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SAT Scores Drop Sharply

Educators were puzzled by the scores released by the College Entrance Examination Board.

For the tenth year in a row the average SAT scores dropped. The greatest decline was in the verbal scores which dropped seven points this year. In 1970-71 the average verbal score was 450. The average in 1972-73 was 443.

Ten years ago the average was at the planned score of 500 on the verbal and 500 on the mathematical sections.

Many explanations were offered for the declining scores. One was that many able students were not going on to college and did not take the SAT. A college education no longer guaranteed a job and the soaring costs made it difficult to attend college.

Another possible reason might have been that the school systems did not meet the needs of their students. According to the Educational Testing Service there were more brighter students in public schools. Possibly school programs were not changed to meet the needs of and challenge the brighter students. Their education stood still.

Television was also suggested as a possible reason. Students spent hours watching the tube when they could have been reading or engaged in some other educational activity.



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