



College Board Guide to Implementing the Redesigned SAT®

Installment 2: Conversation Guides for Talking About the Assessment Redesign

October 2014

Table of Contents

1	Letter from James Montoya
2	Using This Document
4	Timeline of Changes
9	Discussion Guide: College Counselors
12	Discussion Guide: Faculty
15	Discussion Guide: Students and Families
17	Discussion Guide: Senior Administration/Trustees
18	Discussion Guide: Financial Aid
20	Appendix I: Key Changes to the SAT®
26	Appendix II: Structural Components
27	Appendix III: Scores and Reporting
30	Appendix IV: Concordance
31	Appendix V: Validity
33	Appendix VI: Changes to the PSAT/NMSQT®
35	Appendix VII: About the Changes to Writing and the SAT Essay
38	Appendix VIII: Evidence Base

The College Board is a mission-driven not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the College Board was created to expand access to higher education. Today, the membership association is made up of over 6,000 of the world's leading educational institutions and is dedicated to promoting excellence and equity in education. Each year, the College Board helps more than seven million students prepare for a successful transition to college through programs and services in college readiness and college success — including the SAT[®] and the Advanced Placement Program[®]. The organization also serves the education community through research and advocacy on behalf of students, educators, and schools.

For further information, visit www.collegeboard.org.

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Letter from James Montoya

Dear Colleagues,

Here at the College Board we are busy working to ensure that the changes to the SAT® will distinguish it from any current admission exam.

As President David Coleman and Chief of Assessment Cyndie Schmeiser wrote earlier this year, the SAT will be the first college entrance exam that requires students to cite evidence in support of their understanding of texts in both reading and writing. The level of focus in math is another significant advancement, allowing students to concentrate on fewer topics, in greater depth, that are most essential for college and career success.

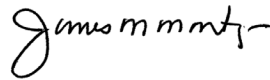
As admission and enrollment leaders, you will be the campus experts on the redesigned SAT. We know that campus stakeholders — ranging from financial aid directors to the Board of Trustees — will look to you for answers about how these changes will affect your institution, as will the students and families seeking to enroll.

That's why this second Implementation Guide focuses on providing comprehensive, actionable, and easy-to-use communications support to help you respond confidently to questions from your constituents and colleagues. We have collected questions from almost 500 institutions across the country and our team of assessment experts have worked closely with leaders at these institutions to develop answers that we hope will help you feel prepared for the conversations ahead.

Please note, there may be revisions and additions as we continue our work to research and refine elements of the assessments. As always, the most up-to-date, official information for enrollment leaders can be found at deliveringopportunity.org/highered.

We on the College Board team look forward to continuing and deepening our partnership with you and your colleagues on higher education campuses across the country in order to ensure that more students can access the opportunities they have earned.

Sincerely,



James Montoya
Vice President, Higher Education and International
The College Board

This guide, the second in a series, is divided into three major sections: a calendar of key milestones and major campus activities to prepare for the use of the redesigned SAT® between now and fall 2018; a set of discussion guides to help guide conversations on campuses and during fall travel; and a set of FAQs to help prepare you and your staff for questions that may arise.

The Redesigned SAT® Implementation Timeline and Checklist

This high-level timeline of key milestones and major campus activities can serve as a guide for your campus as you plan to integrate the changes brought by the redesign of the SAT. Planning ahead will help make the transition more effective for your students and for your campus colleagues.

Conversation Guides for Talking About the Assessment Redesign

We have developed these guides to give you a starting point for discussing the changes to the College Board assessments with various stakeholders on campus and in your day-to-day interactions. If you receive questions you cannot answer, please refer those individuals to the College Board for additional information. By audience, each guide contains:

- Information on the audience and their priorities based on what College Board staff have heard to date.
- Likely general topics of conversation
- Consideration points for institution-specific topics
- The top three questions you will likely have to answer

Appendixes

Eight appendixes give more detailed answers to many of the most frequently asked questions that we have received or that enrollment leaders have received since the College Board announced the redesign in March.

Appendix I: Key Changes to the SAT

- Why Is the College Board Changing the SAT?
- College and Career Readiness: A Goal for All
- The Redesigned SAT's Relationship to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)
- Free Test-Preparation Tools Are Available for Students Taking the Current SAT
- The College Board and Khan Academy Test-Preparation for the Redesigned SAT
- The SAT + College Application Fee-Waiver Program

Appendix II: Structural Components

- Structural Changes at a Glance
- Pricing for the Redesigned SAT
- Students Must Take All Sections of the SAT on a Single Day
- Computer-Based Testing

Appendix III: Scores and Reporting

- Score Highlights
- Deeper Insight into Students' Skill Levels
- Colleges Will Likely Use Both Current and Redesigned SAT Scores to Admit Students
- Comparing Specific Score Values Between the Redesigned and Current SAT

- Score Choice™ Will Not Change
- The College Board Is Releasing a Total Score
- Dates for First Score Delivery
- Revision to Race and Ethnicity Question to Match Federal Reporting

Appendix IV: Concordance

- Concordance Information and Tables Delivery
- The Redesigned SAT and the NCAA

Appendix V: Validity

- Changes to the SAT College and Career Readiness Benchmark
- When Will We Be Able to Address Predictive Validity?
- Will the Test Be a Better Predictor?

Appendix VI: Changes to the PSAT/NMSQT®

- A Deep Focus on Skills That Matter
- Delivering Opportunity
- Based on an Evidentiary Foundation
- Availability of Practice Materials
- College Board Search and the Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT® and SAT

Appendix VII: About the Changes to Writing and the SAT Essay

- Writing and Language
- SAT Essay
- Common Prompt Applied to Different Source Documents
- The SAT Essay Prompt and Test Preparation
- SAT Essay Scoring and Reporting
- Making the SAT Essay Optional
- Who Will Require the SAT with Essay and How Will Students Know?
- Key Values of the SAT with Essay in Your College Admission Process
- The College Board Remains Committed to Writing

Appendix VIII: Evidence Base

- The Research That Guides the Changes
- Evidentiary Foundation for Reading and Writing
- Evidentiary Foundation for Math















Please note:

This guide is best used in conjunction with the information and resources for higher education found at deliveringopportunity.org/highered. The website will always be your best source for the most recent information and resources available. Information contained in this document about approaches to take when responding to questions from constituents are suggestions only; we expect that you will consider such guidance in combination with the policies of your institution. Although every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, the College Board will not be held responsible for any loss or damage caused by errors, omissions, misprints, or misinterpretation of the contents contained in this guide.

Timeline of Changes

 College Board Activities

 Suggested Campus Activities

Year	Season	Activity
2013	Winter	
	Spring	 2013: College Board listening tour. Test development and research.
	Summer	
	Fall	
2014	Winter	
	Spring	 Spring 2014: SAT Redesign announcement; release of Higher Education Toolkit and Full Test Specifications.
	Summer	 Summer 2014: Begin implementation of the new Data File Layout and train staff on SAT revisions.
	Fall	 Fall 2014: Identify campus uses of SAT scores and prepare for conversations with key constituents. Begin reviewing sample electronic score report data from the College Board, in preparation for implementation and testing.
2015	Winter	
	Spring	 Winter/Spring 2015: Develop language for admission and scholarship publications.
	Summer	 Summer 2015: Finalize technical implementation and learn about concordances; train staff on using scores in making admission decisions.
	Fall	 Fall 2015: First redesigned PSAT/NMSQT administered.  First data load for SAT using the new data layout. Plan for first order of College Board Search using scores from the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT.
2016	Winter	
	Spring	 Winter/Spring/Summer 2016: First redesigned SAT offered and first scores received on campus. College Board Search tools updated.
	Summer	 First search orders received using redesigned PSAT/NMSQT.
	Fall	 Fall 2016: Use redesigned SAT to start to make decisions for students applying as freshmen for fall 2017.
2017	Winter	
	Spring	 Winter/Spring/Summer 2017: Use redesigned SAT for admission, scholarships, placement, and other campus decisions.
	Summer	
	Fall	 Fall 2017: Create first enrollment reports and trend analysis using redesigned SAT.
2018	Winter	
	Spring	
	Summer	
	Fall	 Fall 2018: Participate in first comprehensive study of predictive validity of redesigned SAT.

2013 All year

THINGS
ALREADY
DONE

College Board listening tour Test development and research

- College Board higher education listening tour and follow-up meetings with more than 300 colleges.
- College Board consultation with SAT Committee and Higher Education Working Group.
- Test development and validity research and testing (ongoing).

2014 Spring

COMPLETED
OR TO DO
NOW

SAT Redesign announcement Release of Higher Education Toolkit and Full Test Specifications

College Board Activities:

- March 5 — College Board announced a renewed commitment to delivering opportunity for all students including the redesigned SAT. Resources made available include a toolkit of information and resources specific to higher education enrollment leaders.
- April 16 — College Board released complete test specifications.
- Campus survey gathered technical information to support implementation.
- Tools specific to K–12 leaders added on the website.

Suggested Campus Activities:

Prepare for questions you will receive from students, families, counselors, and campus colleagues. (It is not too late to catch up.)

- Register to receive regular updates on the redesign at deliveringopportunity.org.
- Understand the rationale for and major changes to the SAT, including the College Board's Delivering Opportunity Agenda (See Appendix I).
- Understand the key changes to the SAT (See Appendix I).
- Review sample questions.*
- Know the specific changes to test scores and structure.*

*All information available at deliveringopportunity.org

We started the work of assessment redesign by consulting with more than 300 enrollment leaders, representing a broad cross section of higher education institutions, through the following:

- The Higher Education Working Group, representing enrollment leaders from across the country.
- One-on-one interviews on campuses across the country.
- Group meetings with College Board members, Trustees, and other stakeholders.
- Online surveys sent via email and on our Web properties.

