Understanding SAT College Readiness Benchmarks

KEY DISTINCTION

The percentage of students meeting an SAT benchmark is not a proficiency rate.

It reports the share reaching a College Board score threshold associated with success in first-semester, credit-bearing college courses.

What the College Board benchmark means

READING AND WRITING

480

Meeting or exceeding this benchmark is associated with a 75% chance of earning at least a C in first-semester, credit-bearing college courses in history, literature, social sciences, or writing.

MATHEMATICS

530

Meeting or exceeding this benchmark is associated with a 75% chance of earning at least a C in first-semester, credit-bearing college courses in algebra, statistics, precalculus, or calculus.

Benchmark and proficiency answer different questions

	SAT benchmark	Grade-level proficiency
Primary question	Is the student on track for success in related entry-level college coursework?	Has the student demonstrated knowledge and skills defined by grade-level standards?
Type of measure	Predictive: estimates a future college outcome.	Achievement-based: describes current performance against a defined standard.

College readiness is a continuum. The College Board notes that students below a benchmark can still succeed with additional preparation and perseverance.

Goffstown High School SAT School Day results

Spring 2026 | 228 test takers | College Board reporting categories

71%	37%	36%
met Reading and Writing benchmark	met Math benchmark	met both benchmarks

These percentages should be described as benchmark attainment rates, not proficiency rates.

Group	Testers	Met both (#)	Met both (%)	RW	Math
School	**228**	**81**	**36%**	**71%**	**37%**
District	**228**	**81**	**36%**	**71%**	**37%**
State (NH DOE)	10,752	3,104	29%	62%	30%
State (All Schools)	11,240	3,301	29%	63%	30%
U.S. and Territories	1,195,896	328,815	27%	54%	29%
Global Testers	1,198,774	329,881	28%	54%	29%

What the comparison shows

Goffstown's benchmark attainment rates were higher than the listed New Hampshire, U.S., and global groups in Reading and Writing, Math, and both benchmarks combined. These are college-readiness comparisons, not Grade 11 proficiency rates.

RECOMMENDED LANGUAGE

The College Board reports the percentage of students who meet college-readiness benchmarks. These figures should not be characterized as Grade 11 proficiency rates.

Source: College Board, "Benchmarks - SAT Suite," and Goffstown High School SAT School Day Spring 2026 report.

A broader picture of student success

SAT benchmark attainment is one indicator. It should be considered alongside advanced academic achievement and the diverse postsecondary pathways pursued by Goffstown graduates.

Advanced Placement achievement

372	3.8	89%
AP exams administered	average AP score	AP pass rate

21 AP Scholars | 16 AP Scholars with Honor | 43 AP Scholars with Distinction

Postsecondary pathways

60%	13%	10
pursued four-year education	pursued two-year education	military-related commitments

10 graduates entered military pathways, including 6 through university ROTC or Guard programs and 1 appointment to West Point.

