

Westlake High School

Dr. Byron White, Principal
Emmett Shaffer, Area Superintendent

2400 Union Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30331
404-346-6400 • www.fultonschools.org/school/westlake

Key Results from 2008-09 School Improvement Plans

Improvement plans, which outline current and ongoing school goals, are developed by each Fulton County school. These guide school administrators and teachers toward improving student achievement and overall school success.

Objective – To increase students proficiency in mathematics

Results – Overall gains were made in the area of mathematics for our African-American and Economically Disadvantaged student populations. According to the Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHS GT), there was an overall increase in the mathematics section by 2.3%. The African-American student population increased by 5.8% and the Economically Disadvantaged student population increased by 7.6% compared to the 2007-08 GHS GT mathematics results.

Objective – To increase students proficiency in science

Results – Overall gains were made in the area of science for the 2008-09 school year. According to the GHS GT, there was a 5% increase for all first-time test takers. Additionally, there was an increase in the biology End of Course Test “Meets” category (0.9%) and physical science “Meets” (2.1%) and “Exceeds” (2.45%) category compared to the 2007-08 school year.

Objective – To increase our high school graduation rate

Results – Overall gains were made for our high school graduation rate. In order to ensure students who were credit deficient could meet their graduation criteria, students participated in the PLATO Credit Recovery Program and additional county-approved Virtual Campus courses. As a result, 94% of the 12th grade students who were credit deficient graduated. Overall, the graduation rate increased by 3.8% as compared to the 2007-08 school year.

Objective – To decrease the percentage of students who are absent 15 days or more

Results – Students who were absent for 15 days or more during the 2008-09 school year represented 18% of Westlake’s student population. In an effort to decrease the amount of students who were absent 15 days or more, the Westlake faculty and staff implemented Attendance Calling Posts for tardies and absences, early notification letters for all chronic offenders, social worker referrals, and additional school initiatives.

About this Report

The Fulton County School System uses a framework – called the **Value-Added Performance System** – that guides school leaders in raising student achievement by measuring academic growth as well as performance and by comparing or “benchmarking” against similar schools achieving excellent results.

The system helps answer the questions:

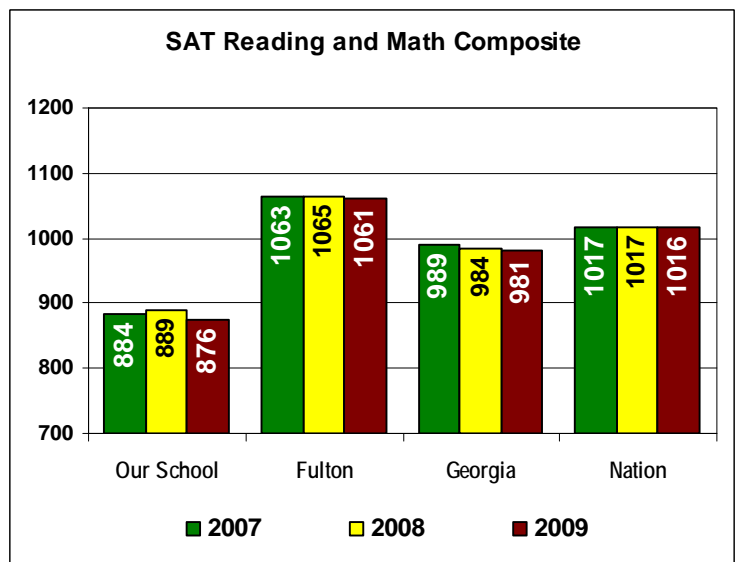
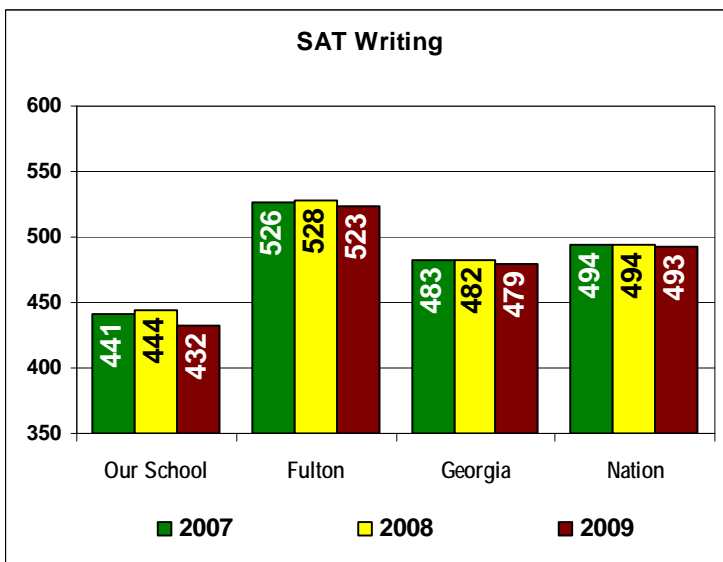
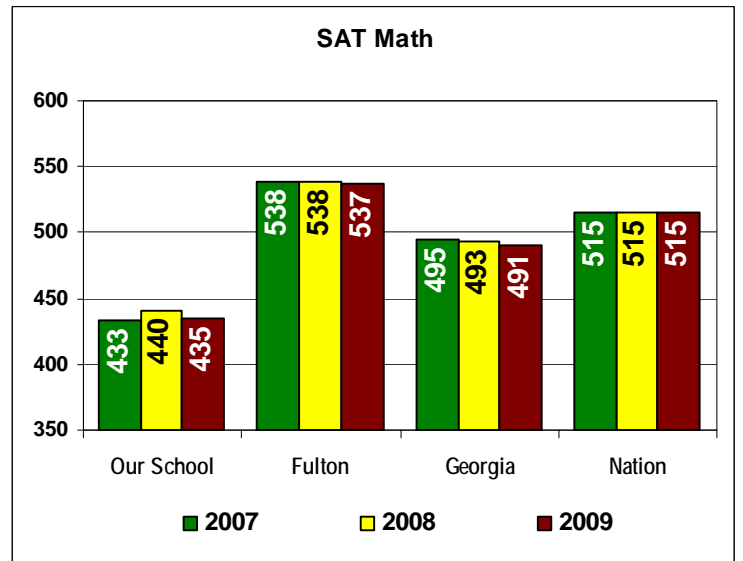
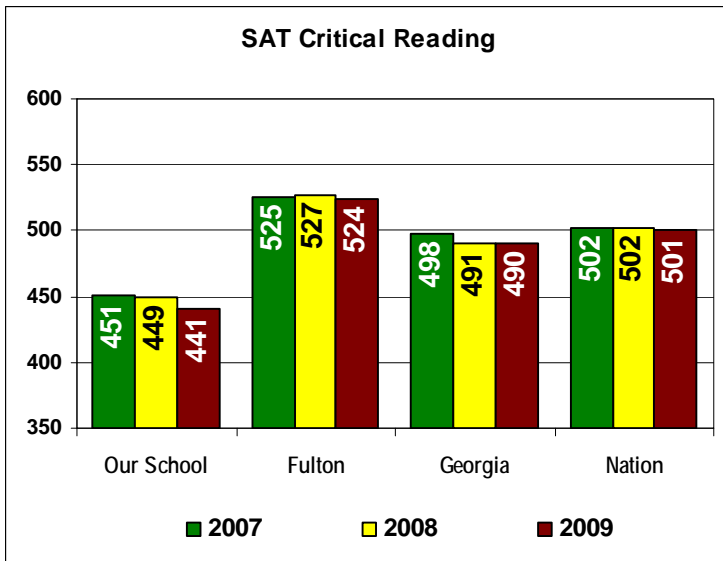
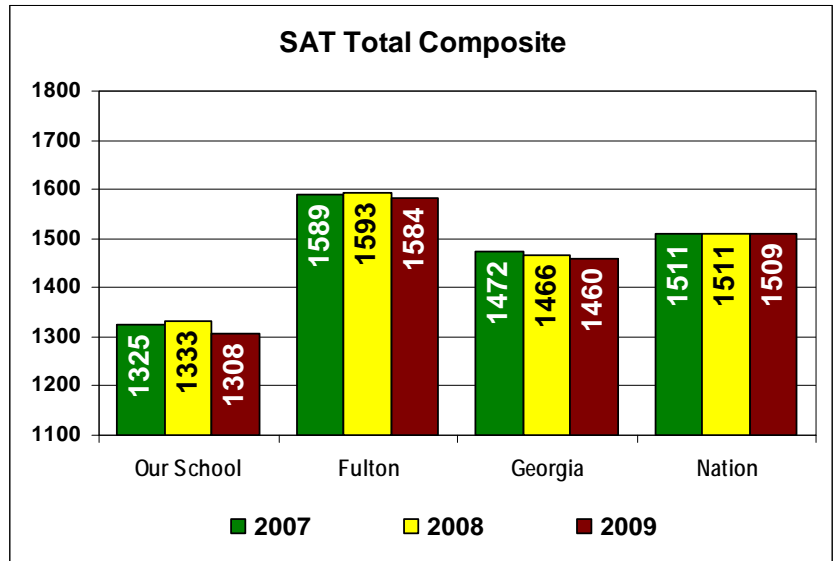
- **How effective are our schools?**
- **How much difference do our schools and teachers make?**
- **How much added value do our schools offer over other schools and school systems?**
- **How can we improve in order to better help each and every student reach his or her fullest potential?**

The Value-Added Performance System uses analytical tools to isolate data that reflects the school’s impact on student learning. It enables the school to focus on factors over which they have control to better focus improvement initiatives.

