



**Office of Accountability**

Department of Research, Evaluation and Assessment  
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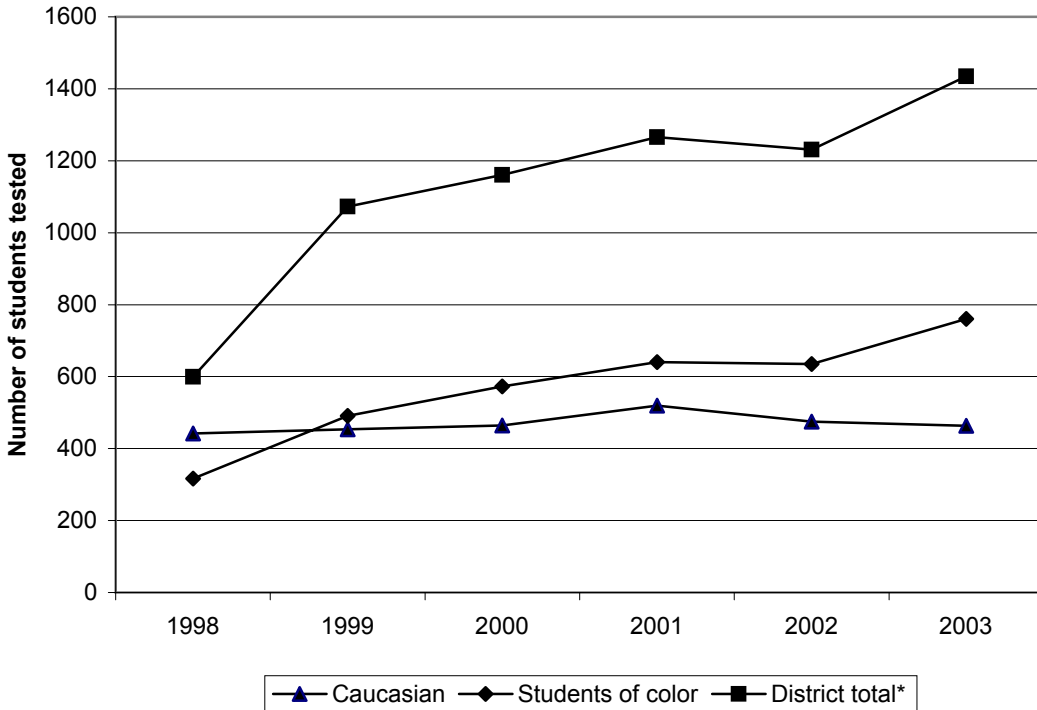
**Date:** 9/19/03

**Re:** Summary of 2003 ACT Results for Saint Paul Students

**District-wide results**

- The number of Saint Paul Public Schools' (SPPS) students tested on the ACT in 2003 is the highest ever (n=1,435), an increase of 42% from the total tested in 1998. During that five-year period, the number of students of color being tested has more than doubled.
- Compared to 2002, the number of Caucasian students taking the ACT has slightly decreased, while the number of students of color taking the ACT has increased 16.5%.
- The district's average Composite score declined fractionally for the third year in a row since 2000 (from 20.0, 19.8 to 19.7). Scores increased slightly for American Indian, Latino and African American students, but declined for Asian students; Caucasian students' average remained the same as last year.
- Average scores for 2003 declined from the previous year in English and Mathematics. District-wide scores in Reading and Science were unchanged.
- Saint Paul students who have not taken the academic "core" subjects recommended by ACT (four credits in English; three credits each in Mathematics, social sciences and science) continue to perform better in all "core" subjects compared to their national counterparts, except in English, where they were slightly below the national average.
- On the other hand, students who have taken the academic "core" subjects recommended by ACT continue to under-perform compared to their national counterparts in all academic "core" subjects.
- The percentage of SPPS students taking the ACT without having taken the academic core classes has increased from 36 percent in 1998 to 43 percent in 2002. However, a decrease of 3% occurred from 2002 to 2003.
- The percentage of tested students reporting satisfaction with their classroom instruction has declined from 50 percent in 1998 to 41 percent in 2003. The percentage reporting dissatisfaction has remained about 10 percent with the remainder being either neutral or not responding to this question.