For access to the complete test specification document and answers to additional questions, including accommodations for students with disabilities, use of calculators, validity research, and fee waivers, go to deliveringopportunity.org.

2014 Summer

COMPLETED
OR TO DO
NOW

Begin planning the implementation of the new Electronic Data Layout and train staff on SAT revisions.

College Board Activities:

- Release technical specifications for data layout to campus enrollment and campus IT leaders.
- Communicate changes to the Electronic Data Layout directly to major IT vendors. (A preliminary Electronic Data Layout is enclosed with this guide.)
- Conduct regional and campus-based training on revisions to the SAT.
- Continue to survey campus enrollment leaders on issues critical to revisions to the SAT.

Suggested Campus Activities:

- Start the process for successful technical implementation of changes to scores and to the Electronic Data Layout for October 2015:**
 - Use the Checklist for implementing the new Electronic Data Layout found in the first edition of the *College Board Guide to Implementing the Redesigned SAT*® available at deliveringopportunity.org/implementationguide
 - Identify a lead staff member who will coordinate implementation efforts.
 - Identify and assemble the campuswide team needed to make the technical and operational changes effective.
 - Set a timeline, regular communication plans, and processes needed to identify and implement necessary technical and operational changes.
 - Schools that receive paper reports will also require system updates. Take this opportunity to consider receiving electronic reports.
- Train staff on upcoming changes:**
 - Plan to attend a summer workshop on SAT revisions in your region. Find one in your region at deliveringopportunity.org/highered.
 - Contact your regional office to invite College Board staff members to assist with your staff training.
- Check conference schedules for sessions on the redesigned SAT.**

2014 Fall

TO DO

Identify campus uses of SAT scores and prepare for conversations with key constituents.

College Board Activities:

- **2014 College Board Forum** will feature workshops on implementing the new assessments and leveraging College Board Search. Check other conference schedules for available sessions.
- **Release the Fall Edition of the Guide to the Redesigned SAT Implementation** with specific information to prepare you to lead critical conversations with constituents.



Suggested Campus Activities:

(specific information to come in the Fall 2014 Guide)

- Identify policies that use SAT scores** (including scholarships or financial aid, placement, etc.).
- Prepare for conversations with key constituents**, including:
 - State and system leaders.
 - Faculty and senior administrators.
 - College counselors.
 - Students and families.
- Participate in the preliminary predictive validity study in partnership with the College Board.**

2014 Winter/
2015 Spring

NEXT
STEPS

Continue technical implementation and consider language for publications targeted for fall 2017 applicants.



College Board Activities:

- Provide training for campus enrollment staff and leaders.
- Visit campuses to discuss use of concordances and implementation of the new assessments in recruitment and admission.
- Launch Khan Academy materials for the redesigned SAT.
- Provide summary and implications of results from the preliminary concordance study.



Suggested Campus Activities:

- Download test files provided to help you verify your imports will work and continue technical and operational implementation to prepare for **October 2015 Electronic Data Layout changes**.
- Include language on use of redesigned SAT scores in publications for fall 2017 applicants and beyond.
- Get updated information on assessment revisions for the PSAT/NMSQT and the SAT at spring conferences.
- Learn about using concordance tables in preparation for the release of PSAT/NMSQT concordance tables in the fall and SAT concordance tables in the spring.
- Train staff on updated information on redesigned assessments.
- Know your College Board point(s) of contact from your region for help during implementation.

2015 Summer

Finalize technical implementation and learn about concordances.



College Board Activities:

- Provide training for campus enrollment staff and leaders.
- Provide Concordance Workshops.



Suggested Campus Activities:

- Finalize and test the technical and operational implementation to prepare for October 2015 Electronic Data Layout changes.
- Learn about using concordance tables in preparation for the release of PSAT/NMSQT concordance tables in the fall and SAT concordance tables in the spring.
- Train staff on updated information on redesigned assessments.

2015 Fall–
2018 Fall

Planning for the Future

(details for future activities coming in future guides)

Fall 2015: First redesigned PSAT/NMSQT administered; first data load for the SAT using the new layout; plan for first order of College Board Search using scores from the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT.

Winter/Spring/Summer 2016: First redesigned SAT offered; first redesigned SAT scores received on campus and College Board Search tools updated; first search with redesigned PSAT/NMSQT.

Fall 2016: Use redesigned SAT to start making decisions for students applying as freshmen for fall 2017.

Winter/Spring/Summer 2017: Use redesigned SAT for admission, scholarships, placement, and other campus decisions.

Fall 2017: Create first enrollment reports and trend analysis using redesigned SAT.

Fall 2018: Participate in first comprehensive study of predictive validity of redesigned SAT.

Please note: Our revision and research processes are ongoing. As such, the exact dates and specific details are subject to change.

Discussion Guide: College Counselors

During the course of 2014–2016, as their students prepare to apply to college, college counselors may be some of the first professional stakeholders to ask about the redesign of the College Board assessments.

More than any other audience, college counselors will have specific questions regarding how each institution will use the redesigned SAT. While it is not critical to have all of the specifics regarding each of these questions immediately available, you and your staff should have answers for questions such as:

- How will you use SAT scores (both current and redesigned) in admission decisions?
- Will your institution require the SAT with Essay? If so, what will be your messaging to students?
- How will scholarships and other financial aid eligibility and processes be affected?

Resources

- In this guide**, find answers to questions that counselors are likely to have on the following:
 - Key Changes to the SAT** — How will the SAT change, why is the SAT changing, and how will the SAT + College Application Fee-Waiver Program be affected? (See Appendix I)
 - Structural Changes** — How long will the test be, when will the changes take effect and which students will be affected, and what will the redesigned SAT cost? (See Appendix II)
 - Scores and Reporting** — What scores will be reported to colleges, how will Score Choice work, and how will colleges use the scores? (See Appendix III)
 - Concordance** — What concordance tables will be available? When will concordance tables be available? (See Appendix IV)
 - Validity** — Will the redesigned SAT be as good a predictor of student success in college? (See Appendix V)
 - Changes to the PSAT/NMSQT** — How will the PSAT/NMSQT change, what is the new schedule for the administrations, and how will those exams be different from each other? (See Appendix VI)
 - Changes to the Essay** — How will students and counselors know which colleges require the SAT with Essay? How will the prompt change? (See Appendix VII)
- Online:** Information and resources for college counselors are available at deliveringopportunity.org.
- Presentations:** The College Board has developed a PowerPoint presentation suitable for use by admission professionals and college counselors. It is available at deliveringopportunity.org/studentpresentation.

Key Discussion Points: Counselors

The College Board remains committed to the importance of writing and making the SAT with Essay more reflective of college-level writing.

The College Board remains steadfast in its commitment to the importance of analytical writing for all students. The SAT Essay has been reimagined to closely reflect the analytical writing that will be required of students throughout their college experience. The SAT Essay will ask students to:

- read and analyze a high-quality source text
- produce a cogent and clear written analysis of the text supported by critical reasoning and evidence drawn from the source

Discussion Guide: College Counselors

The new format, new scoring rubric, and new emphasis on the use of evidence make the SAT Essay a unique way to independently assess student writing and analytical skills. Student responses will be assessed on their:

- understanding of the source (passage)
- analysis of the author's use of evidence, reasoning and/or stylistic and persuasive elements, and/or features of the text of the student's own choosing
- cohesiveness of their written response as well as their use of language

Two factors have contributed to the College Board's decision to no longer make the SAT Essay a required part of the SAT.

- While the writing work that students do in the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section of the exam is strongly predictive of college and career readiness and success, one single essay historically has not contributed significantly to the overall predictive power of the exam.
- Feedback from hundreds of member admission officers was divided: Some of them found the current essay useful, but many did not.

Therefore, by making the redesigned SAT Essay optional, colleges will have the flexibility to make their own decisions about requiring the SAT with Essay, and students applying to colleges that do not require the SAT with Essay will be saved the expense and time for test results that will not be considered.

The College Board will require several samples of analytical essay writing throughout its Advanced Placement Program® courses as well as in the sample work designed for classrooms in grades 6–12.

The College Board will work closely with counselors and colleges to help ensure that students get clear, easy-to-access information to help them decide whether to take the SAT with Essay. Information will be available online for counselors, students, and families both before and during the registration process.

More detailed information on the revised SAT with Essay is available in Appendix VII, page 35.

Colleges will likely use both current and redesigned SAT scores to admit students.

When the College Board begins administration of the redesigned SAT in March 2016, the current SAT will no longer be offered. Some students will take both the current SAT and the redesigned SAT and both scores will be reported to the colleges to which they apply.

- Most colleges will use the current SAT scores, the redesigned SAT scores, or both to make decisions on student admission, placement, and/or scholarships, using concordance tables to relate the scores on the redesigned SAT to the current SAT.
- Concordance tables will enable admission offices to have longitudinal consistency in their review of applications where students have taken the different exams.
- Because the exam and score scale are changing, we recommend that these students send all scores, allowing colleges to use those that are most favorable to the student. Keep in mind that some colleges already require students to send all scores. If you have questions about how certain colleges will use the current and redesigned SAT in specific situations, you should contact the office of admission at those institutions.

More detailed information on scores and score reporting is available in Appendix III, page 27.

The overall difficulty level of the redesigned SAT will not vary significantly from the current SAT.

We are often asked if the new assessments will be harder or easier. The items and forms are undergoing extensive testing to assure that the overall difficulty level of the redesigned SAT stays about the same as it is now and conforms to the level of difficulty that research indicates is appropriate for college readiness.

