

WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
2002-03 BUDGET

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
2002-03 BUDGET

A Celebration of Achievement
For the 2000-2001 Academic Year

Standardized Tests

- College Boards – The average verbal score for the Class of 2001 was 531. The average mathematics score was 543. These scores were above both state and national averages for 2001. Ninety-three percent of the class of 2001 took the College Boards.
- ERBs – The Educational Records Bureau provides nationally normed tests in reading and mathematics. These tests were administered to grades four, seven and ten in the fall of 2001. Scores were all above national norms.
- Pennsylvania System of School Assessment – Average district scores for 5th, 8th, and 11th grade students in both reading and math were above state level scores by a range of 120 to 130 points for math and 100 to 110 points for reading.

General Excellence

- Hillsdale Elementary School received a Blue Ribbon Award for Excellence from the U.S. Department of Education for the 2000-01 school year. Five other West Chester Area schools received Blue Ribbons in the past. They include: East and Henderson High Schools, Fugett Middle School, and Mary C. Howse and Sarah Starkweather Elementary Schools. East High School received the award twice, and Mary C. Howse received it three times.

Academic Competitions

- West Chester Area School District continued a winning tradition in the National Science Bowl sponsored by the National Organization of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers in April 2001. A team of three 9th graders from East and one 8th grader from Fugett placed first in the junior high division, and another team of four 11th graders from East placed third in the senior high division. A total of 38 teams from across the country competed - 16 in the junior high division, and 22 in the senior high division. Both East and Henderson have won national championships in the past with East placing first in 2000, 1997 and 1994, and Henderson placing first in 1999 and 1998.
- A combined team of 22 students from East and Henderson placed second in a robotics competition at Drexel University in March 2001. The competition required students to construct a remote-controlled robot capable of performing specific, highly sophisticated tasks.
- In the Pennsylvania State Science Olympiad for the year 2001, a team from Henderson finished third and earned three medals. Henderson has traditionally done well in the State Science Olympiad, also placing third in 2000, 1999 and 1998, and first in 1997.

WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2002-03 BUDGET

- A fifth grader at Fern Hill Elementary School took first place at the 2001 Delaware Valley 24 Challenge Math Program at the Franklin Institute Science Museum in Philadelphia. Two other fifth graders earned silver and bronze medals.
- Two Peirce eighth graders received first and second place in the annual History Day competition at West Chester University. First place was awarded for a historical paper on the development of anesthesia, while second place was for a video documentary on the railroad in Chester County.
- An eighth grader at Peirce Middle School placed first in Chester County in the annual history essay contest sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution. This is the 14th year a student from Peirce has won the contest.
- *Peirce Perspectives*, the student literary magazine at Peirce Middle School, was ranked first in the state from the Pennsylvania School Press Association, and was ranked superior by the National Council of Teachers of English. *Peirce Perspectives* was the only magazine published by a middle school in Pennsylvania to receive the superior ranking.
- The East High School yearbook, *Valhalla*, received a Keystone Award from the Pennsylvania School Press Association.

National Merit Finalists

- Eleven students in the Class of 2001 – four from East High School and seven from Henderson High School – were finalists in the 2001 National Merit Scholarship Program.
- Another fifteen students from East and eleven students from Henderson were commended by the 2001 National Merit Scholarship Program.
- A student from East was commended by the 2001 National Achievement Scholarship Program, which recognizes outstanding African-American students. This program, like the National Merit Program, is based partially on high scores in the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test/Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test (NMSQT/PSAT).
- Two East students were named finalists in the National Hispanic Recognition Program, which is also based on high scores in the NMSQT/PSAT.

Governor's School Scholarships

- Students at East and Henderson High Schools were awarded a total of six scholarships to the highly competitive Pennsylvania Governor's Schools for Excellence in the summer of 2001. Two scholarships – one to an East student and one to a Henderson student – were awarded to the Governor's School for the Arts at Mercyhurst College, Erie. Two scholarships were similarly awarded to the School for Information Technology at Drexel University. In addition, a Henderson student won a scholarship to the School for International Studies at the University of Pittsburgh, and an East student won a scholarship to the School for the Sciences at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh.

**WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
2002-03 BUDGET**

Awards in Music & Drama

- The West Chester Middle Schools' Select Strings placed first in the junior high division of the Music in the Parks competition in Williamsburg, Virginia. They received a rating of Superior and the trophy for Overall Best Orchestra with the highest score out of all 49 middle through high school groups, both vocal and instrumental. Select Strings has received the rating of Superior each year they have attended – 1991, 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999 and 2001. This is the fifth time they received the award for Overall Best Orchestra.
- For the second time in three years, the Henderson High School Marching Band captured the Atlantic Coast Championship in the Tournament of Bands Association. The Marching Warriors won the championship in Group 1, which includes bands with no more than 35 members. This win capped an undefeated season for the Warriors.
- The East High School Marching Band competed in the finals in the American Conference of the Cavalcade of Bands, placing fourth overall for the second consecutive year. The American Conference includes bands of 60 to 95 members.
- Two East students and two Henderson students were named to All-State Chorus; an East student and a Henderson student were named to All-State Orchestra; and an East student was named to All-State Band. These students underwent a rigorous audition process sponsored by the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association. Auditions began on the District 12 level and proceeded through Region 6 in the state.

Winning Sports

- A Henderson High School student became the first wrestler in Chester County to win two state championships from the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA). He was also one of only four wrestlers in the history of District I to win two state championships. He won 61 straight matches over two years and achieved a 108-7 three-year career record. The Pennsylvania Chapter of the Wrestling Hall of Fame awarded him a certificate of exceptional achievement.
- An East High School swimmer qualified for these events in the state championships: the 200 medley relay, the 200 freestyle, the 100 backstroke, and the 400 relay. She medaled in several of them.

**WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
2002-03 BUDGET**

WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

**2001 Profile
of
SAT and ACT Results**

Most colleges and universities use one of two standardized assessment instruments as part of their process in accepting students. The SAT I: Reasoning Test and the SAT II: Subject Tests are prepared and produced by Educational Testing Service (ETS) for the not-for-profit College Entrance Examination Board. The ACT Assessment is produced by the not-for-profit ACT Corporation. Most students in the West Chester Area School District continue to take the SAT I and/or SAT II, because it is a more popular and widely used assessment instrument in the East Coast geographic area.

SAT I and SAT II

Nationwide, 1,276,320 seniors took the SAT during the 2000-2001 school year. Overall, students in the West Chester Area School District continue to score higher than Pennsylvania and national scores. 697 West Chester Area District Seniors took the SAT I sometime during their high school experience, representing 91.46% of the 2001 graduating class (including learning support students) in both East and Henderson High Schools. More females (368) than males (329) took either the SAT I or SAT II. Ethnic diversity of the test-takers continues to increase.

For 2001 seniors in the West Chester Area School District, the verbal mean score is 531 compared to a Pennsylvania mean of 500 and a national mean of 506. In an 8-year comparison, the district verbal mean has not significantly changed.

The math mean score for West Chester Area School District test-takers is 543 compared to a Pennsylvania mean of 499 and a national mean of 514. This district mean is 25 points higher than in 1994 representing a gradual, but significant increase in the overall district math mean score.

The gender gap in West Chester Area School District SAT scores is much less than it is nationally. For SAT verbal, the mean score for females is 5 points higher than males (nationally, the mean score for males is 7 points higher). For SAT math, the mean score for males is 19 points higher (nationally, the average for males is 35 points higher).

