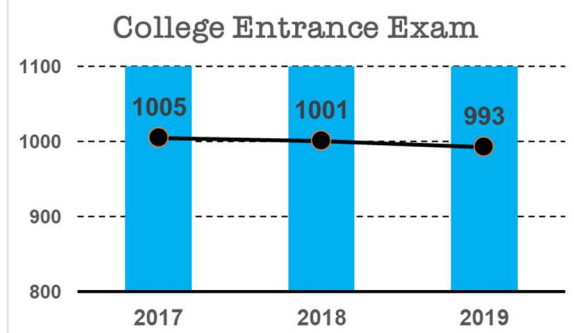
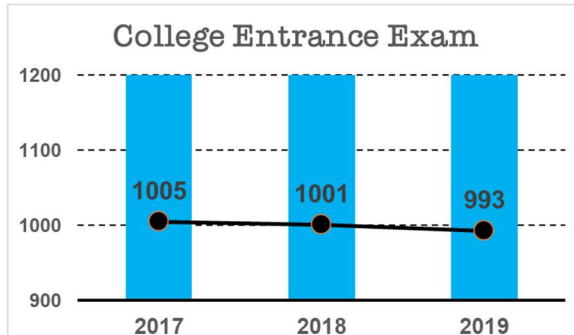
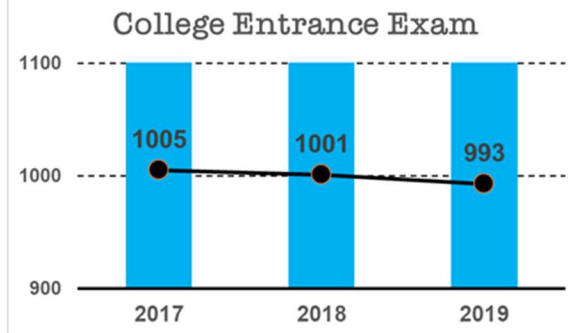




College Entrance Exam



Idaho's class of 2019 was less prepared for college and the workforce than graduates from the previous year. While the numbers dipped only slightly, they mark the second year in a row of declining performance on the test.



The SAT, like other academic measures such as the Idaho Standards Achievement Tests (ISAT) and the Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI) has no true zero. Meaning is derived from the distance of a score from the midpoint of the scale, which for the SAT Composite is 1000, with a standard deviation of 100. Typical practice is illustrated in the top right graph where the scale ranges from the midpoint of the scale plus or minus a set value, here the standard deviation (100). The “artist” may use colored bars to focus attention on a range of scores to help you more easily understand the test results.

If so inclined, the artist may use colored bars to leave you with an *unwarranted visual impression* of the scores. In the middle right graph, an extra 100 points were added *above* the scale’s midpoint, ignoring the typical plus-or-minus practice and fostering the impression that the scores were not only going down but they were doing so even while beginning lower than the midpoint of the colored bar (i.e., amplifying concern). In the bottom right graph, on the other hand, an extra 100 points were added *below* the scale’s midpoint, ignoring the typical plus-or-minus practice and fostering the impression that while scores may be going down slightly, they continued above the midpoint of the colored bar (i.e., encouraging solace).

The graph on the left is displayed as a “highlight” on the webpage where you may download a copy of the *2020 EdTrends Report* at <https://edtrendsreport.idahoednews.org/>