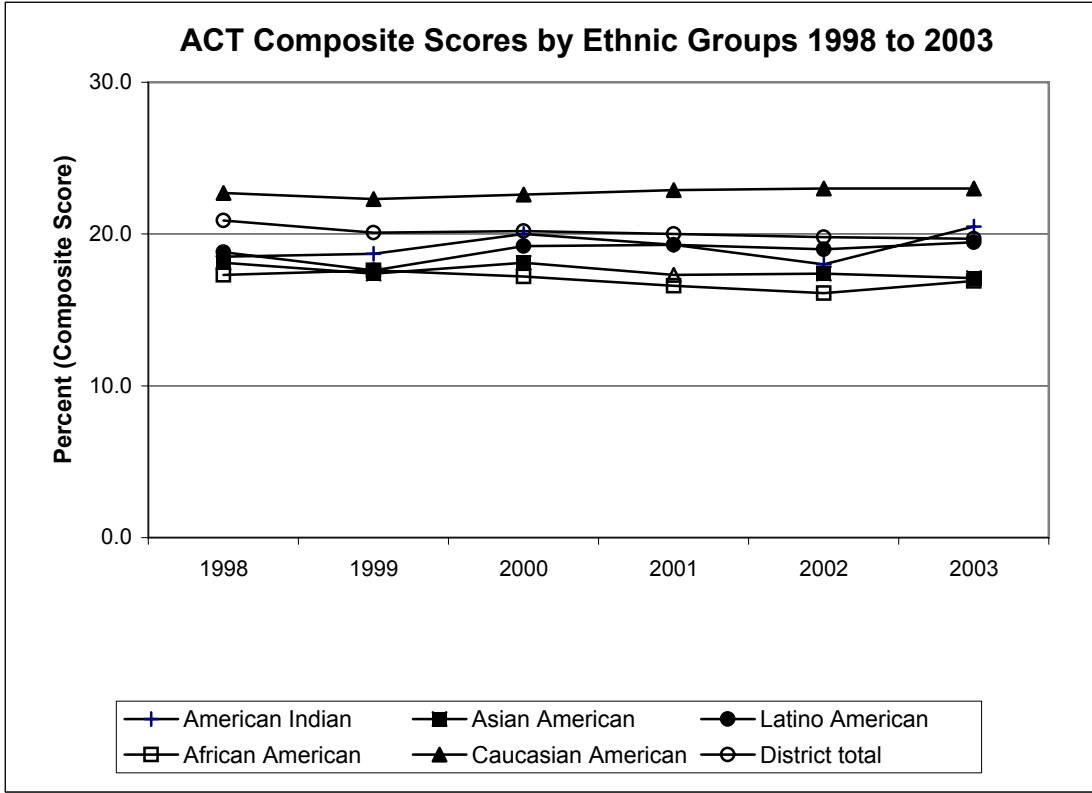
**Number of students taking the ACT 1998 to 2003**



	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Caucasian	442	454	464	519	475	463
Students of color	317	491	573	640	635	760
District total*	599	1073	1161	1266	1231	1435

**\*Note: District totals may not add up since several students did not identify their ethnic background.**

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
American Indian	10	16	7	14	5	15
Asian American	193	348	392	438	466	484
Latino American	38	35	43	60	48	52
African American	76	92	131	128	116	209
Caucasian American	442	454	464	519	475	463
District total*	599	1073	1161	1266	1231	1435



	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
American Indian	18.5	18.7	20.0	19.3	18.0	20.5
Asian American	18.1	17.4	18.1	17.3	17.4	17.1
Latino American	18.8	17.6	19.2	19.3	19.0	19.5
African American	17.3	17.6	17.2	16.6	16.1	16.9
Caucasian American	22.7	22.3	22.6	22.9	23.0	23.0
District total	20.9	20.1	20.2	20.0	19.8	19.7

State average	22.2	22.1	22.0	22.1	22.1	22.0
National average	21.0	21.0	21.0	21.0	20.8	20.8

**Further comparisons to national and state averages are available in the Research, Evaluation and Assessment office.**

## 2003 ACT Composite Scores by Ethnic Group - SPPS and State

