

FairTest

National Center for Fair & Open Testing

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TEST-MAKER'S REVIEW OF SAT SCORING ERROR IS OVERDUE COLLEGE BOARD PROMISED RECOMMENDATIONS BY LAST WEEK

The College Board has missed its own well-publicized deadline for releasing the results of an investigation of the SAT scoring error, which resulted in more than 4,000 students receiving erroneous results and led to litigation now in federal court. In a March 22, 2006 news release the College Board said it would pursue several steps to review SAT scoring and prevent future problems, including:

"Engage Booz Allen Hamilton to perform a comprehensive review, with particular emphasis on the scanning process . . . Booz Allen Hamilton will provide recommendations within 90 days."

Testifying at a New York State Senate Higher Education Committee hearing examining the SAT scoring error, College Board President Gaston Caperton reiterated the deadline for the Booz Allen Hamilton report, stating, "We intend to announce any additional appropriate procedures and policies within the next three months."

The 90-day period expired last week.

"Once again, the College Board has failed to keep its word to test-takers, admissions offices and the public," said Robert Schaeffer, Public Education Director of FairTest, the National Center for Fair & Open Testing. "Students don't get an automatic extension if they do not finish the SAT within the exam's arbitrary time limits, but the College Board blithely ignores its own deadlines."

The College Board repeatedly corrected its own reports of the size and scope of the SAT error, initially claiming that many fewer students were affected and that score changes were significantly smaller. The organization still has not explained how answer sheets were contaminated with water.