

Tools for K–12 Educators

The College Board is committed to providing communications support to help you respond confidently to questions from students, educators, and parents.

Changes to the SAT

We've outlined the major changes to the SAT® and how they will affect the K–12 community.

- ▶ **Students affected:** The first administration of the SAT will be in spring 2016. The first cohort of students to primarily take the redesigned SAT will be the college entering class of 2017. However, some students will take the current SAT before spring 2016 and then take the redesigned SAT later. In those cases, it is recommended that students send both scores to the colleges they apply to.
- ▶ **Changes to content, test design:** The SAT is being redesigned to more closely reflect the skills and knowledge that current research tells us are most critical for college readiness and success. The exam will require students to have a stronger command of fewer topics. Get more details about the ways [we're changing the SAT](#).
- ▶ **Essay:** Students will [write an essay](#) based on a common prompt that will be applied to a reading passage (source document). The essay will be optional, giving colleges a choice of whether to require it for admission.
- ▶ **Score scale and new score reports:** The SAT will be scored on a 400- to 1600-point scale (the essay score will be reported separately). [Rich score reports](#) for each test will provide detailed information about students' skills.

Scores and Score Reporting

The redesigned SAT will provide rich score reports, giving students detailed information about their abilities and helping them focus their future academic efforts. This will also enable high-performing students to demonstrate their strengths and skill proficiency.

Here's an overview of SAT score changes:

- ▶ The SAT will have a 400- to 1600-point score scale.
- ▶ Scores for the Essay section will be reported separately.
- ▶ The redesigned exam will give credit for every correct response but will not deduct points for incorrect answers (rights-only scoring).
- ▶ Rich score reports will provide a more detailed view of student achievement in specific skills.

Safe Use Warning: SAT scores should only be used in combination with other relevant information to make responsible decisions about students.

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Deeper Insight into Students' Skill Levels

Students will be given two area scores: one in Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, and one in Math. Each will be reported on a 200- to 800-point scale. Students will also receive a separate score for the Essay section. In addition, rich score reports will provide students with separate scores for the Reading Test and the Writing and Language Test, as well as with more insight into specific skills.

More information on the scores will be available by April 16, 2014.

Talking to Students, Educators, and Parents

During the course of 2014–2016, students, educators, and parents will have many questions about the redesigned SAT. The College Board has developed [FAQs](#) that you can use to respond to these questions. In addition, our [SAT Presentation for K–12 Students and Parents](#) can be used when presenting to students and parents.

These talking points can be used as a starting point and to answer questions you might receive from students, educators, and parents.

- ▶ **The Redesigned SAT:** On March 5, 2014, the College Board formally announced that the redesigned SAT will be given for the first time in spring 2016.
- ▶ **Access to Opportunity™:** The [Access to Opportunity](#) initiative will work to ensure that students of various backgrounds engage in academic rigor during high school through the [All In campaign](#), and will provide college application fee waivers for income-eligible students. These are just some of the ways the College Board is working to propel students into the opportunities they have earned.
- ▶ **Why is the SAT being redesigned?** The College Board's members have called on them to change the SAT to go beyond assessment to deliver opportunity.

Less than half of the students who take the SAT are college ready, and that statistic has remained constant over time. Even among those who are ready, the majority of low-income, high-achieving students do not apply to colleges within their reach.

The goal is to support college readiness and success for more students and to make sure that those who are prepared take full advantage of the opportunities they've earned through their hard work.

Because a test alone can't change student outcomes, assessments such as the SAT must be integrated with rigorous classroom instruction, and through their results, propel students to greater opportunities. The redesigned SAT will reward productive use of classroom time and a focus on rigorous course work.

- ▶ **What are the major changes?**
 - ▶ The new exam is focused on those things that current research shows matter most for college readiness and will introduce new ways for students to show their best work.

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- The length of the test will be three hours, plus an additional 50 minutes for the Essay. Please note: Precise timing is tentative and subject to research.
- Return to the 400- to 1600-point scale. The Essay will be scored separately.
- Rights-only scoring: There will be no penalty for wrong answers.
- The College Board is partnering with Khan Academy to provide free test practice to the world.
- The **redesigned SAT** will provide rich score reports, giving students detailed information about their abilities and helping them focus future academic efforts.
- **How will the exam itself be different?**
 - Four tests: Reading Test, Writing and Language Test, Math Test, and the Essay.
 - Command of evidence: Students will be asked to support answers with evidence and analyze a wide range of sources, including literature and literary nonfiction, science, history, and social studies.
 - Relevant words in context: There will be a shift in focus from obscure vocabulary to words that are commonly used in college but whose meanings are derived from the contexts in which they appear.
 - The Essay and analysis: Students will be given 50 minutes to write an essay based on a common prompt that will be applied to a source document. Students will be scored on their writing abilities and their ability to use evidence to support an argument. This essay will be optional, giving colleges a choice of whether to require it for admission. Please note: Precise timing is tentative and subject to research.
 - Analysis in Science and Social Studies: When students take the redesigned SAT, they will be asked to apply their reading, writing, language, and math skills to answer questions in science, history, and social studies contexts.
 - Founding Documents and Great Global Conversation: Every time students take the SAT, one of the passages they encounter will be from one of the Founding Documents or a text from the Great Global Conversation they inspire.
 - Focused math: The exam will focus on fewer things that are essential for college: Problem Solving and Data Analysis, the Heart of Algebra, and Passport to Advanced Math.