Discussion Guide: College Counselors

We will be providing a concordance table that will relate the scores on the current SAT to the scores on the redesigned SAT. By using these concordance tables, the impact — both for students and for institutions — will be minimal. The changes will not reflect a change in the quality of student, the reputation of a school or college, or in a student's ability to succeed in postsecondary education.

The redesigned PSAT/NMSQT is aligned with the redesigned SAT.

Like the SAT, the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT will measure the skills and knowledge that are essential for college readiness and success. The redesigned PSAT/NMSQT will mirror the knowledge and skill areas tested as well as the benefits offered by the redesigned SAT.

The following key changes students will encounter on the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT mirror those that they will encounter on the SAT:

- Relevant Words in Context
- Command of Evidence
- Focus on Math That Matters Most
- Problems Grounded in Real-World Contexts
- Analysis in Science and in History/Social Studies
- Founding Documents and Great Global Conversation
- No Penalty for Wrong Answers

Note that the PSAT/NMSQT will not offer an optional essay test.

More information on the redesign of the PSAT/NMSQT is available in Appendix VI, page 33.

As a group, faculty want to understand that your institution's admission processes and criteria are well-researched, ethically sound, and designed to enroll students who both fit your mission and are prepared to succeed academically. They will want to know how the redesign of the College Board's assessments will impact your institution's ability to meet those goals.

Institutions with faculty admission committees can expect a deeper level of interest in the details of the change, the evidence base on which the redesign was built, the key skills being tested, and the utility of insight scores in admission decisions.

Resources

In this guide, find answers to questions that faculty are likely to have on the following:

- **Scores and Score Reporting** — What is the value of insight scores? What are the key skills being tested? (See Appendix III)
- **Predictive Validity** — Will the predictive validity increase? Will the SAT be easier? (See Appendix V)
- **Changes to the Essay and Writing** — Has the College Board changed its stance on the importance of writing? If the SAT Essay is redesigned to be more effective, why make it optional? (See Appendix VII)
- **Evidence Base** — What is the quality of the research in the evidence base? Are the changes based on only College Board research? How were college faculty included in the discussions? How will we know that the redesigned SAT is measuring the skills most important for college success? (See Appendix VIII)

Key Discussion Points: Faculty

The redesign of the College Board assessments is grounded in evidence that indicates the skills and knowledge that are essential for all students to be ready for and to succeed in college.

- The redesign of the SAT is built on research from a range of sources, including academia, research organizations, international assessments, the College Board, and ACT. The research used as the evidence base includes work by college faculty from a variety of institutions, and includes research reflecting analysis and experience of faculty members regarding preparation required for college success.
- The College Board will make the redesigned SAT the most transparent exam in the assessment field. In April 2014, the College Board released the full test specifications for the redesign of the SAT, a level of disclosure unprecedented in college entrance examinations. The research citations are available in the test specifications on deliveringopportunity.org and represent a body of work that is thorough, diverse, and meets the standards for academic rigor.
- The SAT redesign is centered on eight key changes.
 - **Relevant words in context** — students will need to interpret meaning based on context; master relevant vocabulary; and engage in close reading.
 - **Command of evidence** — Students will be asked to interpret, synthesize, and use evidence found in a wide range of sources; support the answers they choose; and integrate information conveyed through both reading passages and informational graphics.
 - **Essay analyzing a source** — The redesigned SAT Essay will more closely mirror college writing assignments; cultivate close reading, careful analysis, and clear writing; and promote the practice of reading a wide variety of arguments and analyzing an author's work.
 - **Focus on math that matters most** — The redesigned SAT will focus in depth on three essential areas of math: Problem Solving and Data Analysis (quantitative literacy), Heart of Algebra (mastery of linear equations) and Passport to Advanced Math (familiarity with more complex equations).

- **Problems grounded in real-world contexts** — Students will engage with questions that directly relate to the work performed in college and career; include charts, graphs, and passages likely to be encountered in science, social science, and other majors and careers; and feature multistep applications to solve problems in real-life contexts.
- **Analysis in science and in history/social science** — Students will need to solve problems in science and history/social science and revise texts to be consistent with data presented in graphics.
- **Founding documents and great global conversation** — The redesigned SAT will include either an excerpt from one of the U.S. founding documents or a text from the ongoing global conversation about freedom, justice, and human dignity.
- **No penalty for wrong answers** — Students will earn one point for each correct answer, zero points for unanswered items, and zero points for wrong answers.

The overall difficulty level of the redesigned SAT will not vary significantly from the current SAT.

We are often asked if the new assessments will be harder or easier. The items and forms are undergoing extensive testing to assure that the overall difficulty level of the redesigned SAT stays about the same as it is now and conforms to the level of difficulty that research indicates is appropriate for college readiness.

We will be providing a concordance table that will relate the scores on the current SAT to the scores on the redesigned SAT. By using these concordance tables, the impact — both for students and for institutions — will be minimal. The changes will not reflect a change in the quality of student, the reputation of a school or college, or in a student's ability to succeed in postsecondary education.

The redesigned SAT is being developed through a process designed to result in scores that are accurate and fair evaluations of student achievement.

The redesigned SAT is being developed through a multistage development process that includes several stages of item review, prior to pretesting and prior to inclusion in an operational test form, to help ensure that all items will be technically sound and fair assessments of student achievement. It is important to note that accuracy and fairness neither mean that all students will get the same score, nor that score differences reflecting privilege in education opportunities will not continue to be a factor. But the College Board has announced its commitment to help ensure that the test includes items that are stated clearly, are not ambiguous, and reflect the important knowledge and skills students need to be ready for college-level work.

Validity and Design Equity:

The redesigned SAT will sustain or improve the validity evidence supporting the current SAT. The new test design is based on the most comprehensive research on the skills and knowledge needed for success in college. The test will focus on what this research has found to be essential for college readiness and success. In addition, all of the items in the test undergo a multistage review and pretesting process to help ensure that the items are clear, unambiguous, and technically sound. Test items, sections, and forms are tested to eliminate any bias based on race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status.

The current SAT, in combination with high school GPA (HSGPA), is a strong predictor of college success. The new SAT is being designed so that it will sustain or improve the prediction of college success. An initial validity study was begun in the fall of 2014 in partnership with a variety of colleges across the country. This study will allow us to gather early evidence of the validity of the redesigned SAT for predicting college performance. In particular, we will examine the relationship between HSGPA and the SAT, and the incremental prediction of the SAT over HSGPA in predicting college English and math grades as well as first-year GPA. As sample sizes permit, we will also examine differences in predictive validity by student subgroups.

More information on predictive validity is available in Appendix V, page 31.

Delivering Opportunity:

Assessment must do more than simply provide a score or a ranking: it must become a force that helps deliver opportunity. Through its transparency, the redesign will deliver opportunity by helping focus instruction on the work that matters most to college success. The College Board is developing a wider pool of students who are, measurably, college and career ready by delivering opportunity to those who have earned it through several related efforts:

- **The “All-In” Campaign** — This effort aims to ensure that every student who is ready for rigorous work takes an AP[®] course or another advanced course. These students are identified through AP Potential[™].
- **College Application Fee Waivers** — Every income-eligible student who takes the SAT will receive four fee waivers to apply to college. (See Appendix I, page 20 for more)
- **Acceleration for Students Who Are Behind** — The College Board will expand supports to students who are falling behind and help them accelerate back on track. Supports will include individualized diagnostic tools, targeted resources, and tools to evaluate and support students’ noncognitive skills.
- **Classroom Excellence Aligning Student Work in Grades 6–12** — The College Board will collaborate with teachers and college faculty to design illustrative instructional resources in grades 6–12 that model the kinds of challenging tasks that help students focus on the work that matters most.

Discussion Guide: Students and Families

Students and families will likely have many questions about the redesign of College Board assessments — both PSAT/NMSQT and SAT — relative to your admission criteria. Because high school counselors provide advice to students, there will likely be a significant overlap in the questions you hear from both groups.

- Questions will arise during campus tours, college fairs, and high school visits.
- Consider developing a universal set of talking points that your staff can use to ensure that everyone is speaking with the same voice.
- Many of the questions students and families may have will be specific to your institution. While it is not critical to have all of the specifics around each of these questions immediately available, you and your staff should have answers for questions such as:
 - How will your institution manage use of both current and redesigned SAT scores in the transition years?
 - Will your institution require the SAT with Essay and, if so, why?
 - How will SAT scores be used in scholarship and other financial aid decisions?

Resources

In this guide, find answers to questions that students and families are likely to have on the following:

- **Key Changes to the SAT** — Why make the changes to the SAT? (See Appendix I)
- **Structural Changes** — How long will the test be? (See Appendix II)
- **Scores and Reporting** — What is the score scale; what do the subscores mean; and how will colleges use the subscores? (See Appendix III)
- **Changes to the PSAT/NMSQT** — Will the PSAT still be a good predictor of my SAT scores? If I take the current PSAT/NMSQT, will it be a good predictor for the redesigned SAT? (See Appendix VI)
- **Changes to the Essay and Writing** — Which colleges will require the SAT with Essay and how will students know? Should students take the SAT with Essay? (See Appendix VII)

Online: deliveringopportunity.org contains information suitable for high school students and their families regarding the details of the changes, when they will occur, and which student classes will be affected.

Presentations: The College Board has developed a PowerPoint presentation suitable for admission professionals delivering information to students and families. It is available at deliveringopportunity.org/studentpresentation.

Institutional communications: The College Board's communications toolkit (deliveringopportunity.org/talkingpoints) contains suggested copy for communications, including websites and social media.

