

# FAQs for Students & Families

## Administration

### When and where will students take the test?

Students will take the exam during the regular school day at their own high schools on Tuesday, April 12, 2016. A make-up date is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27.

### What is the cost?

*There is no cost to students in Delaware public high schools.* As it has for the past five years, the state covers the cost of the SAT for every 11<sup>th</sup> grader enrolled in a Delaware public high school.

### Can nonpublic school students take the test, too?

The school day administration of the SAT is only open to students enrolled in Delaware public high schools. Nonpublic school students may sign up to take the exam during one of the College Board's Saturday administrations. Find details [here](#).

### What is the benefit of using the SAT as the state's high school accountability test?

The Delaware Department of Education has looked for ways to reduce testing, particularly for 11<sup>th</sup> grade students enrolled in public high schools, who until now were taking the SAT as part of Delaware's state-funded School Day SAT program *in addition to* the Smarter Assessment as the state's federally required high school accountability exam. Using the SAT as the accountability test *eliminates the need for juniors to take an additional test* for accountability. While the SAT will become the accountability test for the majority of Delaware's high school juniors, the small percentage of students with severe cognitive disabilities will continue to take the DCAS-Alt.

### How do students register for the test?

The Delaware Department of Education will bulk register all public high school juniors. Students do not need to register on their own.

### Are all students in grade 11 required to take the SAT?

All grade 11 students enrolled in Delaware's public high schools are required to take the state assessment. There are two options available - the SAT (which 99% of 11<sup>th</sup> grade students will take) and the DCAS-Alt1 (which would include about 1% of 11<sup>th</sup> grade students). If a student was not included in the bulk registration and should take the SAT, the school is required to assess the student and can accomplish this through "same day registration." In addition, policies have been established for the SAT for students who are repeating grade 11 or who skipped grade 11. This policy can be found at: <http://www.doe.k12.de.us/cms/lib09/DE01922744/Centricity/Domain/111/Repeaters-Skippers%20Policy%20rev%2001%2026%202016.pdf>

## Test

### What is the new SAT like?

The SAT has been redesigned. The new SAT, which is aligned to the language arts and mathematics standards that Delaware adopted in 2010, focuses on the skills and knowledge students will need to succeed in life after high school. The redesigned test has three components: evidence-based reading

and writing, math, and an essay. Based on the latest research, the questions in each component focus on the skills that matter most for students to succeed after high school either in college or in careers. In addition, the new SAT no longer penalizes students for guessing. Students simply earn points for the questions they answer correctly.

### **Is the SAT Essay included?**

Because Delaware recognizes the importance of writing in preparation for success after high school and because some colleges require this portion of the test, Delaware's School Day SAT includes the administration of the essay portion of the test. \*\*\*The SAT Essay is a required component of the Delaware SAT. \*\*\*

### **Can students use calculators on the SAT?**

A calculator will be allowed on one of two sections in the redesigned SAT math test. Please read the College Board's [calculator policy](#) for specific information on which calculators can be used on test day.

### **How should students prepare for the test?**

The new test is focused on the skills and knowledge students are learning in school and that they'll need to succeed in college and careers. As students prepare for the spring SAT, they also have some extra help this year. A partnership with Khan Academy and the College Board offers [personalized SAT preparation](#) based on students' PSAT results. Delaware also provides the PSAT free to all public school 10<sup>th</sup> graders.

## **Accommodations**

### **What accommodations are available for students with disabilities?**

All students are entitled to accommodations on the SAT according to their individualized education plans (IEP) and 504 Plans.

All of the accommodations currently used in Delaware can be used although some of the accommodations may prevent a student's individual score from being reported for college purposes. See below for more information about "reportable" and "non-reportable" scores.

English Language Learner is not considered a disability for which the College Board provides accommodations. However, printed test directions in one of the following five languages - Spanish, Haitian Creole, Arabic, Chinese, and Portuguese – as well as oral translation of test directions by a native speaker are considered allowable and college reportable.