Notable matriculations, Class of 2026

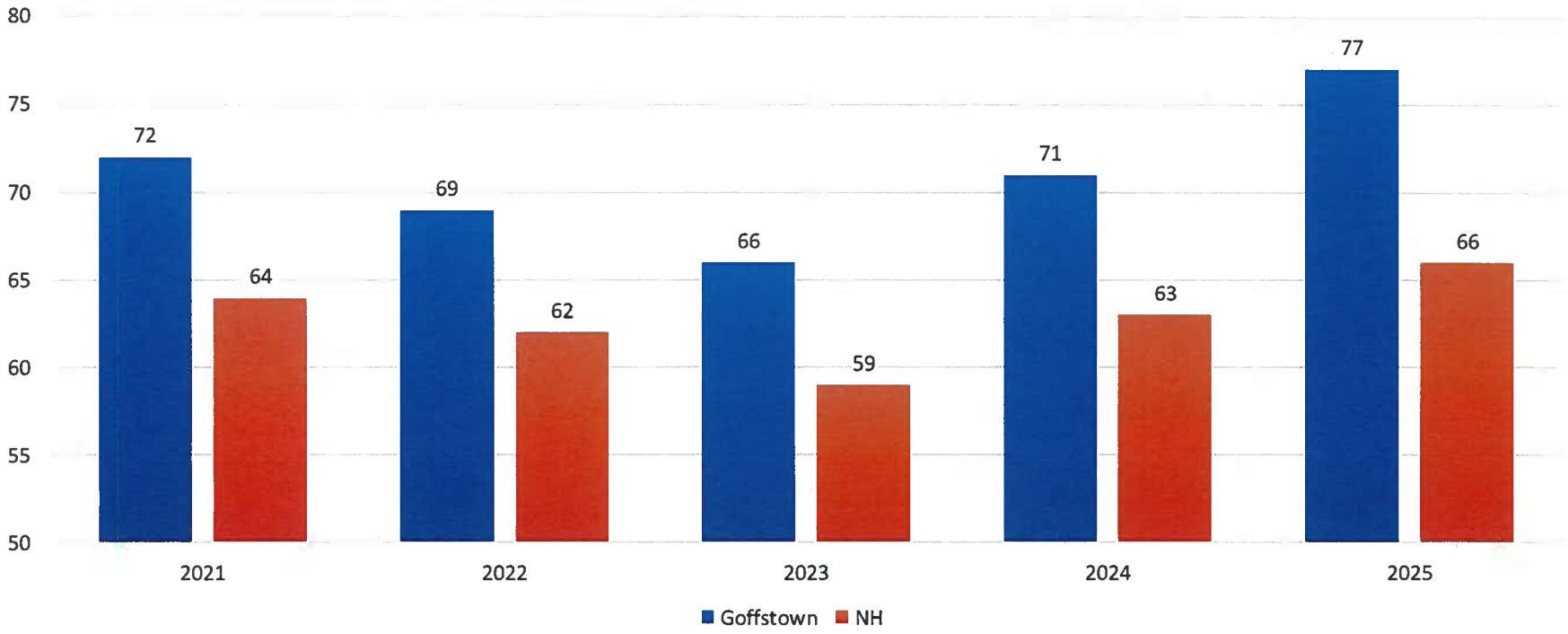
Harvard College	**Princeton University**	**Northwestern University**
University of Chicago	**University of Notre Dame**	**U.S. Military Academy at West Point**

The full picture

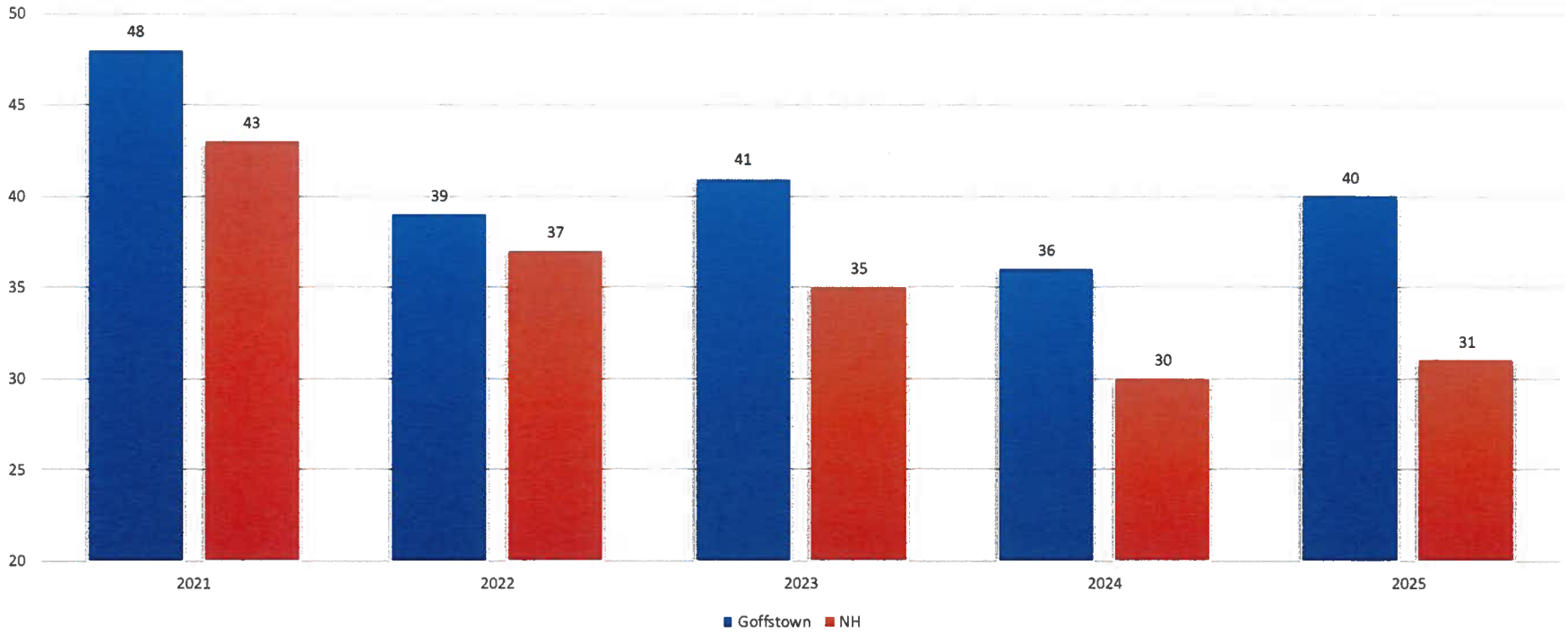
Goffstown High School prepares students for many definitions of success: selective four-year institutions, two-year colleges, military service, Career and Technical Education, skilled careers, and direct entry into the workforce. No single assessment fully captures the breadth of those outcomes.