Racial/ethnic diversity of SAT takers has increased nationally since 1991. However, there are gaps in white and non-white SAT scores, nationally, as well as locally. The district verbal mean is 531, compared to means for Asian Americans (574), African Americans (455), Hispanic/Latino (516), White (539), and Other (517).

**WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
2002-03 BUDGET**

The district math mean is 543, compared to means for Asian Americans (610), African Americans (468), Hispanic/Latino (510), White (552) and Other (524).

ACT

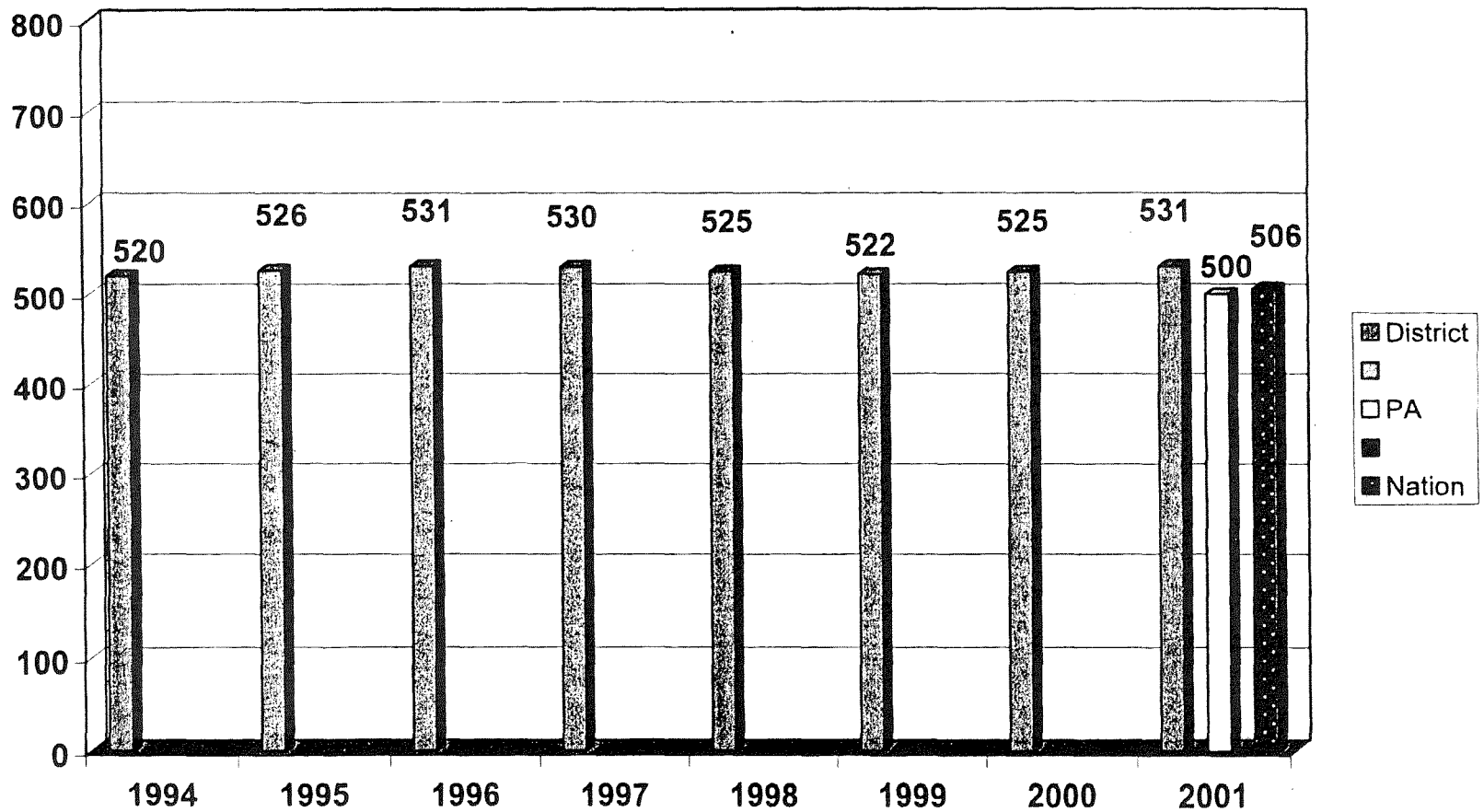
Forty-eight students took the ACT Assessment, representing 6.29% of the 2001 graduating class. On the ACT College Entrance Assessment, (English, Reading, Mathematics and Science Reasoning) West Chester Area School District test-takers continue to achieve on par with the national ACT score average of 21.0. The composite average for Henderson High School was 21.4 and the composite average for East High School was 25.1. The ACT assessment is a curriculum-based achievement test not an aptitude test, more similar to the SAT II: Subject Tests.

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE

SAT or ACT scores are only one factor that many colleges and universities examine to determine acceptance. Other factors include academic courses studied in high school, grade point average, extra curricular activities, special interests, community service and career-oriented activities. The College Board and ACT Corporation urge caution in comparing states, districts and schools on SAT and ACT scores alone because demographics and non-school factors strongly influence scores.

**West Chester Area School District
2001 College Board Test Scores
District Verbal Mean Score - 8 Year Comparison**

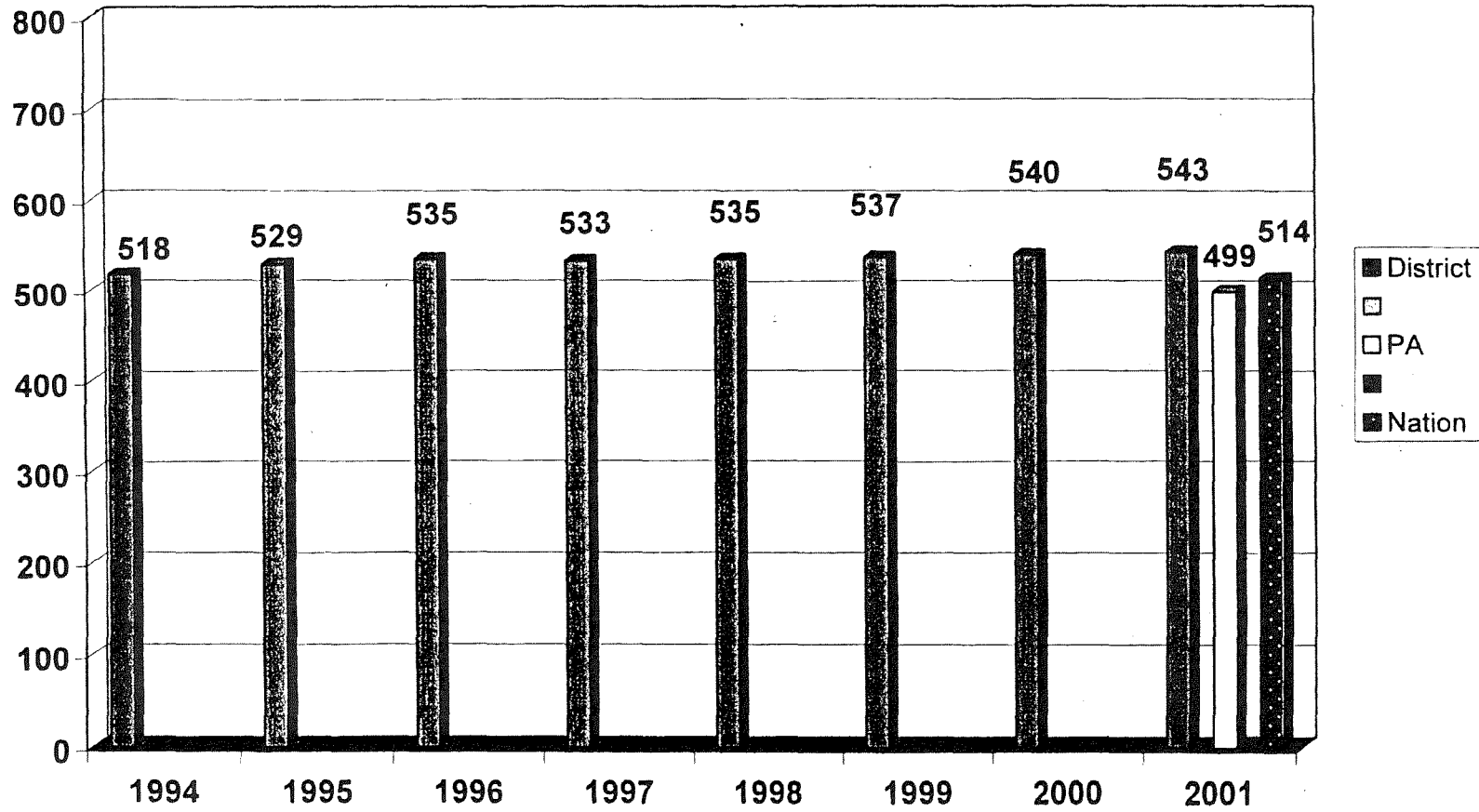
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WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
2002-03 BUDGET

