

## **Columbia County SAT Results Reported** *Math and Reading Scores Show Improvement*

Columbia County's senior class of 2007 scored higher than the state average for the SAT test for college readiness, and slightly higher than the national average as reported by CollegeBoard. Despite the slight decline in writing, Columbia County students scored higher than last year in math and critical reading.

"When more students are tested, it's to be expected to see a slight drop in scores. In Columbia County, we had 47 more students take the SAT this year and we still showed improvement over the national and state averages. That is something to be very proud of," said Charles Nagle, Superintendent of Schools.

The revised SAT was given for the first time in March 2006 and included changes to the Verbal and Math sections of the test. The new SAT features the addition of a writing section where students are asked to write an essay that requires them to take a position on an issue and use reasoning and examples to support their position.

The new SAT Math section includes topics from third-year college preparatory math and Algebra II, such as exponential growth, absolute value, functional notation, and negative and fractional components. Quantitative comparisons from the previous SAT have been eliminated.

### **SAT Highlights**

Each section is scored within a range of 200-800 points, combining for a total of 2400 rather than 1600.

- **Columbia County's average composite score is 1513 (up one point from 2006)**, a combination of critical reading score of 505 (up two points), the average math score of 518 (up four points), and the average writing score of 490 (down five points).
- **Columbia County's total SAT average is two points above the national average of 1511.**
- **Columbia County's total SAT average is 41 points above the Georgia average of 1472.**
- **Columbia County's average math score of 518 is 23 points above the Georgia average of 495.**
- **Columbia County's top 10% have an average composite score of 1785** (592-critical reading, 615-math, 578-writing).
- **A higher percentage of students take the SAT in Columbia County than in the state.** Preliminary figures indicate that approximately 73% of CCBOE seniors took the SAT compared to 48% nationally and 69% statewide.