Sources: College Board SAT benchmark guidance and Spring 2026 SAT report; AP, postsecondary, military, and matriculation data supplied by Goffstown High School for the Class of 2026 presentation.

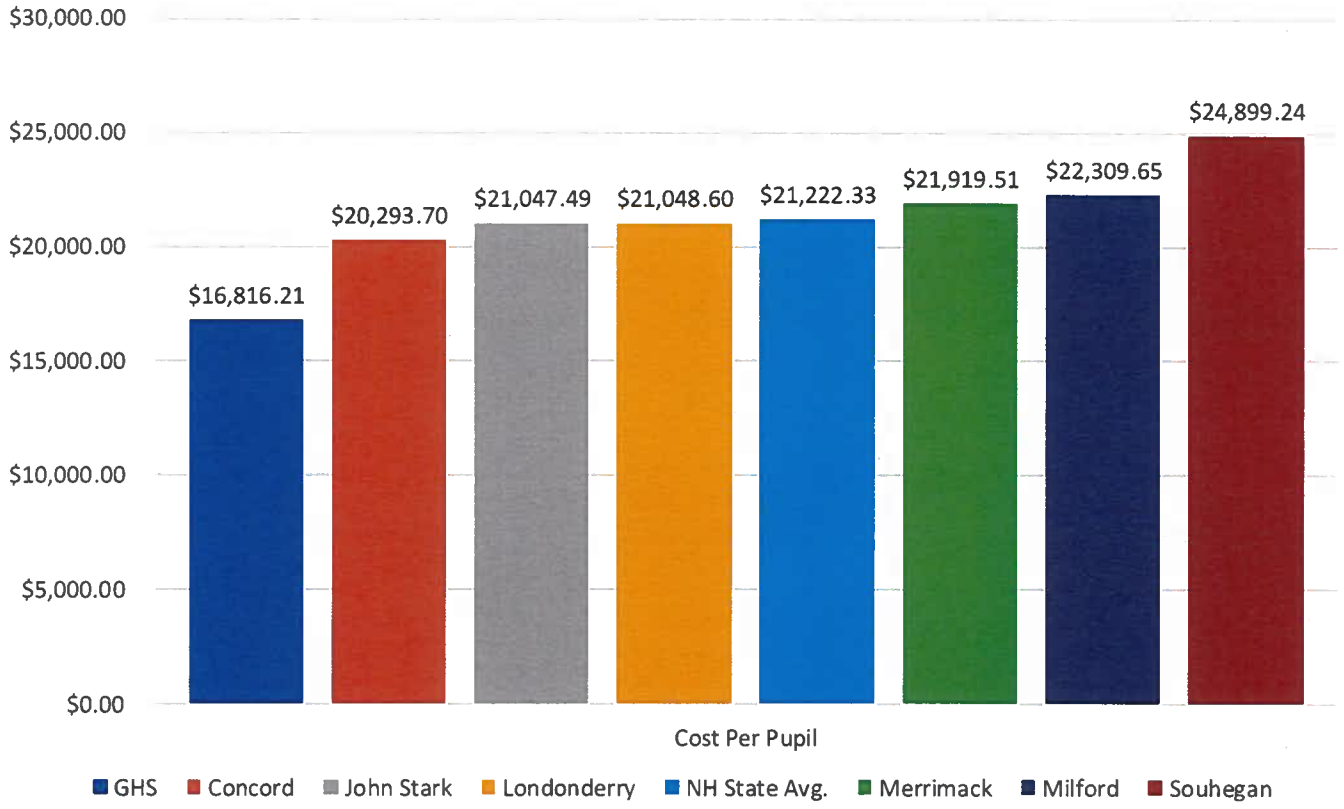
GHS School-Day SAT: Grade 11 ERW Benchmark