West Chester Area School District
2001 College Board Test Scores
District Math Mean Score - 8 Year Comparison

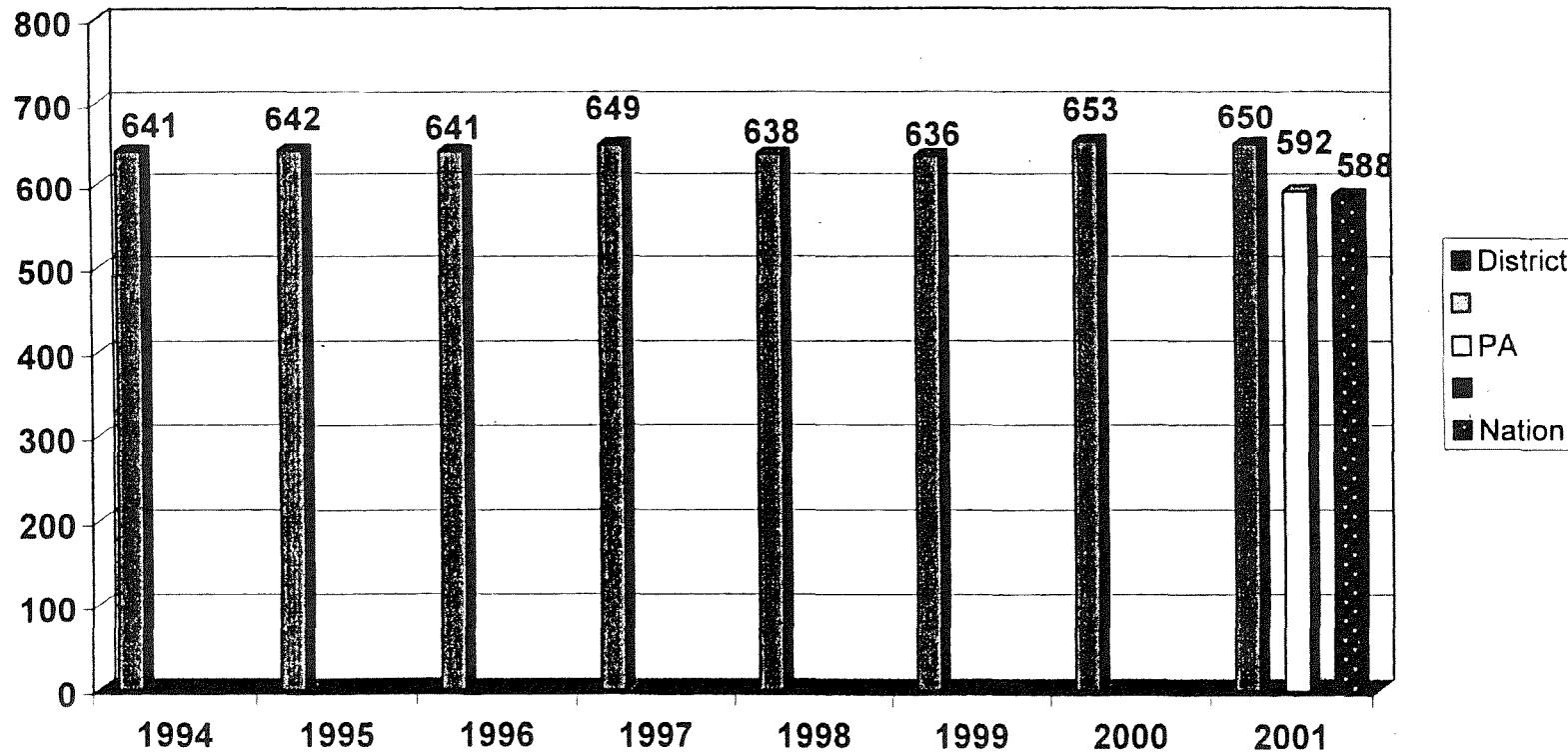
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**West Chester Area School District
2001 College Board Test Scores**
District Top Tenth High School Rank:*
SAT I Verbal Mean 8 Year Comparison