Key Discussion Points: Students and Families

The SAT is being redesigned to focus on the few things that evidence shows matter most for success in college and career and to provide more opportunity than ever for you to showcase the skills that matter most for college.

Bill Fitzsimmons, dean of admission at Harvard said, "This is a clear message that good, hard work is going to pay off, and achievement is going to pay off. This is one of the most significant developments that I have seen in the 40-plus years that I've been working in admissions in higher education"

The redesigned SAT provides more opportunity than ever for students to showcase the skills that matter most for college. We are redesigning the exam to be focused, useful, open, and clear, and we're linking it to students' most challenging classes. The best way for students to prepare is by putting forth their best effort while taking rigorous course work.

Discussion Guide: Students and Families

About the Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT

The PSAT/NMSQT is an important part of the College Board's effort to deliver opportunity to all students. The redesigned exam will:

- Support college readiness and success for all students, with a clear focus on the skills and knowledge that matter most for college success.
- Encourage students to take full advantage of the opportunities they've earned through their hard work.

The redesigned PSAT/NMSQT is aligned with the redesigned SAT and will launch in October 2015. Like the SAT, the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT will measure the skills and knowledge that are essential for college readiness and success.

The College Board will provide information and tools to relate current SAT scores to redesigned SAT scores.

Because the redesigned SAT is a different test from the current SAT, a numerical score on one test will not be strictly equivalent to the same numerical score on the other. To address this, the College Board will provide a concordance table that will show how to relate the scores on the current SAT and the redesigned SAT.

- Concordance tables enable admission offices to have a consistent way to evaluate applicants who have taken the different exams.
- Concordance tables have been proven to work and have been used before to effectively manage transition in national assessments. The staff members at colleges are being trained to use concordances effectively to evaluate SAT scores.
- The concordance information will be released immediately after the first operational administration of the redesigned SAT in 2016.
- The College Board will also provide a concordance linking scores on the redesigned SAT and the ACT; this concordance will be derived from the concordance between the current and redesigned SATs.

Discussion Guide: Senior Administration/Trustees

Senior administrators and staff will expect you to understand the changes to the SAT, and they will expect that you will continue to use College Board assessments in recruiting, admitting, and enrolling the students who are ready for academic success at your university.

While senior administrators and trustees may approach you with questions, consider approaching them with a summary that you could present to them in a fall meeting. Prepare to present a few key points that summarize key changes to the SAT, how those changes will affect your institution directly, and recommendations for using the redesigned SAT most successfully on your campus.

You may also want to work with your institution's senior administration officials to make sure you have the resources available for implementing a smooth transition as described in the first edition of the *College Board Guide to Implementing the Redesigned SAT*[®].

Resources

In this guide, find answers to questions that senior administrators and trustees are likely to have on the following:

- **Key Changes to the SAT** — Why make the changes to the SAT? (See Appendix I)
- **Scores and Reporting** — Will the scores of our incoming class go up or down? (See Appendix III)
- **Validity** — Will the redesigned SAT be at least as effective in predicting student success in college as the current SAT? (See Appendix V)
- **Changes to the Essay and Writing** — Which colleges will require the SAT with Essay and how will students know which ones they are? Should institutions require the SAT with Essay? (See Appendix VII)

Online: deliveringopportunity.org contains information you can use to prepare for conversations with senior administrators.

Presentations: The College Board has developed a PowerPoint presentation suitable for admission professionals delivering information to campus colleagues. It is available at deliveringopportunity.org/presentation.

Institutional communications: The College Board's communications toolkit (deliveringopportunity.org/talkingpoints) contains suggested copy for communications, including websites and social media.

Key Discussion Points: Senior Administrators and Trustees

The overall difficulty level of the redesigned SAT will not vary significantly from the current SAT.

We are often asked if the new assessments will be harder or easier. The items and forms are undergoing extensive testing to assure that the overall difficulty level of the redesigned SAT stays about the same as it is now and conforms to the level of difficulty that research indicates is appropriate for college readiness.

We will be providing a concordance table that will relate the scores on the current SAT to the scores on the redesigned SAT. By using these concordance tables, the impact — both for students and for institutions — will be minimal. The changes will not reflect a change in the quality of student, the reputation of a school or college, or in a student's ability to succeed in postsecondary education.

The Redesigned SAT and the NCAA

The College Board has already met with representatives from the NCAA and will continue to work with the NCAA to assure a smooth transition from the current to the redesigned SAT through the use of concordance tables that can be used to affirm student eligibility.

Financial aid professionals will need information on the redesign of the SAT in order to make decisions about aid awards and merit-based funding.

- These questions will likely be operational, seeking information on how your institution plans to use scores from the redesigned SAT.
- Be sure your colleagues know that the College Board has consulted with members who are financial aid professionals, including leaders who sit on our Board of Trustees and our membership advisory councils.

You may already have begun conversations with financial aid professionals in your office and on your campus. It is important to collaborate with the leaders of those teams on policy decisions that will impact both admission and financial aid practice. Some of these decisions will include:

1. How scores will be used in scholarship and financial aid decisions, both in processing and in awarding aid.
2. How financial aid systems like Net Price Calculator will collect and use score information from students.

Resources

In this guide, financial aid professionals are likely to have specific questions regarding the following:

- **Key Changes to the SAT** — Why is the test changing? (See Appendix I)
- **Scores and Reporting** — What new scores will be available? How will you make decisions on which scores to use? (See Appendix III)
- **Concordance** — When will concordance tables be available, how will you advise students applying in 2017 on requirements for admission and financial aid, and how will your campus make concordance information available to students and families? (See Appendix IV)

Other Guides: The first edition of the *College Board Guide to Implementing the Redesigned SAT*[®] contains a much deeper level of information and points to consider when thinking about the implementation on campus. It is available here: deliveringopportunity.org/implementationguide.

Key Discussion Points: Financial Aid

Why Is the College Board Changing the SAT?

Recent SAT results tell a troubling story about students' readiness and likelihood for success in their postsecondary endeavors.

- Notably, 57 percent of SAT takers in the 2013 cohort lacked the academic skills to succeed in college-entry, credit-bearing courses without remediation in at least one subject.
- The success rates for such remediation leading to postsecondary completion are far too low.
- At the same time, the nature of life and work in the United States has transformed to the point where at least some degree of postsecondary education or training is increasingly required for access to middle-class jobs.
- Far too few students are ready to succeed in the kinds of education and training they will need to participate effectively in an increasingly competitive economy.
- This circumstance represents a tragedy for those individuals whose potential isn't being realized and a serious threat to the nation's economy and democracy.

Drawing on extensive input and advice from its members, its partner organizations (such as the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, which cosponsors the PSAT/NMSQT), and postsecondary and K-12 experts, the College Board determined that the SAT needed to be redesigned.

Please see Appendix I (page 20) for more information.

Concordances will be available prior to score release for an easy transition.

The concordance information will be released after the first operational administration of the redesigned SAT in 2016.

- The data format of the concordance information will be released in advance to help postsecondary institutions prepare to receive, process, and integrate this information into their data systems.
- The College Board will also provide a concordance linking scores on the redesigned SAT and the ACT test; this concordance will be derived from the concordance between the current and redesigned SATs.

Please see Appendix III (page 27) for more information and a complete table of information.

High-quality, free test-preparation materials are available via Khan Academy.

The College Board has partnered with Khan Academy to provide free test-preparation programs and resources that will be available to all students.

- Both the College Board and Khan Academy have committed to working together to ensure that the practice materials are of the highest quality and truly focus on the work that matters most.
- They have also committed to training tutors, counselors, mentors, and others to help students take full advantage of these resources.
- Students taking the current SAT can access high-quality practice materials on the Khan Academy site now — free of charge.
- In the coming months the College Board and Khan Academy will develop a suite of free materials to support the redesigned SAT. Students will be able to review and reinforce the topics covered on the exam and find out what to expect on test day.

Please see Appendix I (page 20) for more information.

Appendix I: Key Changes to the SAT

When students open their SAT booklets in March 2016, they'll encounter an SAT that is more focused and useful than ever before. The full specifications of the exam along with extensive sample items for each section are available now at deliveringopportunity.org.

- The redesigned SAT will ask students to apply a deep understanding of the few things shown by current research to matter most for college readiness and success.
- They'll find questions modeled on the work of the best classroom teachers and perform tasks practiced in rigorous course work.
- The SAT redesign is centered on eight key changes.
 - **Relevant words in context** — Students will need to interpret meaning based on context; master relevant vocabulary; and engage in close reading.
 - **Command of evidence** — Students will be asked to interpret, synthesize, and use evidence found in a wide range of sources; support the answers they choose; and integrate information conveyed through both reading passages and informational graphics.
 - **Essay analyzing a source** — The redesigned SAT Essay will more closely mirror college writing assignments; cultivate close reading, careful analysis, and clear writing; and promote the practice of reading a wide variety of arguments and analyzing an author's work.
 - **Focus on math that matters most** — The redesigned SAT will focus in depth on three essential areas of math: Problem Solving and Data Analysis (quantitative literacy), Heart of Algebra (mastery of linear equations), and Passport to Advanced Math (familiarity with more complex equations).
 - **Problems grounded in real-world contexts** — Students will engage with questions that directly relate to the work performed in college and career; include charts, graphs, and passages likely to be encountered in science, social science, and other majors and careers; and feature multistep applications to solve problems in real-life contexts.
 - **Analysis in science and in history/social science** — Students will need to solve problems in science and history/social science and revise texts to be consistent with data presented in graphics.
 - **Founding documents and great global conversation** — The redesigned SAT will include either an excerpt from one of the U.S. founding documents or a text from the ongoing global conversation about freedom, justice, and human dignity.
 - **No penalty for wrong answers** — Students will earn one point for each correct answer, zero points for unanswered items, and zero points for wrong answers.
- The redesigned SAT is only one step in a larger process, and the College Board is working to ensure that all students have access to the opportunities they have earned. We are committed to:
 - Increasing access to higher education
 - Providing high-quality test preparation
 - Promoting excellent classwork and supporting students who are behind

