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## **WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN THE SAT SCORING ERROR REPORT; TWENTY STILL UNANSWERED QUESTIONS**

Nine and a half months after scores on more than 4,400 October 2005 SAT exams were wrongly calculated, some by as much as 450 points, the College Board has promised to release a long-delayed report investigating the scoring error by Monday, July 24. The National Center for Fair & Open Testing, the watchdog group monitoring the issue and its impacts, notes twenty major questions about the error, its causes and consequences, which have still not been answered.

- How did moisture contaminate the answer sheets?
- Where did the moisture contamination take place?
- Why were answer sheets from multiple parts of the country affected?
- What was the root cause of the problem?
- When did the College Board receive the first request for handscoring of the October 5, 2005 SAT?
- How many weeks did it take to respond to this handscoring request?
- What was the reason for this delay?
- Were there any other ways the College Board became aware of the scoring error?
- When did the College Board first recognize that there was a systematic scoring error problem?
- Who at the College Board was in charge of the process to ascertain the scope of the error, determine its implications and develop a response?
- Why were test takers, college admissions officers, and guidance counselors not notified that some scores may be in error when the College Board first became aware of a systematic problem?
- Why did the College Board's initial public announcement indicate that score changes were less than 100 points?
- What is the reason that 1600 answer sheets were still "under review" at ETS – with scores unreported -- five months after the October 5 test administration?
- Where and how were these answer sheets being safeguarded?
- Why was the College Board unaware that 27,000 test forms had still not been rescanned by Pearson ten days after the problem was made public?
- What quality control procedures did the College Board have in place to detect errors and ensure that reported scores were accurate?
- Why did these fail?
- Who has been disciplined or otherwise held responsible for this series of errors and how?
- What new safeguards, if any, have been put in place to prevent future errors?
- Why did the College Board hire one of its long-standing contractors to investigate the SAT scoring error rather than a truly independent firm?

"To be credible the College Board's report must solid answers to all these questions," said FairTest Public Education Director Robert Schaeffer. "Test-takers, parents, college admissions offices, the media and the public have a right to know how the SAT scoring error took place, why, and what is being done to ensure problems do not re-occur."