*Student Reported

225

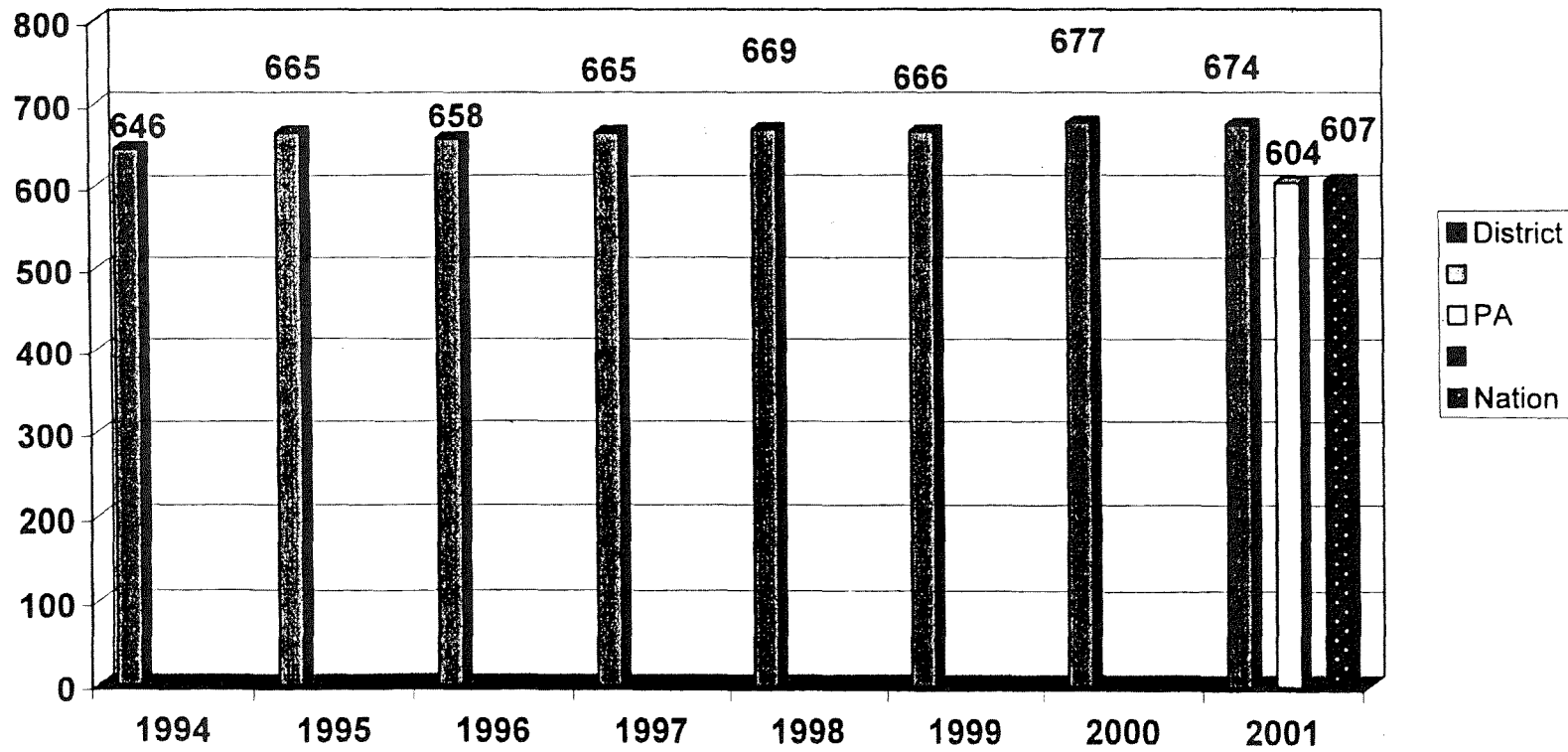


West Chester Area School District 2001 College Board Test Scores

District Top Tenth High School Rank:*
SAT I - Math Mean 8 Year Comparison

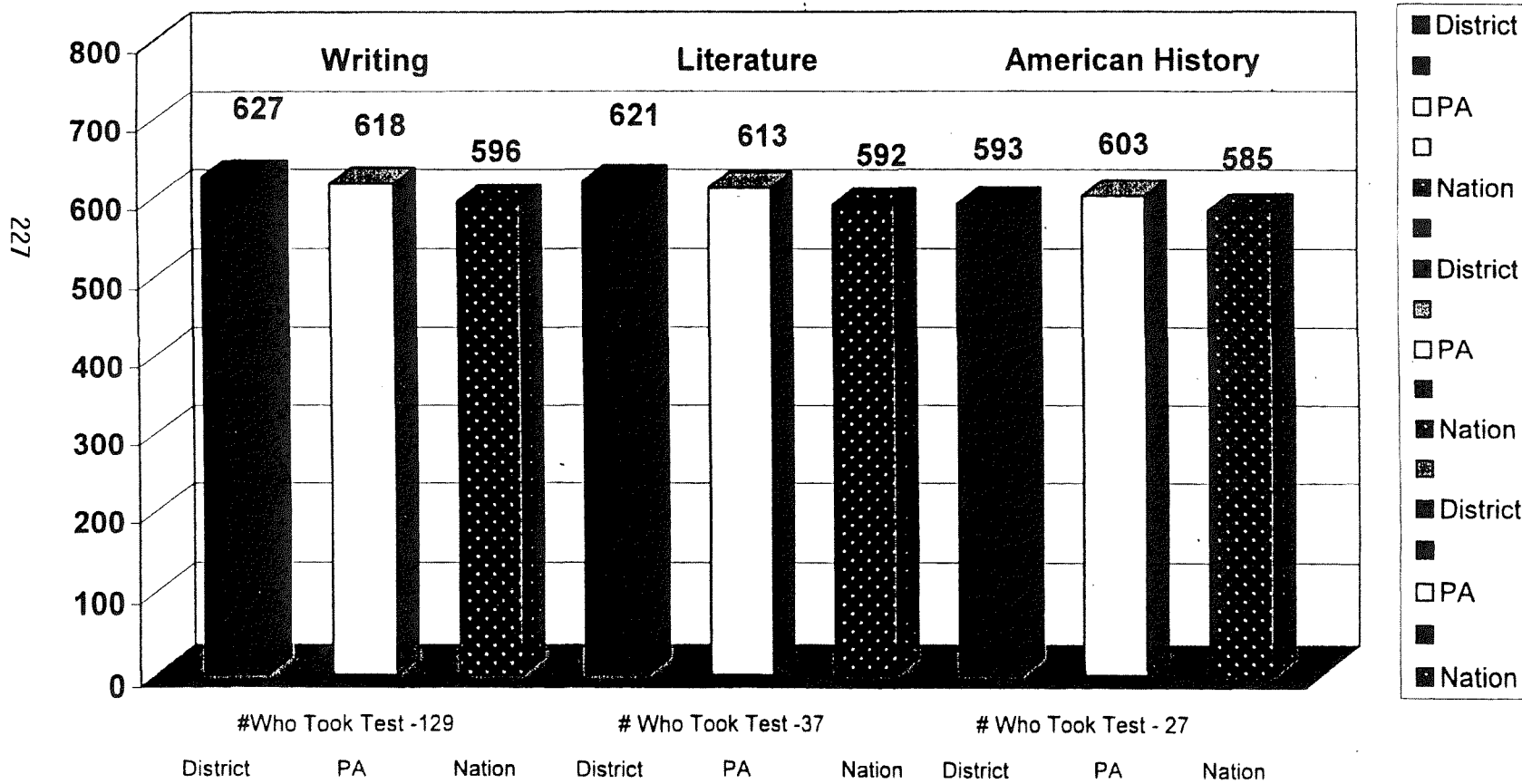
*Student Reported

226



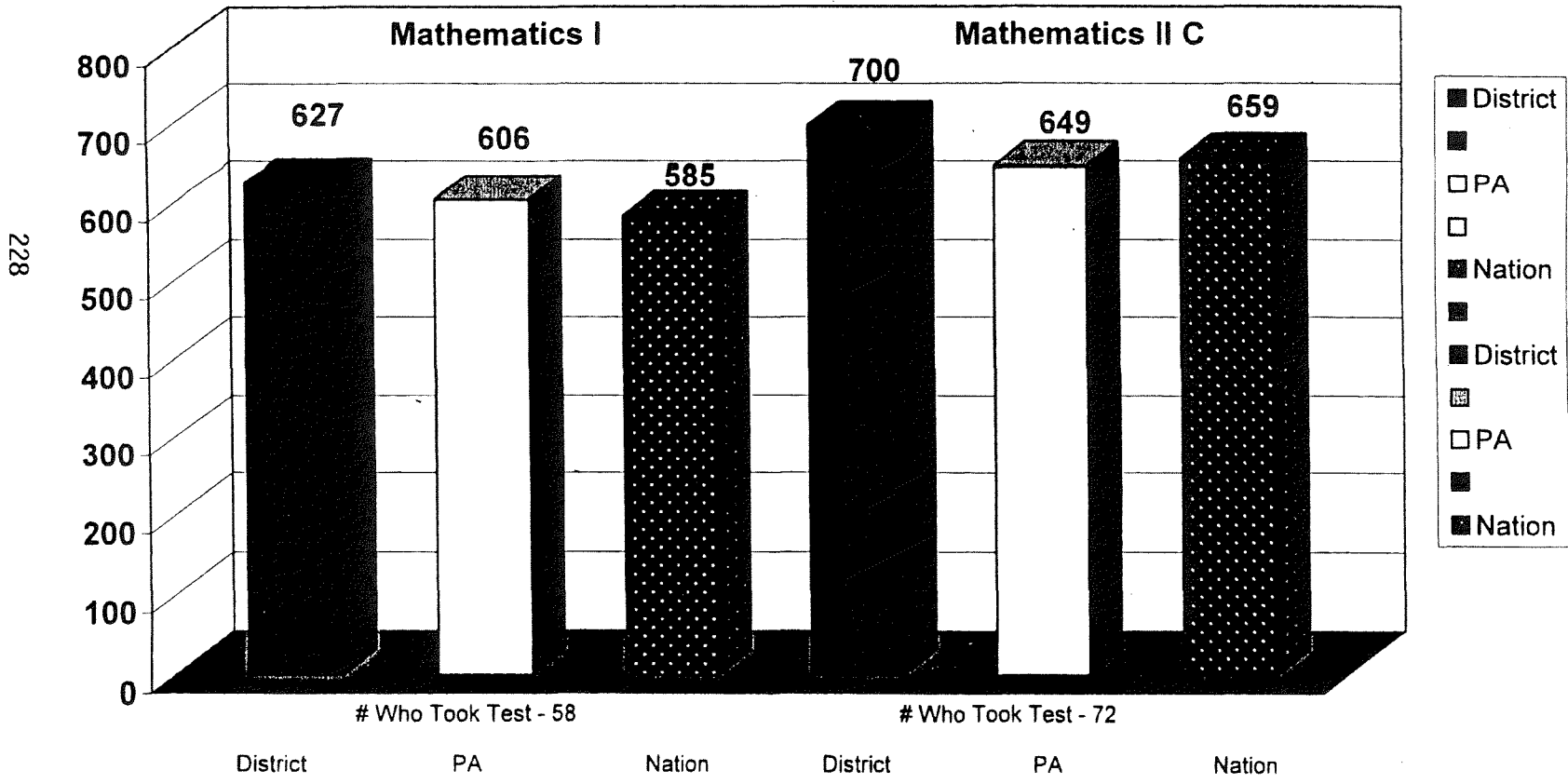
West Chester Area School District 2001 College Board Test Scores

