

## **SAT and ACT scores for two high-performing schools.**

A concern sometimes voiced is that since CPM focuses so much of its instruction on deep understanding that students in CPM schools could be disadvantaged when they take high-stakes standardized tests. This issue often is of special concern to parents of high-ability children. While it is extremely difficult to get scores for individual students, we used scores of students at high-performing schools as a proxy for individual scores.

To study this issue, we used the overall quality of the school, as measured by the state's School Characteristic Index (SCI), and studied the two highest-ranked CPM schools in California: Davis Senior High School and University High School in Irvine. Both are ranked among the top 3% of all California schools. For each of these two schools, we compared their SAT and ACT scores with the ten schools with the nearest SCI. These data are taken from the 2005 California report.

The State of California provides mean scores for the SAT exam and ACT exam for all schools in which enough students participate in the testing. These data may be found at <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest>.

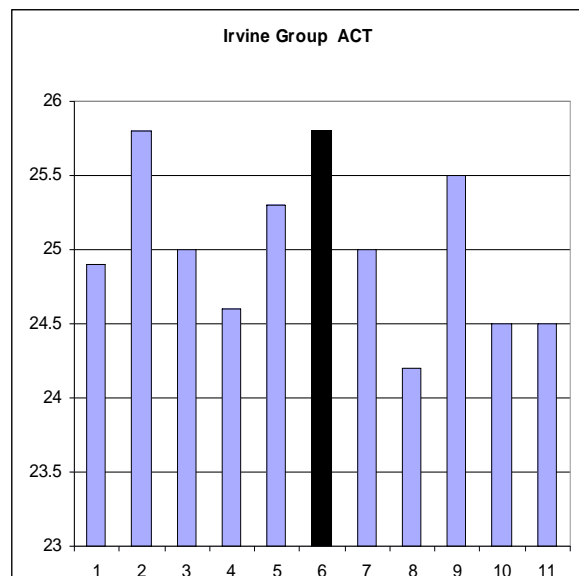
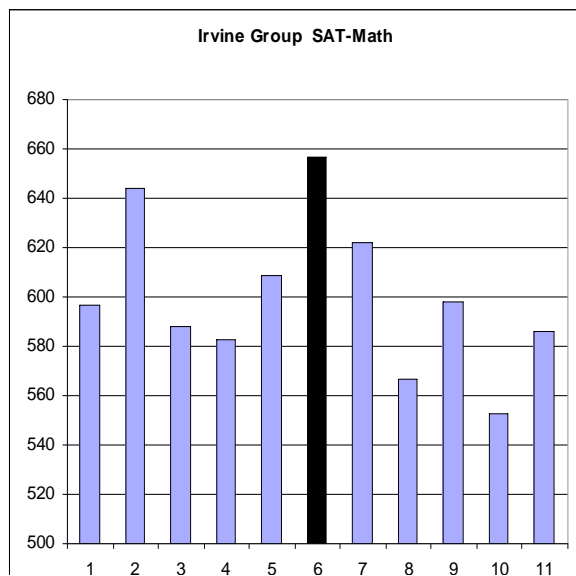
The schools below are listed in the increasing order of their SCI. The SAT scores listed are for the mathematics portion only, while ACT scores are reported for the combined score. Scores are reported as school averages and separately for males and females. The columns labeled with per cent signs give the fraction of the graduating class who took each exam. The graphs are given only for the means for all students.

## Comparison schools for University High in Irvine.

Note: Lowell High is a magnet science high school for the whole city of San Francisco.  
 Also note that the scores for University High are higher than all comparison schools on the SAT-Math score and tied with Lowell High School for the highest ACT score.

	SAT	SAT-M	SAT-F	% SAT	ACT	ACT-M	ACT-F	%ACT
Foothill High	597	612	585	74	24.9	25.9	24.3	24
Lowell High	644	655	630	100	25.8	26.3	25.6	33
San Ramon Vly High	588	601	576	83	25.0	25.4	24.9	20
Oak Park High	583	590	573	84	24.6	24.7	24.2	26
Torrey Pines High	609	626	591	85	25.3	25.3	25.4	36
<b>University High</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>25.8</b>	<b>26.7</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>8</b>
Northwood High	622	628	617	80	25.0		25.0	10
Palos Verdes High	567	567	569	89	24.2	23.4	24.6	34
Diamond Bar High	598	611	585	81	25.5	24.4	26.3	5
Leland High	553	556	549	89	24.5	24.3	24.7	17
Corona del Mar High	586	600	569	89	24.5	24.6	24.4	26

The graphs below are scores given in the same order as in the table above. University High School scores are designated with the dark bar.



### Comparison schools for Davis Senior High School.

Note that the scores for Davis are third highest for SAT Math scores and second highest for the ACT scores.

	SAT	SAT-M	SAT-F	% SAT	ACT	ACT-M	ACT-F	%ACT
Diamond Bar High	598	526	538	81	25.5	24.4	26.3	5
Leland High	596	605	588	87	24.5	24.3	24.7	17
Corona del Mar High	586	600	569	89	24.5	24.6	24.4	26
South Pasadena Senior High	622	631	613	72	23.1		22.9	8
Cerritos High	607	622	592	69	23.2		22.8	3
<b>Davis Senior High</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>25.8</b>	<b>24.9</b>	<b>26.1</b>	<b>13</b>
Walnut High	600	610	591	73	22.5	22.3	22.6	4
Cupertino High	619	628	610	70	24.2	24.3	24.5	22
Northgate High	611	627	595	74	25.6	25.6	25.5	33
Troy High	665	681	647	74	26.4	26.5	26.4	8
Monte Vista High	531	559	513	35	22	22.5	21.8	21