2008-09 Academic Achievement

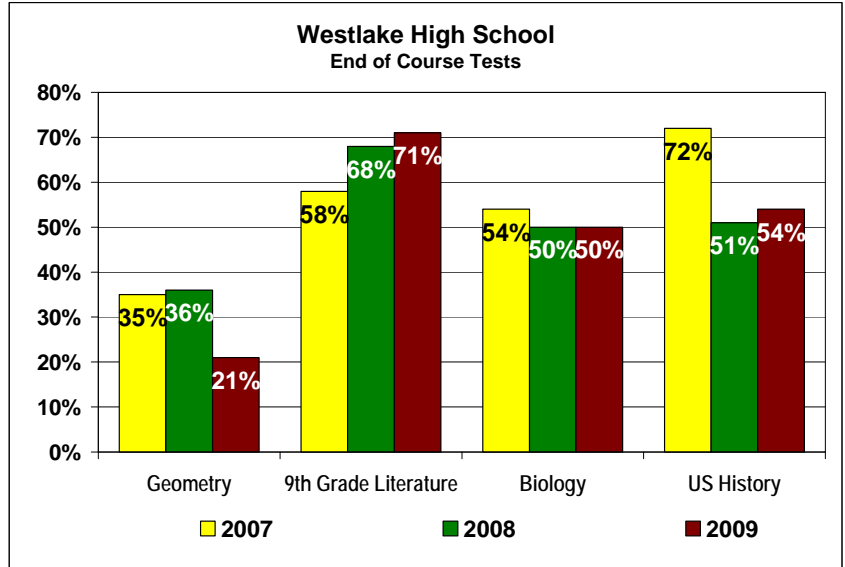
SAT – A Three-Year Comparison

The SAT, administered by The College Board, consists of three academic areas – a critical reading section, a math section and a writing section. Each section of the SAT is scored with a range of 200 to 800 for a combined total of 2400.



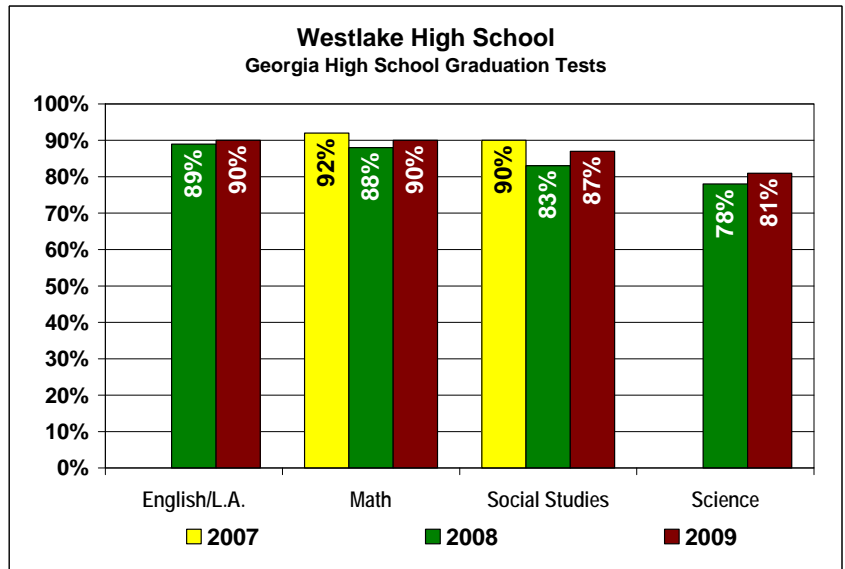
End of Course Tests

High school students must complete an End of Course Test (EOCT) at the conclusion of core courses. These examinations are created by the State and are linked to the Georgia Performance Standards, making them a valid measure of Fulton students' acquisition of critical content in these courses. The chart to the right shows the performance of our students during the past three years, in all EOCT subject areas.