Subject Test Scores



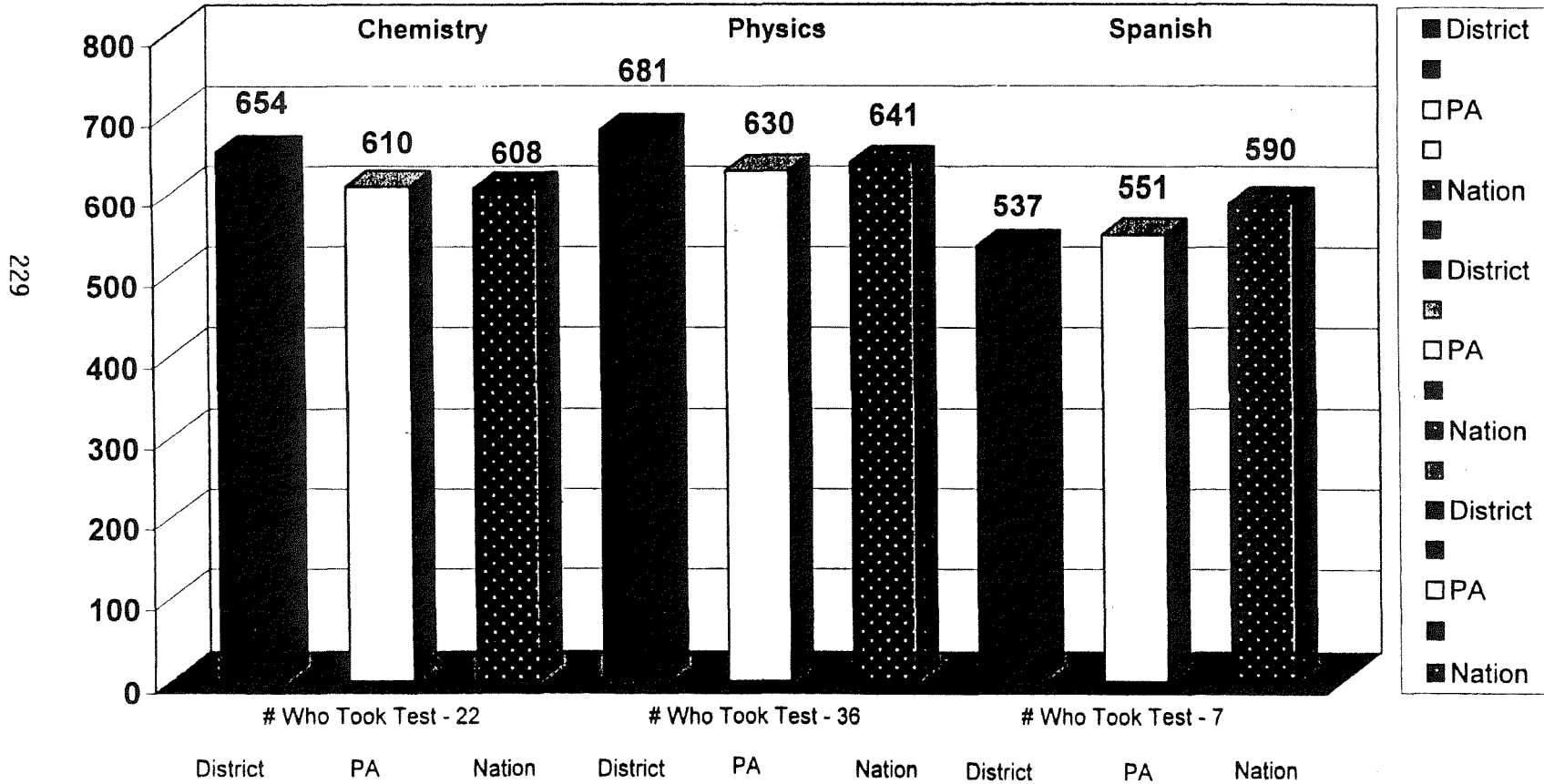
West Chester Area School District 2001 College Board Test Scores

Subject Test Scores



West Chester Area School District 2001 College Board Test Scores

Subject Test Scores



**WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
2002-03 BUDGET**

Summary of Results

on

The Pennsylvania System of Assessment (PSSA) - March 2001

for the

West Chester Area School District

The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) is a state evaluative system that informs Stakeholders in the Commonwealth about student, school and district performance in reading, writing and mathematics. The PSSA is an evaluative tool that helps determine the degree to which students, schools and districts are meeting Pennsylvania Academic Content Standards. The PSSA is presently administered to all public school students (the Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment, PASA, is administered to students with significant disabilities and student exemptions are given for religious reasons only) in the following grades:

Reading	Grades 5, 8, and 11
Mathematics	Grades 5, 8, and 11
Writing	Grades 6, 9, and 11

Results from these assessments are reported by academic standard category for individual students, schools and districts. In addition, for the Spring 2001 assessment, performance levels were reported for individual students and percentage of students achieving at each level are reported for each school, various subgroups and school district. Performance levels cannot be compared to previous percentile levels. The descriptors for the performance levels are the following:

Advanced –The Advanced Level reflects superior academic performance. Advanced work indicates an in-depth understanding and exemplary display of the skills included in the Pennsylvania Academic Content Standards.

Proficient –The Proficient Level reflects satisfactory academic performance. Proficient work indicates a solid understanding and adequate display of the skills included in the Pennsylvania Academic Content Standards.

Basic –The Basic Level reflects marginal academic performance. Basic work indicates a partial understanding and limited display of the skills included in the Pennsylvania Academic Content Standards. This work is approaching satisfactory performance but has not reached it. There is a need for additional instructional opportunities and/or increased student academic commitment to achieve the Proficient Level.

WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2002-03 BUDGET

Below Basic –The Below Basic Level reflects inadequate academic performance. Below Basic work indicates little understanding and minimal display of the skills included in the Pennsylvania Academic Content Standards. There is a major need for additional instructional opportunities and/or increased student academic commitment to achieve the Proficient Level.

In accordance with the Individual with Disabilities Act (IDEA) reporting requirements, results of the Spring PSSA 2001 assessment were disaggregated by various special needs and demographic groups. The graphs in this report indicate Scaled Scores and Performance percentages for these different groups.

Overall, the West Chester Area School District's performance on the PSSA continues to demonstrate high achievement on the Pennsylvania Academic Content Standards. All schools in the district perform above the state average scaled score (1310) for reading, mathematics and writing. In comparison to similar schools within the state, the District's scaled scores continue to show that the majority of West Chester schools score at the top level of the Scaled Score Range.

District-wide math scores show a significant increase (+50 points) at the high school level. A 50-point difference is required for statistical significance. There is no statistically significant change in math at the middle school level (40 point decrease) and no change at the elementary level. In reading scores, there is no significant change from District 2000 scaled scores at elementary (+10), middle (-20) or high school level (+20). The scaled scores for 5th, 8th and 11th grade in both reading and math are above Pennsylvania state scaled scores by a range of 110 to 120 points for math and 100 to 110 points for reading.

February 2001 was the first time that a state writing assessment was given at the 11th grade level. The District scaled score average was 1450 compared to a state average of 1320. Three types of writing were assessed: informational, narrative and persuasive. The District scaled score results are: informational-1460, narrative-1460, and persuasive-1450; all are significantly above the state average of 1330, respectively.

A 4-year comparison of District scores indicates a statistically significant decrease in math at the elementary level from 1470 in 1998 to 1420 in 2001 (-50), but no significant change over 4 years at the middle and high school level. In reading, the scaled scores indicate a significant increase at the high school level (+60), but no significant change at the elementary or middle school level.

The PSSA 2001 test results for individual schools (see chart for all 15 schools) show an increase in math scaled scores for 4 schools (2 are statistically significant) and a decrease in math scaled scores for 11 schools (2 are statistically significant). Increases in math scores ranged from 80 to 10 points and decreases ranged from 80 to 10 points. Individual school reading scores show an increase in 5 schools (3 are statistically significant), no change in 5 schools, and a decrease in 5 schools (2 are statistically significant). Increases in reading scores ranged from 90 to 10 points and decreases ranged from 50 to 10 points.

WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2002-03 BUDGET

The disaggregation of test scores reveal significant differences between various racial/ethnic groups and special needs groups on both scaled scores and percentage of students at performance levels for both mathematics and reading. The accompanying charts give detailed information about each group. The only significant gender difference was in 8th grade on the reading assessment. In addition, the disaggregated results for the District scaled scores in math reveal increases in percentage of students from 5th to 11th gradez who are performing in the Basic and Below Basic Performance levels.

The West Chester Areas School District scores continue to show an overall high level of performance when measured against the Pennsylvania Academic Content Standards. However, the disaggregation of results indicates that improvement is needed in individual schools in both reading and math with subgroups of students. In appropriately educating all students, the WCASD Administration has already begun implementing the following initiatives.

- Workshops with teachers on standardized and authentic assessment practices
- The continuation of curriculum mapping at the elementary and middle school level and introduction at the 9th grade level (Fall 2002)
- Establishment of the Minority Achievement Committee
- Dissemination of disaggregated PSSA information to all Principals and subsequent staff meetings at the building level.
- Meetings with Secondary Principals and Assistant Principals concerning student achievement
- Meetings with high school students and parents (February and March 2002)
- Continued work with Supervisors and teachers linking WCASD Curriculum with Standards and Assessment
- Recommendations from the Assessment Action Team to be part of the Strategic Plan

**WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
2002-03 BUDGET**

**Pennsylvania State System of Assessment Awards (PSSA)
West Chester Area School District**

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>1998-99</u>	<u>1999-00</u>	<u>2000-01</u>	<u>2001-02</u>
East H. S.				59,100.00
Henderson H. S.		41,600.00		39,270.00
Fugett M. S.		12,200.00		
Stetson M. S.		14,227.50	15,228.00	18,524.00
Peirce M. S.		15,137.50		
East Bradford E. S.	4,882.50	8,805.00		24,297.00
East Goshen E. S.			18,760.00	
Exton E. S.		6,530.00		26,258.00
Fern Hill E. S.		8,280.00		
Glen Acres E. S.		6,537.50		
Mary C. Howse E. S.		5,530.00		
Penn Wood E. S.	4,425.00	5,940.00		
Sarah Starkweather E. S.				27,692.00
Westtown-Thornbury E. S.			8,406.00	
Totals	9,307.50	124,787.50	42,394.00	195,141.00

**WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
2002-03 BUDGET**

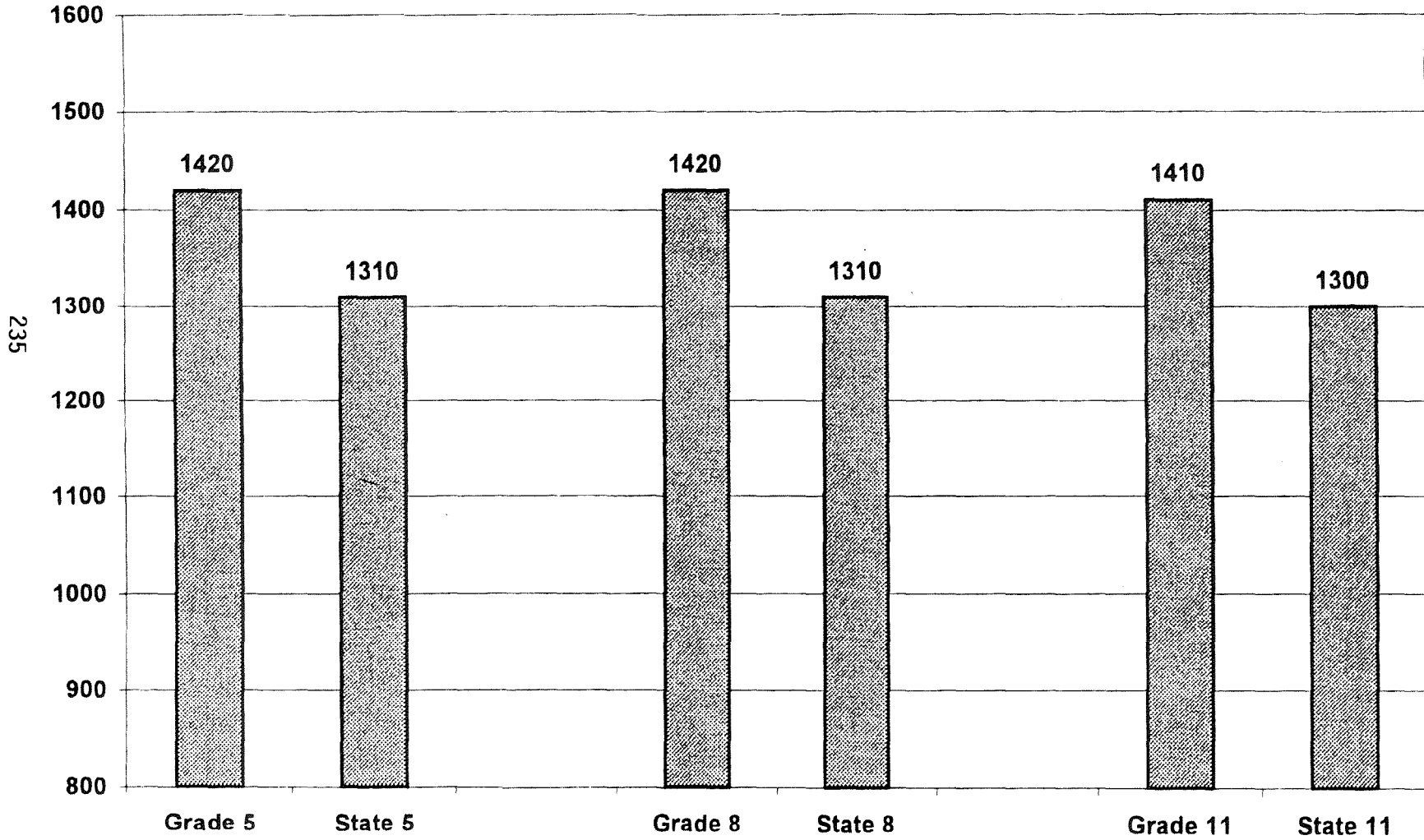
**WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
PSSA TESTS 2001 – READING AND MATH**

