enables students to adapt to new learning opportunities throughout their lives, collaborate with, and contribute to, the global community and to be creative and disciplined in their thinking.