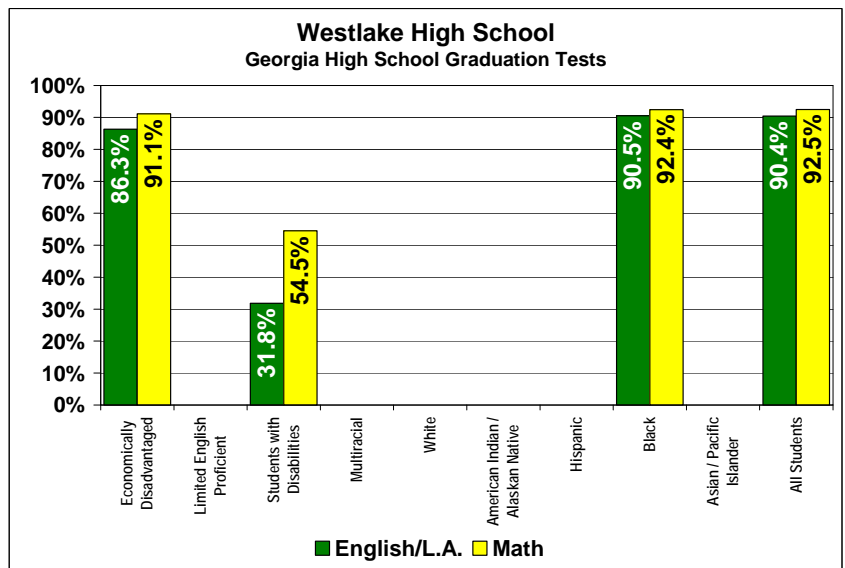
Georgia High School Graduation Tests

The Georgia High School Graduation Tests are standards-based examinations and used to determine overall learning linked to the Georgia Performance Standards. Students may re-take the test until they pass. The chart to the right indicates the percentage of students passing all four areas of the GHSGT in the first administration of the test.



Results Separated by Student Demographics

The chart to the right indicates the percentage of students passing the first administration of the English/language arts and math portions of the most recently administered GHSGT, sorted by demographic groups identified in the federal No Child Left Behind Act. Data is not shown for a specific demographic if there are fewer than 10 students in the group.



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2008-09 Highlights and Achievements

Academics and Activities

- Increased in all areas of the Georgia High School Graduation Test
- One student nominated as a National Merit Scholar
- In the Math and Science magnet program:
 - Second place in the National Society of Black Engineers National Competition
 - Third place in the State Science Fair Competition. Sent a ninth grader to the state competition from Fulton County.
 - First place in the county Science Fair competition
 - Eight students presented seminars on Podcasting, Video Production and Financial workshops at the Future Leaders Conference in South Africa
 - Received a \$100,000 grant for a Forensics Engineering Summer Camp located at Georgia Tech from the U.S. Department of Education
 - Students and teachers completed research in conjunction with Georgia Tech and Clark Atlanta University.
 - 58% of the magnet students received scholarships outside of HOPE
 - 98% of the magnet graduating class of 2009 received scholarships from over 50 different colleges and universities.
- Governor's Honors awards for social studies and science
- 95% of all students who participated in the Lions Learning Lab and Graduation Certification Program passed the GHSQT. Fifty-eight percent of the first-time test takers scored in the Exceeds category on the GHSQT.
- Westlake's Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) club sent 46 students to the state competition. Students competed in 28 categories and 10 students received recognition as state champions. Four students competed at the national level.
- Fine arts student received first place overall and third place in the South Fulton Juried High School Competition
- Music Department evaluation received a rating of Excellent
- Drama teacher won Best Choreography Award at the 2009 Starquest Dance Convention
- Seniors in the Class of 2009 were offered over 11.3 million dollars in scholarships

Other Notable Achievements

- Participant in the Smaller Learning Communities grant
- Westlake's HOSA Club is in its fourth year raising awareness and funds for Autism Speaks. The club raised \$3,000 and donated over 100 hours of time to this cause.
- Recipient of the Fulton County March Grant for the Social Studies Department
- 15 student athletes signed scholarships to select colleges or universities.
- Played at the Governors' Mansion during the holidays.
- Music Department performed at the Georgia Music Educators Association Large Group Performance
- Art Department chairperson's artwork was acquired for permanent collection in the Smithsonian Museum
- World language students travelled abroad to Europe and Spain
- JROTC color guard and drill team participated in state competition.
- Girls basketball team won the regional championship and held a record of 27-2, the best in Westlake's history and finished in the State Elite 8.
- Boys basketball won the regional championship and advanced to compete in the Georgia High School Association's Final Four state championship
- Boys tennis team finished in the Elite 8 state competition
- Girls golf team held the best score in the regions and sent one student to state
- First year to have four boys to compete in the state Cross Country Meet

This report was produced by the Fulton County School System with the assistance of our school.

Equal opportunity agency. Compliance Coordinator. 404-763-4585. TTY 1-800-255-0135

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