SCHOOLS	MATH	READING
HIGH SCHOOL		
East	1400 (+10)	1390 (+50)
Henderson	1460 (-10)	1430 (NC)
District	1430 (+50)	1410 (+20)
State	1310	1310
MIDDLE SCHOOL		
Fugett	1410 (-30)	1390 (-10)
Peirce	1410 (-20)	1410 (NC)
Stetson	1460 (-50)	1450 (-30)
District	1420 (-40)	1410 (-20)
State	1310	1310
ELEMENTARY		
East Bradford	1420 (-20)	1430 (+20)
East Goshen	1430 (-20)	1460 (NC)
Exton	1440 (+50)	1460 (+70)
Fern Hill	1410 (-20)	1390 (NC)
Glen Acres	1430 (-10)	1410 (NC)
Hillsdale	1390 (-80)	1410 (-50)
Mary C. Howse	1420 (+10)	1400 (-20)
Penn Wood	1390 (-20)	1410 (+10)
Sarah Starkweather	1450 (+80)	1460 (+90)
Westtown-Thornbury	1420 (-10)	1370 (-50)
District	1420 (NC)	1420 (+10)
State	1310	1310

(Number in parenthesis shows change in score from 2000)

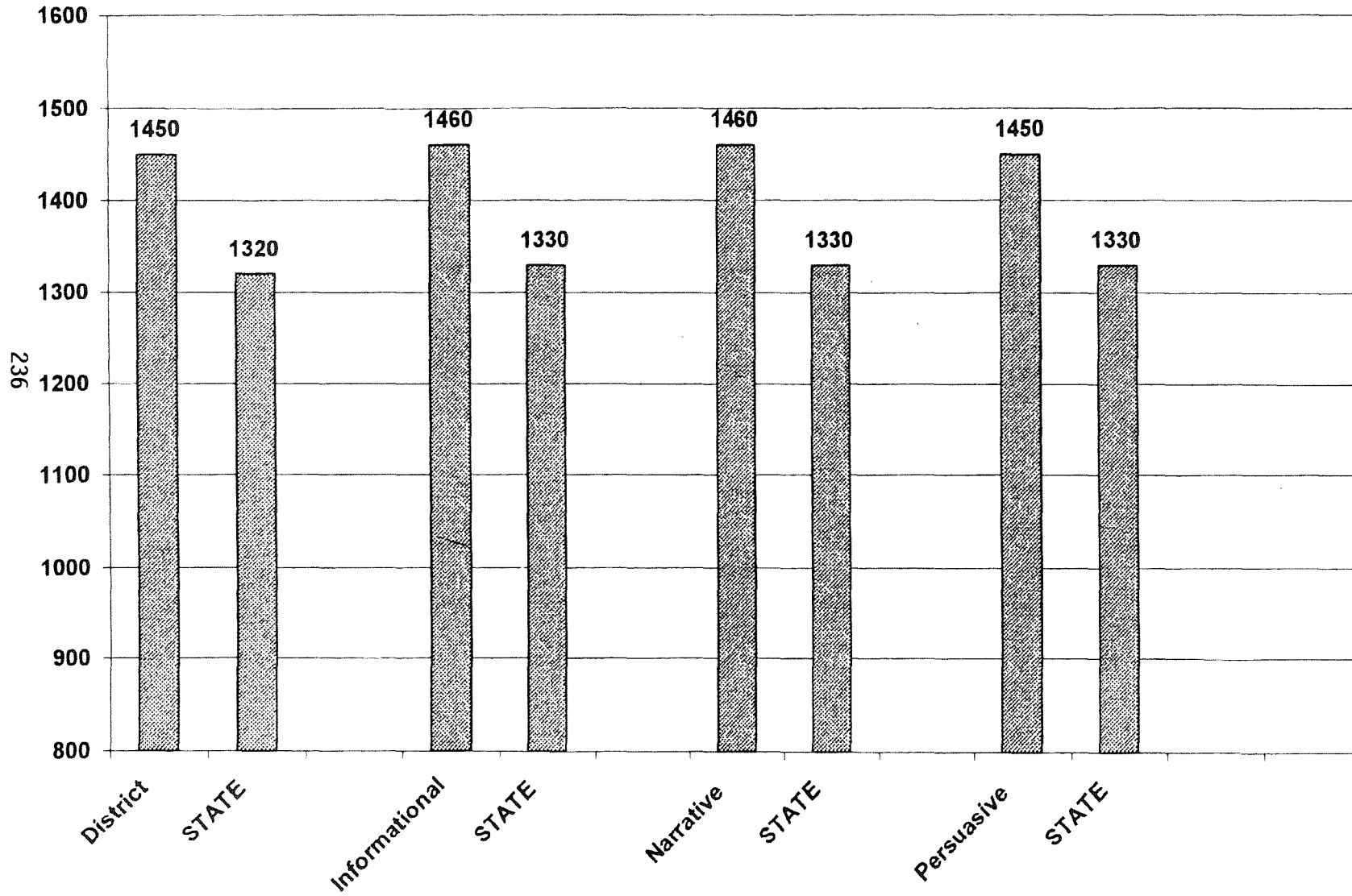
PSSA March 2001

District Reading Scaled Scores Compared to State



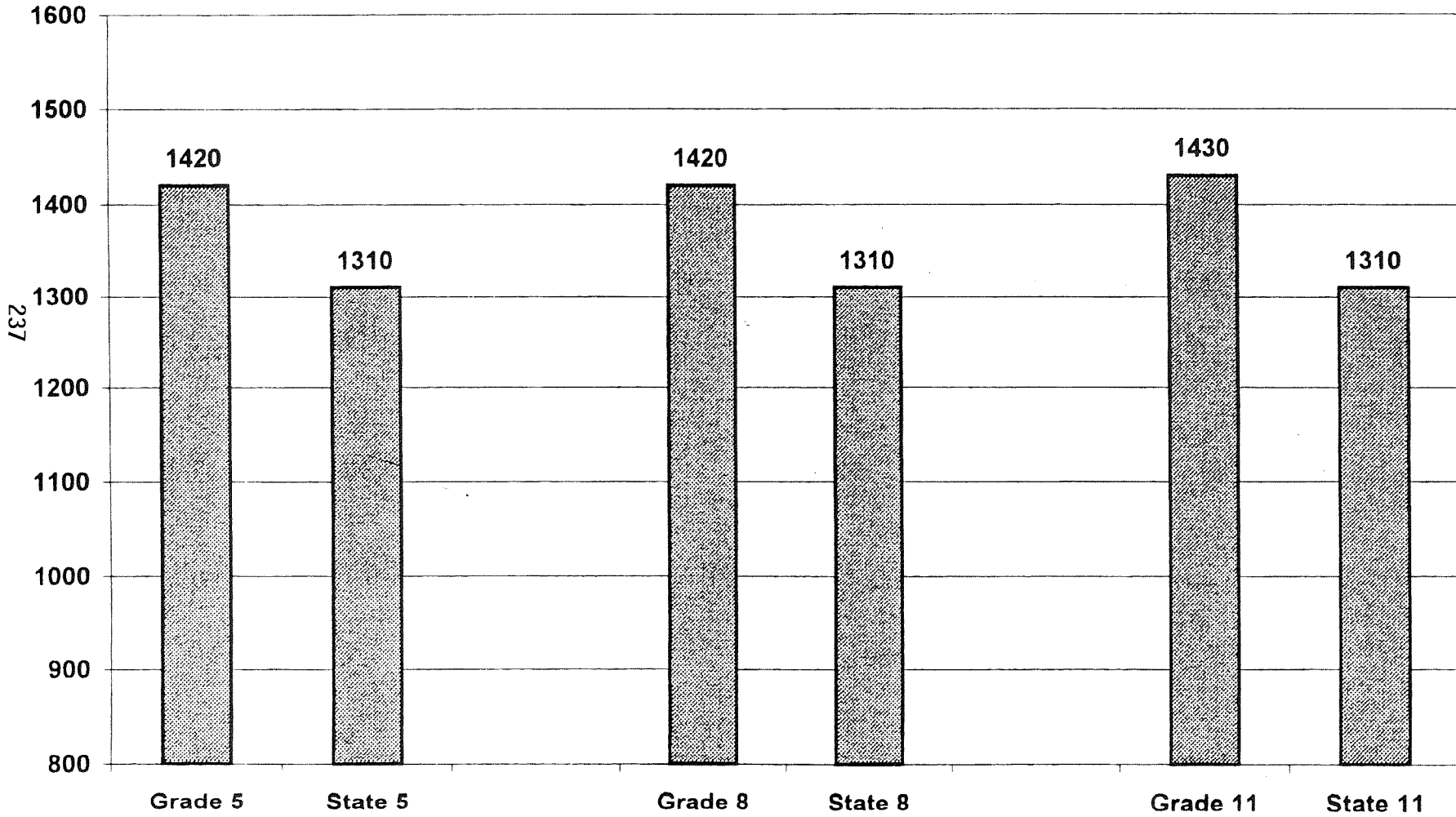
PSSA March 2001

District Writing Scaled Scores Compared to State



PSSA March 2001

District Math Scaled Scores Compared to State



ATHLETIC TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS 1995 - FALL 2001

	<u>1995-96</u>	<u>1996-97</u>	<u>1997-98</u>	<u>1998-99</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-01</u>	<u>Fall</u> <u>2001-02</u>
Chesmont Championships East	Football Boys Soccer Field Hockey Boys Tennis Wrestling	Boys Tennis	Boys Tennis	Football Wrestling		Girls Lacrosse	Girls Volleyball
Henderson	Boys X-Country Girls Lacrosse	Girls Tennis Boys X-Country Boys Soccer Girls Track Girls Lacrosse	Girls Tennis Boys X-Country Girls Lacrosse Boys Track/Field Boys Tennis	Girls Tennis Girls Lacrosse Boys Tennis	Girls Tennis Golf Boys Tennis Girls Lacrosse Girls Track & Field	Girls Tennis Field Hockey Boys Soccer Girls Track & Field Boys Tennis	Girls Tennis Boys X-Country
Southern Chester County League East							
Henderson	Girls Volleyball						
Suburban League East						Boys Lacrosse	
Henderson	Boys Lacrosse	Boys Lacrosse	Boys Lacrosse		Boys Lacrosse		
Tri-County League East							
Henderson		Swimming		Girls Swimming	Girls Swimming		Girls Swimming
District 1 Championships East							
Henderson	Girls Soccer Girls Lacrosse	Girls Soccer Girls Lacrosse	Girls Soccer				Boys Soccer
State Championships - Team East							
Henderson	Girls Soccer Girls Lacrosse	Boys X-Country Girls Lacrosse	Girls Soccer Girls Lacrosse	Girls Soccer	Girls Soccer	Girls Soccer	

238

**WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
2002-03 BUDGET**

INDIVIDUAL ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS 1993 - Fall 2001

State Championships - Individual

East

1994-95: Drew Smith, Boys Swimming 500 Yd. Freestyle
1995-96: Bernadette Speer, Girls' Indoor Track-High Jump
1996-97: Bernadette Speer, Girls' Indr./Outdr. Track-High Jump
2000-01: Sarah Reed, Girls Swimming 200 Freestyle & 100 Backstroke
Bob Frey, Boys Swimming 200 I.M.

Henderson

1993-94: Erika Flamer, Girls Gymnastics
Sarah Almond, Track
1994-95: Rich Stankewicz, All State Football
1995-96: Sarah Almond, Track
1997-98: Ben Showers, Cross Country
1999-00: Jermaine Jones, Wrestling
Joe Plevelich, Indoor Track & Outdoor Track
2000-01: Jermaine Jones, Wrestling

All American Champions

Henderson

1994-95: Rich Stankewicz, Boys Lacrosse
Jennifer DiNagoli, Girls Lacrosse
1995-96: Catharine Rohall, Soccer Regional
Kristin Off, USWLA
1998-99: Liz Donnelly, Lacrosse
Lauren Gallagher, Lacrosse
Melissa Sweeney, Lacrosse/Honorable Mention
Mike Kamon, Boys Lacrosse
Dusty Smith, Boys Lacrosse
1999-00: Brooke Young, Girls Lacrosse
Joe Plevelich, Track
Nate McCreary, Lacrosse

Miscellaneous Awards

Henderson:

1993-94 Greater Philadelphia Indoor Track Association Championship
1994-95 Maxwell Club Award - Rich Stankewicz (Football)
1995-96 Maxwell Club Award - Brandon Montgomery
1996-97 Maxwell Club Award - Will Ray
1997-98 Maxwell Club Award - Tyler Voloski
1998-99 Maxwell Club Award - Anthony Verdi
1999-00 Maxwell Club Award - Omar Harris
2000-01 Maxwell Club Award - T. J. DeGarmo
2001-02 Maxwell Club Award - Mike Verdi

East:

1995-96 Lauren McArdle & Brie Clapp, Girls Swimming - All Area
1995-96 Mark Mansueto, Wrestling - All Ches-Mont, Sectional, District, & Regional Champ
1995-96 Steve Kovach, Wrestling - All Ches-Mont, Sectional, District Champ
1995-96 Bernadette Speer & Gema Robles, Girls Basketball - All Ches-Mont & All Area
1995-96 David Hardy & Matt Jackson, Boys Basketball - All Ches-Mont
1997-98 Maxwell Club Award - Drew Babinecz
1998-99 Maxwell Club Award - Matt Schaub
1998-99 McDevitt Award - Matt Schaub
1998-99 Daily Local News 'Player of the Year' - Gema Robles, Girls Basketball
1998-99 Daily Local News 'Player of the Year' - David Hardy, Boys Basketball
1999-00 McDevitt Award - Amy Tulk
2000-01 Daily Local News 'Swimmer of the Year' - Sarah Reed
2000-01 Maxwell Club Award - Adam Mavrelos