Appendix I: Key Changes to the SAT

COMPARISON OF THE MAJOR FEATURES OF THE CURRENT SAT AND REDESIGNED SAT

Category	Current SAT	Redesigned SAT
TOTAL TESTING TIME (SUBJECT TO RESEARCH)	3 hours and 45 minutes	3 hours (plus 50 minutes for the Essay [optional])
COMPONENTS	Critical Reading Writing Mathematics Essay	Evidence-Based Reading and Writing – Reading Test – Writing and Language Test Math Essay (optional)
IMPORTANT FEATURES	Emphasis on general reasoning skills Emphasis on vocabulary, often in limited contexts Complex scoring (a point for a correct answer and a deduction for an incorrect answer; blank responses have no impact on scores)	Continued emphasis on reasoning alongside a clearer, stronger focus on the knowledge, skills, and understandings most important for college and career readiness and success Greater emphasis on the meaning of words in extended contexts and on how word choice shapes meaning, tone, and impact Rights-only scoring (a point for a correct answer but no deduction for an incorrect answer; blank responses have no impact on scores)
ESSAY	Required and given at the beginning of the SAT 25 minutes to write the Essay Tests writing skill; students take a position on a presented issue	Optional and given at the end of the SAT; postsecondary institutions determine whether they will require the Essay for admission 50 minutes to write the Essay Tests reading, analysis, and writing skills; students produce a written analysis of a provided source text
SCORE REPORTING (SUBJECT TO RESEARCH)	Scale ranging from 600 to 2400 Scale ranging from 200 to 800 for Critical Reading; 200 to 800 for Mathematics; 200 to 800 for Writing Essay results scaled to multiple-choice Writing	Scale ranging from 400 to 1600 Scale ranging from 200 to 800 for Evidence-Based Reading and Writing; 200 to 800 for Math; 2 to 8 on each of three traits for Essay Essay results reported separately
SUBSCORE REPORTING	None	Subscores for every test, providing added insight for students, parents, admission officers, educators, and counselors

Appendix I: Key Changes to the SAT

COMPARISON OF TEST LENGTH AND TIMING: CURRENT SAT AND REDESIGNED SAT

Current SAT			Redesigned SAT		
Component	Time Allotted (minutes)	Number of Questions/Tasks	Component	Time Allotted (minutes)	Number of Questions/Tasks
Critical Reading	70	67	Reading	65	52
Writing	60	49	Writing and Language	35	44
Essay	25	1	Essay (optional)	50	1
Mathematics	70	54	Math	80	57
Total	225	171	Total	180 (230 with Essay)	153 (154 with Essay)
Composite Score	0		1		
Area Scores	2		2		
Test Scores	N/A		3 plus Essay scores		
Cross-Test Scores	N/A		2		
Subscores	N/A		7		

Why Is the College Board Changing the SAT?

Recent SAT results tell a troubling story about students' readiness for and likelihood for success in their postsecondary endeavors.

- Notably, 57 percent of SAT takers in the 2013 cohort lacked the academic skills to succeed in college-entry, credit-bearing courses without remediation in at least one subject.
- The success rates for such remediation leading to postsecondary completion are far too low.
- At the same time, the nature of life and work in the United States has transformed to the point where at least some degree of postsecondary education or training is increasingly required for access to middle-class jobs.
- Far too few students are ready to succeed in the kinds of education and training they will need to participate effectively in an increasingly competitive economy.
- This circumstance represents a tragedy for those individuals whose potential isn't being realized and a serious threat to the nation's economy and democracy.

Drawing on extensive input and advice from its members, its partner organizations (such as the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, which cosponsors the PSAT/NMSQT), and postsecondary and K-12 experts, the College Board determined that the SAT needed to meet three challenges.

1. First, the test must provide to higher education a more comprehensive and informative picture of student readiness for college-level work while sustaining, and ideally improving, the ability of the test to predict college success.
2. Second, the test must become more clearly and transparently focused on the knowledge, skills, and understandings that the best available research evidence indicates are essential for college and career readiness and success.

Appendix I: Key Changes to the SAT

3. Third, the test must better reflect, through its questions and tasks, the kinds of meaningful, engaging, rigorous work that students must undertake in the best high school courses being taught today, thereby creating a robust and durable bond between assessment and instruction.

Undergirding these aims is the belief that all teachers and students must be empowered to focus on the real learning of vital knowledge, skills, and understandings through challenging, vibrant daily work rather than encouraged to cover vast swaths of material superficially or engage in narrow, short-term test preparation divorced from real learning. To these ends, the redesigned SAT has been designed for greater focus, relevance, and transparency while retaining the test's tradition of being a valuable predictor of college and career readiness and success.

College and Career Readiness: A Goal for All

High school graduates who are college and career ready have a high likelihood of successfully entering some type of postsecondary education (i.e., four-year institution, two-year institution, trade school, technical school, and/or workforce training program) without remediation.

- Research shows that the threshold reading and math skills required for college readiness are essentially the same as those required for career training readiness, meaning that sharply differentiated forms of preparation aren't required.¹
- In all its undertakings in this area, including the redesign of the SAT, the College Board favors the best evidence-based approaches, including:
 - Results of national high school and postsecondary curriculum surveys, including surveys conducted periodically by the College Board.
 - Feedback from our membership, our partner organizations, and independent subject-matter experts.
 - Analyses of College Board longitudinal data on successful college graduates.
 - Scholarly research.

The Redesigned SAT's Relationship to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)

The redesign of the SAT was driven by two key considerations: what the best available evidence indicates are the essential skills and knowledge for college and career readiness and success, and what would improve the test's alignment to best instructional practices.

In gathering that evidence, we consulted numerous sources of evidence, including our own research, as well as feedback systematically collected from our partners in K–12 and higher education.

Is the SAT aligned to the Common Core?

The redesigned SAT measures the skills and knowledge that evidence shows are essential for college and career success. It is not aligned to any single set of standards.

What standards draw from the same evidence base?

In addition to the redesigned SAT, evidence-based college- and career-readiness skills are fundamental to state academic standards including the Common Core, the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, and the Virginia Standards for Learning — as well as in the best college-prep curricula.

Free Test-Preparation Tools Are Available for Students Taking the Current SAT

The road to college success has always been excellent work in the classroom. But the rise of costly test preparation has introduced a level of inequity among students. With the redesign of the SAT, the College Board is announcing its commitment to providing free, high-quality test-preparation materials to all students.

1. ACT, Inc., *Ready for College and Ready for Work: Same or Different?* (Iowa City: IA: Author, 2006), 3–6, <http://www.act.org/research/policymakers/pdf/ReadinessBrief.pdf>; Achieve, Inc. *Make the Case: College Ready AND Career Ready* (Washington, DC: Author, 2013), 1–3. <http://www.futurereadyproject.org/sites/frp/files/Flex-CollegeReady%26CareerReady.pdf>.

Appendix I: Key Changes to the SAT

The College Board and Khan Academy are focusing first on the current SAT to make sure that today's juniors and seniors can reap the benefits of this exciting new partnership.

Students taking the current SAT can access high-quality practice materials on the Khan Academy site now — free of charge: khanacademy.org/sat.

Students who will be taking the current SAT will also continue to have access to the full range of print and online practice resources available through the College Board — free of charge, or at a low cost: collegeboard.org/testpreparation.

The College Board and Khan Academy Test Preparation for the Redesigned SAT

The College Board has partnered with Khan Academy to provide free test-preparation programs and resources that will be available to all students, launching May 2015. Both organizations have committed to working together to ensure that the practice materials are of the highest quality and truly focus on the work that matters most.

- The test-preparation tools will be fully comprehensive, providing interactive, in-depth instruction that examines every element of what will appear on the redesigned SAT.
- The instruction will go beyond video and lectures — Khan Academy's core expertise is around interactive, online exercises and tasks. For example, when students are learning about mathematical functions, Khan has found it's more effective to have students build functions independently online and manipulate the inputs in order to see the effect on the function.
- Students will begin with a diagnostic exam — either their automatically imported scores from the PSAT/NMSQT if they have taken one, or an online exam based on the PSAT/NMSQT.
- Based on these results, students will receive adaptive, personalized study plans tailored to what they need in order to perform their best on the SAT. For students who need it, the instruction will go beyond what's on the SAT and leverage Khan Academy's existing resources (elementary mathematics, for example).

While the test-preparation platform will be fully operational for students and families to use directly, it will be built with an eye toward extending it to nonprofit and community-based partners. The platform will provide detailed reporting so we can help show how students are doing within a school, district, or state level.

The College Board also will eliminate the fee-based online course. Instead it will make available four practice tests built by the same team that is creating the redesigned SAT. These practice tests will go through the same rigorous testing as the actual exam.

Khan Academy has over 12 million active users each month and employs the industry standard in online security. In order to access interactive modules and make the most of the test preparation available, students will need to authenticate themselves through a preexisting Google, Facebook, or College Board ID. Students will not need to provide personally identifiable information to Khan Academy directly.

Students will be able to take advantage of a free practice test and a limited number of practice questions on collegeboard.org without accessing Khan Academy. Students without individual access to the Internet will be able to utilize the Khan Academy platform through partner organizations thanks to the College Board's unprecedented outreach efforts to enable partners and educators.