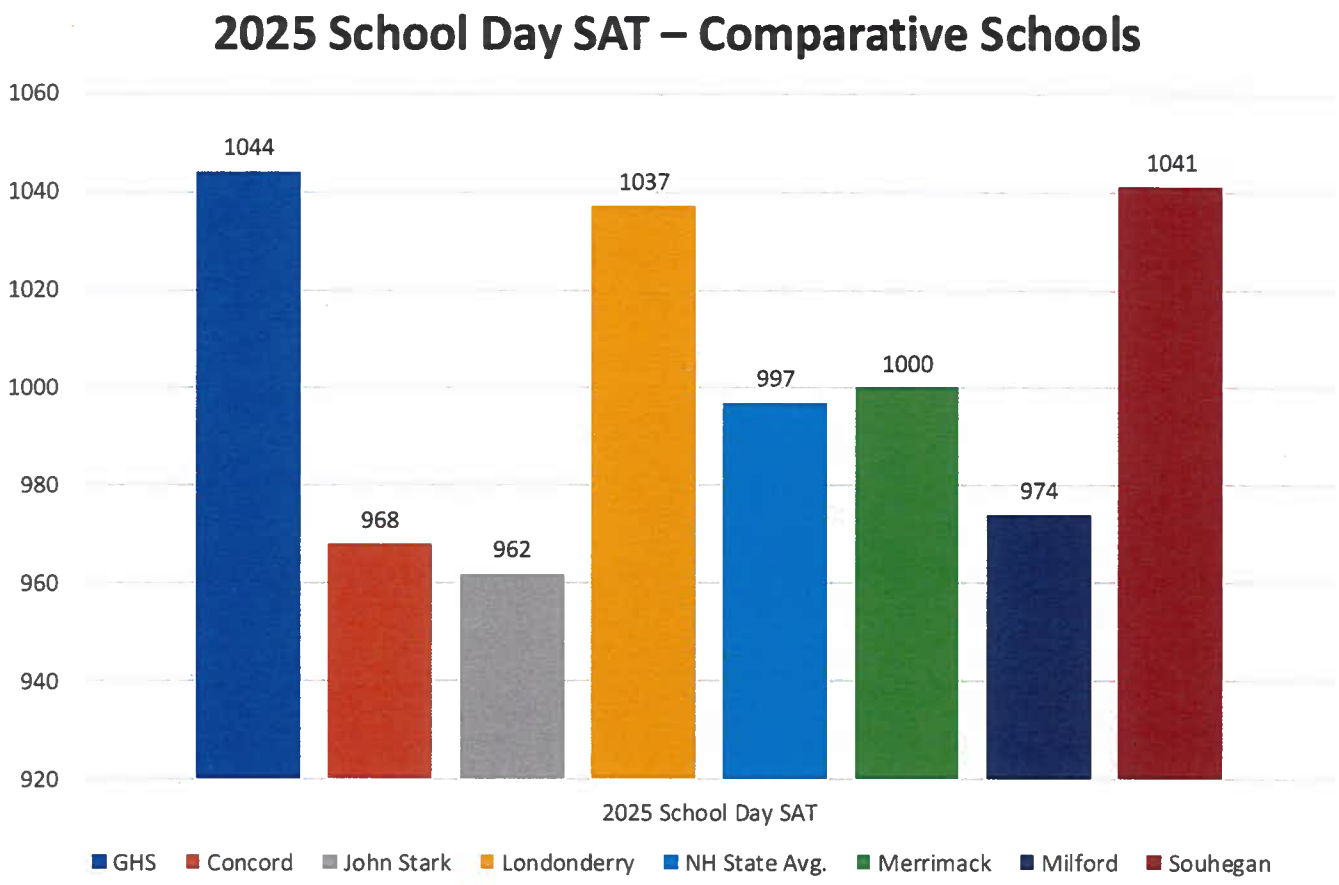


School-Day SAT: Math Benchmark



Cost Per Pupil – Comparative NH High Schools




2025 School Day SAT – Comparative Schools
1060
1040
1020
1000
980
960
940
920
1044
968
962
1037
997
1000
974
1041
2025 School Day SAT
GHS
Concord
John Stark
Londonderry
NH State Avg.
Merrimack
Milford
Souhegan

Post-Graduation Trajectory

Class of	4-Year	2-Year	Military Service
2025	61%	13%	6
2024	59%	15%	5
2023	59%	19%	3
2022	63%	13%	1
2021	54%	13%	5