### **What if Delaware approves an accommodation but the College Board does not recognize it?**

In a few limited cases, the College Board does not recognize an accommodation that the state permits for its accountability tests. For example, a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) may allow for the student to have passages read to him or her on the exam. The College Board does not consider scores earned with this accommodation valid for college-reporting purposes. In these very limited cases, a student's IEP team, which includes the child's family and teachers, may choose to allow the student to test without the accommodation so that the scores would be accepted by colleges (reportable score). Another option is for the student to take the test with the accommodation. In this case, the scores would be valid for state accountability purposes but would not be acceptable for the college admissions process (non-reportable score). These decisions will be made at the local level by the student's family and teachers.

### **What is the difference between a reportable score and a non-reportable score?**

A reportable score may be used to send to colleges for admissions purposes and for state accountability purposes. A non-reportable score may not be used to send to college for admissions purposes but will be used for state accountability purposes only.

### **Are we required to get parent permission if a student will be using State Allowed Accommodations (non-college reportable)? When can we start entering State Allowed Accommodations?**

Yes, the parent permission form for State Allowed Accommodations is different than the parent permission for College Reportable Accommodations. Both forms will need to be signed if a student has accommodations in both categories. Schools can start entering State Allowed Accommodations at the end of February. The deadline for entering is March 28. The form for State Allowed Accommodations can be found on Delaware's SAT Accommodation website: <http://www.doe.k12.de.us/Page/2718>

## **Score reports**

### **What information will families and educators receive from the score reports and how can they use it to help students?**

With the new SAT, College Board is returning to a 400- to 1600-point scale. Students will receive an overall score ranging between 200 and 800 points for the two sections (Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, and Math) as well as breakdowns for how they performed within the sections on the three tests (Reading, Writing and Language and Mathematics). They also will receive seven subscores denoting strengths in specific skill/knowledge areas of each test. Students also will receive cross-test scores in areas assessed in both sections (Analysis in History/Social Studies and Analysis in Science). And they will receive a score for the SAT Essay. Learn more about the scoring [here](#).

### **How will students' scores be used?**

The test results will show students' strengths and weaknesses in each area within the sections. The information will help families and educators understand whether the student needs additional support or more challenging, higher level material. Students may also choose to send their scores to colleges and universities for consideration in their admission processes.

### **When will students receive their scores?**

Students who test on School Day SAT on April 12, 2016 will receive SAT scores by mid-May. Students who test on the make-up day will receive their SAT scores late May or early June. Scoring associated with proficiency levels for accountability purposes will be made available in Summer 2016.

### **Can a student's scores from the SAT be reported to colleges?**

Students who have an online SAT account can choose which SAT scores to report to colleges including the School Day SAT administration. With the SAT Score Choice feature, students have the option to choose which scores, by test date, to send to colleges. If students do not use Score Choice, all scores will be sent. Reporting scores to colleges is a process agreed upon by the student/parent and the College Board. Scores will not be reported without express permission of the student/parent. A student can elect to have his or her SAT score cancelled by completing the Cancel Scores form immediately after test

administration (find more information [here](#)). If cancelled, colleges will not receive the scores from that particular administration, however the student and state will still receive the scores. Students will receive four free college score sends when they take the School Day SAT. These free score sends must be used within nine days of the test administration. After this window, there is a cost for sending SAT scores to colleges.

### **What if I have other questions?**

The Department will be updating its [website](#) with information, including [resources](#) for districts/charters and the public, regularly.

### **Can a student request for their SAT score to be cancelled after the April administration?**

Yes. The student has three school days to cancel their SAT score. Cancellation will mean the scores are not reportable to colleges and the student will not see the scores on their College Board testing history. The score will still be reported to the state and the school for accountability purposes.

**[For additional information, please contact the Office of Assessment at \(302\) 857-3391, or by email \[assessment@doe.k12.de.us\]\(mailto:assessment@doe.k12.de.us\).](#)**

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