The Official Guide to the SAT book will continue to be available, and will be updated to reflect the new assessment. The College Board is investigating new avenues to distribute this book to low-income students and families.

The SAT + College Application Fee-Waiver Program

The College Board, along with its members, has launched a national effort to propel low-income, first-generation, and underrepresented students into the opportunities they have earned. Students in the high school graduating class of 2015 who take the SAT using a testing fee waiver will receive four personalized college application fee waivers online via their SAT account beginning in early September. Because students who take the SAT using a testing fee waiver have already had their eligibility verified by their counselor, these forms do not require counselor approval. This initiative recognizes and builds

Appendix I: Key Changes to the SAT

on the long-standing policies of our partner colleges to ensure that application fees are not a barrier for low-income students.

Seniors testing for the first time will receive college application fee waivers at the same time they receive their test scores — typically 19 days after the test date. Students from the classes of 2016 and 2017 will receive their fee waivers at the beginning of their senior year.

Counselors will continue to serve their critical role of supporting students throughout the college application process. In addition, we will send a limited supply of college application fee waivers to high school counselors this fall as a backup, to be distributed to eligible students in case they do not receive fee waivers directly from us for some reason. We are asking counselors to confirm that students have not already received college application fee waivers from us before distributing them. Counselors can see which students test using an SAT fee waiver via the SAT Counselor Registration Report.

For more information, please visit collegeboard.org/collegeappfeewaivers.

Appendix II: Structural Components

Structural Changes at a Glance

Here's an overview of SAT score changes:

- The SAT will have a 400- to 1600-point score scale.
- Scores for the SAT 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).
- Score reports will provide a more detailed view of achievement in specific skills.

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

Students will be given two section 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 three separate scores for the SAT 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 more insight into specific skills.

Pricing for the Redesigned SAT

Pricing for the redesigned SAT has not yet been finalized. However, we anticipate the cost to students of the redesigned SAT with Essay will be similar to the current cost for the SAT, and that the price of the redesigned SAT without the SAT Essay will be less expensive than the current SAT.

The College Board will continue to make SAT fee waivers available to the students who need them and is improving its processes so that students can better take advantage of the opportunity to apply to college. Students testing with a fee waiver will have the additional cost of the SAT Essay covered by the waiver. See Appendix I (page 20) for more information.

The first administration of the redesigned SAT will be in March 2016. The first administration of the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT will be in the fall of 2015.

The high school graduating classes of 2014 and 2015 will primarily take the current SAT. These students should continue to visit the SAT website to register for the test and to receive and send their scores.

Students Must Take All Sections of the SAT on a Single Day

In the past, counselors and students have asked us whether it might be possible to take (or retake) only one section of the SAT on a given day. Due to the psychometric properties of the test as a whole, the SAT with Essay must be taken in one sitting. This requirement also supports the equity of administrations, ensuring that students who have taken the full test on one day are not being compared with students who took the sections one at a time on different days.

Computer-Based Testing

The College Board will offer the redesigned SAT and PSAT/NMSQT both in print and by computer in selected sites. The computer-based versions of the tests will measure the same skills and knowledge as the paper versions.

Appendix III: Scores and Reporting

The score report for the redesigned SAT will provide admission officers a deeper profile of student readiness for college-level work. The new report goes into greater detail than ever before, making the redesigned SAT an even stronger admission tool.

Score Highlights

Here's an overview of SAT score changes:

- The SAT will have a 400- to 1600-point score scale.
- Scores for the SAT 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.

Deeper Insight into Students' Skill Levels

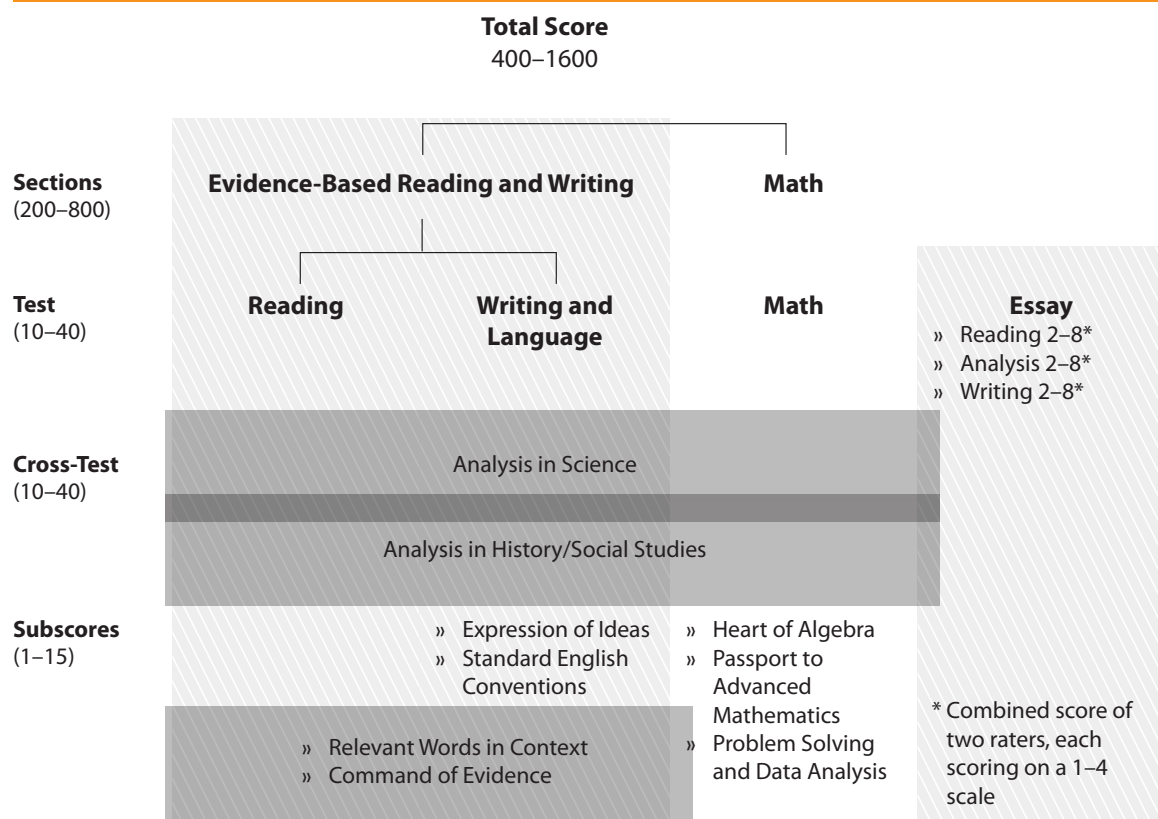
The redesigned SAT will provide rich score reports, giving students detailed information about their abilities and helping them focus their future academic efforts. This will also enable high-performing students to demonstrate their strengths and skill proficiency.

Insight scores will be particularly helpful to K–12 educators in helping students identify and accelerate their learning in areas where they are lagging. Specific areas of reading, writing, or math can be identified for additional work.

Students will be given two section 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 separate scores for the SAT 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.

REDESIGNED SAT: INSIGHT SCORES



Appendix III: Scores and Reporting

The electronic data layout will change to incorporate the addition of new scores and subscores for the March 2016 test and after. **The layout will change at the beginning of the testing year, in October 2015, and will remain the same throughout the year.**

While the new scores will not appear until the March 2016 test administrations, other changes will commence at the beginning of the 2015-16 school year, including the collection of race and ethnicity data in line with federal guidelines. We are also aligning the length and content of several fields with Common Education Data Standards (CEDS). This has resulted in several fields moving from alphabetically coded values to numerically coded values. Lastly, we took this opportunity to logically reorder some fields so they are grouped with like fields.

Deeper information on scores and score reports is available at deliveringopportunity.org/scorereports and deliveringopportunity.org/testspecifications.

Providing both numerical and content-based interpretations of student performance not only better defines what students know and can do but also helps students and teachers identify the knowledge, skills, and understandings students can focus on learning next to increase their achievement.

The proposed scores above are subject to further research. If the research shows they are technically defensible, the College Board will report them. However, if they are not technically defensible, they will not be reported. Since many of the insight scores are new with the redesign, the College Board will be unable to provide concordance tables for these scores.

Colleges Will Likely Use Both Current and Redesigned SAT Scores to Admit Students

When the College Board begins administration of the redesigned SAT in March 2016, the current SAT will no longer be offered. Some students will take both the current SAT and the redesigned SAT and both scores will be reported to the colleges to which they apply.

- Most colleges will use the current SAT scores, the redesigned SAT scores, or both to make decisions on student admission, placement, and/or scholarships, using concordance tables to relate the scores on the redesigned SAT to the current SAT.
- Concordance tables will enable admission offices to have longitudinal consistency in their review of applications where students have taken the different exams.
- Because the exam and score scale are changing, we recommend that these students send all scores, allowing colleges to use those that are most favorable to the student. Keep in mind that some colleges already require students to send all scores. If you have questions about how certain colleges will use the current and redesigned SAT in specific situations, you should contact the office of admission at those institutions.

It's important to know that colleges may not use all of the subscores immediately. Many colleges and universities will conduct research based on their own students' performance to determine how to best use the subscores.

The College Board recommends that colleges collect insight scores for future use based on their institutional research, but that scores be used only after that research is completed. The College Board will work with colleges to determine how scores might be used in admission to special programs, advising, and course placement.

Comparing Specific Score Values Between the Redesigned and Current SAT

The redesigned SAT will be scored on a 400- to 1600-point scale. The Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section and the Math section will each be scored on a 200- to 800-point scale.

Because the redesigned SAT is a different test than the current SAT, a numerical score on one test will not be strictly equivalent to the same numerical score on the other. The College Board will release a concordance between scores on the current SAT and the redesigned SAT that shows how to relate the scores of one test to the scores of the other.

Appendix III: Scores and Reporting

Score Choice™ Will Not Change

Score Choice policies will not change. Students continue to have the option to choose which SAT scores to send by test date.

The College Board Is Releasing a Total Score

The College Board is releasing a “total” score (the addition of the Math and Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section scores) based on the practice that has developed over time where parents and students, high schools, and colleges alike combine and use these two pieces of information together. Use of individual section and test scores provides deeper insight into student strengths.

Dates for First Score Delivery

The first SAT scores will be available in May 2016. While scores are generally released 19 days after the SAT, the initial administrations of the redesigned SAT require significant concordance research and verification of tests and scores before the scores are released. The time period for score release will decrease after the first administrations.

Revision to Race and Ethnicity Question to Match Federal Reporting

Beginning with registrations for the October 2015 SAT, the College Board will ask students a two-part race and ethnicity question. This change aligns with the questions used for federal reporting, and has been requested by higher education leaders since the federal changes were put into place.

In the student score report, we will report both the actual student responses to the question (for collection), and the derived aggregate race and ethnicity as defined by federal guidelines (for reporting). There will be some students who send scores to your institution who will have answered the former version of the race and ethnicity question, which only allowed a student to select one response. In the former version they may have responded “other”; therefore, we will continue to report this option until all students sending scores have answered the new two-part question.

Appendix IV: Concordance

Because the redesigned SAT is a different test from the current SAT, a numerical score on one test will not be strictly equivalent to the same numerical score on the other. We will provide a concordance between the scores on the current SAT and the redesigned SAT that shows how to relate the scores of one test to the scores of the other. Concordance tables enable admission offices to have longitudinal consistency in their data models and to evaluate applicants who have taken the different exams (e.g., class of 2017).

Concordance Information and Tables Delivery

The concordance information will be released immediately after the first operational administration of the redesigned SAT in 2016.

- The data format of the concordance information will be released in advance to help postsecondary institutions prepare to receive, process, and integrate this information into their data systems.
- The College Board will also provide a concordance linking scores on the redesigned SAT and the ACT test; this concordance will be derived from the concordance between the current and redesigned SATs.

Delivery Schedule for Concordance Table	
Concordance	Available
Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT to current PSAT/NMSQT	December 2015
Redesigned SAT to current SAT	May 2016
Derived Concordance: Redesigned SAT to ACT*	May 2016

***Please note:** The concordance to ACT will be derived by matching the redesigned SAT to the current SAT, and then the current SAT to the ACT using validated concordance tables. Training and support on the use of concordance tables will be available in summer 2015.

Planned Concordances for SAT	
Current SAT Scores	Redesigned SAT Scores
Writing (including essay) + Critical Reading	Evidence-Based Reading & Writing (200–800)
Critical Reading	Evidence-Based Reading & Writing (200–800)
Math	Math (200–800)

The Redesigned SAT and the NCAA

The College Board has already met with representatives from the NCAA and will continue to work with the NCAA to assure a smooth transition from the current to the redesigned SAT through the use of concordance tables that can be used to affirm student eligibility.

The predictive validity of the SAT— its ability to estimate the likelihood of success in postsecondary education — is what makes the exam a valuable part of the admission process in colleges and universities. The SAT has been redesigned to maintain if not strengthen this predictive validity while accomplishing other aims, such as offering greater insight into student performance.

The College Board is implementing the following detailed plan to demonstrate the validity of the SAT. The process will be one that has continuous input into the iterative design process of the assessment.

Test Design

Work has begun to build strong evidence for validity by testing item types, exam questions, essay prompts, and test forms over time. The College Board will review student performance metrics to ensure that exam questions and test forms are measuring the knowledge and skills they are intended to measure.

Pilot Predictive Validity Study

We will launch a pilot study of the predictive validity of the SAT with the partnership of colleges and universities. This study will allow us to gather early evidence of the validity of the SAT for predicting college performance. In particular, we will examine the relationship between high school grade point average (HSGPA) and the SAT, and the incremental prediction of the SAT over HSGPA in predicting college English and math grades as well as first-year GPA. As sample sizes permit, we will also examine differences in predictive validity by student subgroups.

National Predictive Validity Study

After the introduction of the redesigned SAT, we will begin an ongoing process of documenting the relationship of performance on the assessment to outcomes of interest. Beginning with the first cohort of students to have primarily taken the redesigned SAT (the entering college class of fall 2017), we will launch a longitudinal national SAT Validity Study in partnership with colleges and universities to examine the relationship between SAT scores and college outcomes such as GPA, course grades, persistence, and completion. We will conduct extensive validity analyses by subgroup. The time frame for this work will be:

- Before summer 2018: Institutions sign up to participate.
- Fall 2018: Data file is received by the College Board, including completed data-sharing agreements.
- 2019: Validity study is complete and distributed.

Those interested in participating should contact nsatvastudy@collegeboard.org.

Changes to the SAT College and Career Readiness Benchmark

The current SAT College and Career Readiness Benchmark provides a 65 percent probability of a student achieving a B- in a college course.

We plan to shift the benchmark approach with the launch of the redesigned assessments. The SAT will be based on test scores and linked to success in specific entry-level, college-credit courses. New SAT benchmarks will be set for math, reading, and writing/language using probability of success in specific first-year college courses, for example, linking reading to introductory social science and history courses.

The College Board will:

- Use existing student-level predictive validity data to set new benchmarks.
- Collect data from two-year institutions as well as a strong sample from the four-year institutions that we collect annually.
- Investigate various course grade outcomes and probability thresholds.
- Revisit benchmarks when longitudinal validity samples students complete first year of postsecondary.

When Will We Be Able to Address Predictive Validity?

Results from the pilot validity study should be available in the late fall 2015. Full national studies on predictive validity will not be available until early 2019.

Will the Test Be a Better Predictor?

The current SAT, in combination with high school GPA, is a strong predictor of college success. The redesigned SAT will sustain or improve the validity evidence supporting the current SAT.

Appendix VI: Changes to the PSAT/NMSQT®

A Deep Focus on Skills That Matter

The College Board is making its current college and career readiness assessments more flexible and more aligned to the redesigned SAT, which will be focused on the skills and knowledge that are most essential for college success. A redesigned Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test® (PSAT/NMSQT) will launch in October 2015.

In alignment with the redesigned SAT and PSAT/NMSQT, we are also redesigning our current eighth/ninth grade assessments to focus on the skills and knowledge that are most essential for college success. The College Board will introduce more flexibility by offering our eighth/ninth grade assessments and the PSAT/NMSQT in the fall, to help improve instruction, or the spring, to support evaluation toward college readiness.

Delivering Opportunity

The redesigned assessments are an important part of the College Board's mission to deliver opportunity to all students. The redesigned PSAT/NMSQT and related exams will:

- Support college readiness and success for all students
- Measure student performance and pinpoint areas for development
- Allow teachers to focus on fewer things more deeply
- Provide direct connections with classroom instructional concepts
- Encourage students to take full advantage of the opportunities they've earned through their hard work

The redesigned PSAT/NMSQT will allow students (typically in the 11th grade) to compete for scholarships through the National Merit Scholarship Corporation in the fall and help them prepare for the SAT.

Based on an Evidentiary Foundation

The College Board examined what the best available evidence indicated were essential prerequisites in reading, writing, language, and mathematics for readiness and success in postsecondary education. This evidence, along with extensive feedback from our colleagues in K–12 and higher education, was critical to shaping the design of the new assessments. Key changes students will encounter on the redesigned exams:

The Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT

- Relevant Words in Context
- Command of Evidence
- Focus on Math That Matters Most
- Problems Grounded in Real-World Contexts
- Analysis in Science and in History/Social Studies
- Founding Documents and Great Global Conversation
- No Penalty for Wrong Answers

The PSAT/NMSQT and eighth/ninth grade assessments will not have an Essay component.

Appendix VI: Changes to the PSAT/NMSQT®

Availability of Practice Materials

- Sample questions to help students prepare will be available on collegeboard.org in December 2014.
- A full practice test for the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT will be available in March 2015.

College Board Search and the Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT and SAT

Key adjustments will be made to College Board Search as a result of the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT launch in October 2015, and the redesigned SAT launch in the spring of 2016. These changes will bring with them many advantages. In the coming months, we will provide you with resources and tactics to adjust your search strategies.

What you need to know about the adjustments:

Matching students will be simpler: The SAT electronic score reports that you will receive starting October 2015 will contain the same College Board student IDs that you have been receiving on your College Board Search output files. This should simplify your matching processes.

More options will be available when searching for students: Search criteria will be adjusted to facilitate the ordering of PSAT/NMSQT and SAT names based on the new score components, coinciding with the first test administrations (October 2015 and spring 2016, respectively). We plan to offer searches based on criteria reflecting three levels of scores: total score, section score (Evidence-Based Reading and Writing; and Math), and test score (Reading; Writing and Language; Math; and Essay). We are also evaluating the opportunity to offer search based on score percentiles.

Search criteria will be adjusted to reflect changes to the SAT Questionnaire, including the often requested two-part race and ethnicity question, as well as derived race and ethnicity (currently in use) that aligns with federal reporting requirements.

Loading College Board Search output files will be revised: For ease of use with your CRM, SRM, or SIS system, College Board Search output files will be revised to align with the field changes made to the SAT electronic score reports — notably score format changes, and code changes for intended majors and SAT Subject Tests™, as well as changes to the format for the most recent College Board exam. We expect to publish the new search output layout by late spring 2015 so you can make necessary adjustments to your systems. We plan to begin using the new data layout in September–October 2015, the same time frame as the introduction of the electronic score report for the SAT.

Please note: The same codes and fields will be used for data collected on the PSAT/NMSQT and the SAT.

We will offer additional support for your class of 2017 recruitment needs: We know that in times of change there is a more significant need for communication and training. We will provide webinars, face-to-face workshops, and practical tips on how to use concordance tables to create your searches. As always, we are ready to work with you and your campus colleagues and are committed to helping you make a smooth transition to searching students who take the redesigned assessments.

Appendix VII: About the Changes to Writing and the SAT Essay

Writing skills are critical for student success in college. The College Board will continue to emphasize the importance of writing in the SAT through the Writing and Language Test and the SAT Essay, providing students with two separate opportunities to demonstrate their writing proficiency. We will also provide instructional support to teachers to help them develop effective strategies for teaching writing skills.

The optional SAT Essay is focused on the assessment of students' skill in developing a cogent and clear written analysis of a provided source text. Together, the SAT Reading and SAT Writing and Language Tests make up the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing area score. The SAT Essay offers scores that complement those from the other two English language arts/literacy assessments.

Writing and Language

The Writing and Language Test uses multiple-choice questions to assess the academic skills required for college success. This section will test students on the following:

- Command of evidence
- Word choice
- Understanding of the conventions of Standard Written English
- Expression of ideas
- Ability to edit text for clarity and usage

SAT Essay

Writing skills are also assessed on the SAT through the SAT Essay section. Changes that are important to note include the following:

- The SAT Essay is being revised to better reflect the types of analytical writing necessary for college success.
- Students will read a source document and explain and analyze how a writer builds an argument through the use of evidence or stylistic and persuasive techniques.
- The SAT Essay prompt will be the same every time; only the source document will change. The SAT Essay will require no prior knowledge of the topic, but will require the student to use the information contained in the source document.
- The SAT Essay will be optional, giving your institution the flexibility to determine if it will be required for admission decisions.
- Students will be given 50 minutes to write the SAT Essay, which is double the time given on the current SAT.
- Read more; see SAT Essay Analyzing a Source (pages 12 and 20), and view a sample question.

Common Prompt Applied to Different Source Documents

The SAT Essay prompt on every redesigned SAT will be roughly the following: "As you read the passage in front of you, consider how the author uses evidence such as facts or examples, reasoning to develop ideas and to connect claims and evidence, and stylistic or persuasive elements to add power to the ideas expressed. Write an essay in which you explain how the author builds an argument to persuade an audience." The task will remain the same; what will vary is the source text. A new text inviting fresh thinking is what students will discover when they take each exam. The SAT Essay prompt is designed to cultivate close reading, careful analysis, and clear writing — hallmarks of a college- and career-ready student.

The SAT Essay Prompt and Test Preparation

The basic aim of the redesigned SAT Essay is to determine whether students can demonstrate college and career readiness proficiency in reading, writing, and analysis by comprehending a high-quality source text and producing a cogent and clear written analysis of that text supported by critical reasoning and evidence drawn from the source.

Appendix VII: About the Changes to Writing and the SAT Essay

While the source text will vary from administration to administration, the SAT Essay prompt itself is highly consistent. Such transparent consistency allows students, in their preparation and during the actual test, to focus squarely on source analysis and use of evidence in the specific text they are to analyze.

SAT Essay Scoring and Reporting

Similar to college course work, the SAT Essay will be scored based on students' effective use of evidence as well as their skill in composition. The score for the SAT Essay will not be included in the 400- to 1600-point total that is reported but will appear as three separate scores. For more information on scoring, see Appendix III, page 27.

Making the SAT Essay Optional

While the College Board remains steadfast in its commitment to the importance of analytical writing for all students, two factors have contributed to its decision to no longer make the SAT Essay a required part of the SAT:

- While the writing work that students do in the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section of the exam is strongly predictive of college and career readiness and success, one single essay historically has not contributed significantly to the overall predictive power of the exam.
- Feedback from hundreds of member admission officers was divided: Some of them found the current SAT Essay useful but many did not.

Therefore, by making the redesigned SAT Essay optional, colleges will have the flexibility to make their own decisions about requiring the SAT Essay, and students applying to colleges that do not require the SAT Essay will be saved the expense and time for test results that will not be considered.

The College Board will require several samples of analytical essay writing throughout its Advanced Placement Program courses as well as in the sample work designed for classrooms in grades 6–12.

Get more detailed information on the revised SAT with Essay.

Who Will Require the SAT with Essay and How Will Students Know?

The College Board will work closely with counselors and colleges to help ensure that students get clear, easy-to-access information to help them decide whether to take the SAT with Essay. Information will be available online for counselors, students, and families both before and during the registration process.

Key Values of the SAT with Essay in Your College Admission Process

With the revisions, the SAT with Essay will evaluate critical analysis and writing skills in a way that is unique and can provide significant detailed information to colleges in the admission process. This insight will be particularly valuable as it will closely reflect the analytical writing that will be required of students throughout their college experience. Specifically, the SAT Essay will ask students to:

- Read and analyze a high-quality source text.
- Produce a cogent and clear written analysis of the text supported by critical reasoning and evidence drawn from the source.

The new format, new scoring rubric, and new emphasis on the use of evidence make the SAT Essay a unique way to independently assess student writing and analytical skills. Student responses will be assessed on their:

- Understanding of the source (passage).
- Analysis of the author's use of evidence, reasoning and/or stylistic and persuasive elements, and/or features of the text of the student's own choosing.
- Cohesiveness of students' written responses as well as their use of language.

Appendix VII: About the Changes to Writing and the SAT Essay

Colleges that utilize the SAT with Essay will inspire close reading and analysis in high schools across the nation.

- The redesigned SAT Essay test is designed to support high school students and teachers as they cultivate close reading, careful analysis, and clear writing. It will promote the practice of reading a wide variety of arguments and analyzing how authors do their work as writers.
- The SAT Essay prompt has already been shared and will remain consistent, enabling teachers and students to practice. Only the source material (a high-quality, previously published, authentic text) will change in each form of the test.
- The passages will be high quality, inspiring high schools to use similar texts. That is, the passages examine ideas, debates, trends, and the like in the arts, the sciences, and civic, cultural, and political life that have wide interest, relevance, and accessibility to a general readership. Passages tend not to be simple pro/con debates on issues but instead strive to convey nuanced views on complex subjects.
- Students will be given 50 minutes to write the SAT Essay, creating a time-constrained but reasonable environment to demonstrate skills. This parallels the experience of homework assignments and other activities.

The College Board Remains Committed to Writing

The College Board remains steadfast in its dedication to and emphasis on the importance of writing. The multiple-choice questions from the Writing section of the current SAT, which are most predictive of student success, will be updated and incorporated in the Writing and Language Test of the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section. The SAT Essay has been redesigned to allow students to demonstrate the critical thinking skills they have learned in high school. Based on broad feedback, the SAT Essay will be optional to allow both students and institutions maximum flexibility, while still providing the opportunity for students to showcase their skills and institutions to take advantage of this unique information.

Appendix VIII: Evidence Base

A full review of the evidentiary backbone for the redesigned SAT can be found in the full test specifications, which we have made available. The key findings from this research guide all aspects of the revision, including the design of the exam and the content and skill domains.

The Research That Guides the Changes

The redesign of the College Board assessments is firmly grounded in evidence about what is needed for all students to be ready for and to succeed in college and workforce training programs. Research from a range of sources, including academia, research organizations, the College Board, and ACT strongly supports the redesign.

Evidence guided the College Board's decision to place the emphasis of the redesigned SAT's English language arts/literacy components on:

1. A specified range of text complexity consistent with college and workforce training requirements.
2. Source analysis and skilled use of evidence.
3. Data in informational graphics.
4. Words in context.
5. Language conventions and effective language use more generally.
6. Literacy across the disciplines.

Evidence is equally supportive of the emphasis of the redesigned SAT's Math component on:

1. A set of essential math knowledge, skills, and understandings in algebra, advanced topics, and additional topics in math.
2. Problem solving and data analysis in addressing real-life problems (e.g., the ability to create a representation of a problem, consider the units involved, attend to the meaning of quantities, and know and use different properties of operations and objects).
3. Using the calculator as a tool, discerning when and when not to use a calculator to solve problems efficiently, and performing important mathematical tasks without a calculator.

Evidentiary Foundation for Reading and Writing

The redesigned SAT supports an emphasis on source analysis and evidence use throughout the Reading and Writing and Language Tests.

The College Board's national curriculum surveys demonstrate that postsecondary instructors rate the following capacities as highly important:

- Summarizing a text's central argument or main idea
- Identifying rhetorical strategies used in a text
- Identifying logical flaws in an author's argument
- Writing analyses and evaluations of texts
- Using supporting details and examples
- Developing a logical argument

Many institutions have devoted considerable resources to developing the skills of source analysis and evidence use in their students, including:

- Duke University
- Cornell University
- Texas A&M University
- The University of California, Berkeley

Evidentiary Foundation for Math

A significant disconnect exists today in mathematics between the K–12 and higher education systems. In a recent national survey, nearly 90 percent of high school teachers said that students were leaving high school prepared for college-level mathematics, while almost 75 percent of postsecondary instructors said that they were not. The Math Test will, therefore, focus on the few areas of math that evidence shows most contribute to student readiness for college and career training. The exam will focus on three essential areas for which subscores will be reported: Problem Solving and Data Analysis; the Heart of Algebra; and Passport to Advanced Math. The Math Test will also sample additional topics in math, including geometry and trigonometry.

