

# A New Approach to Testing

CREATING MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MORE STUDENTS IN LESS TIME



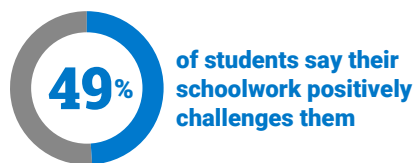
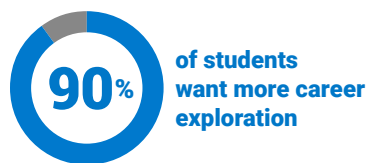
## Redefining Student Success

Across the country, states are redefining what it means to be ready for high school graduation. They're moving beyond simply requiring students to earn a certain GPA and take specific courses to encouraging the development of 21st-century skills such as communication, collaboration, and critical thinking.

Ensuring students exemplify and embody these skills by high school graduation sets them up for success in a broad range of postsecondary opportunities, including college and career.

Helping students build these skills, and finding a valid way to measure them, can be challenging. It often requires administering multiple time-consuming, expensive assessments—expanding budgets and taking time away from teaching.

At a time when students are increasingly disengaged in school and tired of testing, but also craving information to help guide their future, it's time to consider a new approach.



## One Test for All Students

In a **2-hour test**, the SAT® offers an objective measure of the core math, reading, and writing skills students need for any postsecondary pathway.

Aligned to state standards, the SAT provides insights and resources educators and students trust—coupled with unmatched flexibility, operational stability, and accessibility.

SAT results allow educators at the state, district, and school levels to understand student progress in aggregate, and at an individual level. Scores provide insights into student performance in 8 content domains, 4 in Reading and Writing and 4 in Math, along with their strengths in the Analysis of Science.

### WHAT IS SUCCESS?

**“States and districts and schools are redefining success and thinking about what is it that young people need to be prepared for success, both in postsecondary education, the workforce, and in civic life and society,”** said Laurie Gagnon, program director of *CompetencyWorks* at the Aurora Institute, a nonprofit organization [that advocates for competency-based education](#).



## Insights That Advance Student Success

To ensure data can be used in time to inform decision-making, SAT scores are delivered through College Board's [K-12 Reporting Portal](#) typically **within two weeks of testing**.

This rapid turnaround gives educators ample time to use the data to inform classroom instruction, planning, and determine how to expand access to advanced coursework with the free, exclusive [AP® Potential Tool](#).

And, when states, districts, and schools use the SAT along with other assessments in the SAT Suite—including PSAT/NMSQT®, PSAT™ 10, and PSAT™ 8/9—they can use results to seamlessly track students' year-over-year progress and understand whether they're on track to meet states' readiness standards.

## Relevant Information to Drive Action

Providing test scores is easy. Making those test results relevant and engaging for students is more complicated.

SAT scores give students customized, easy-to-understand insights and connect them directly with tools to help them explore their future options.

Students are provided with:

- A total score, the sum of 2 sections
- Section scores for Math and Reading and Writing
- Cross-test scores, including Analysis of Science (in select states)

To spur career exploration, students also receive a [Career Insights Snapshot](#), which shows a list of growing, in-demand careers in their state connected to their skills on the SAT.

According to a fall 2024 national survey, **80% of students** who viewed their Career Insights Snapshot reported that they are committed to learning more about their abilities and interests.

To develop this information, College Board [worked with HumRRO](#), a leader in human resources research, to map the math, reading, and writing skills measured by the SAT Suite of Assessments to the quantitative and literacy skills needed for nearly 1,000 careers.

Student scores are easily accessed on the [BigFuture® School mobile app](#), designed exclusively for in-school test takers. The privacy-forward app provides students with customized college and career planning guidance and the opportunity to connect with nonprofit colleges and scholarships. Students have complete control over the experience, deciding if and when to share their information with institutions they're interested in.

Plus, students receive a **score they can use in the college admissions process**. Nearly all colleges accept scores from students who choose to submit them, and a growing list of colleges—including private, public, and state higher education systems—are reinstating test score requirements.

### MAKING CONNECTIONS

**“The AP, SAT, and PSAT-related assessments are avenues to reveal success that students have experienced so far, and to reveal potential. They help us connect students with a pathway they otherwise wouldn't have experienced or pinpoint challenges our students have had. This is absolutely critical to the work we do.”**

Thomas Taylor, Superintendent,  
Montgomery County Public  
Schools, VA

### DATA DRIVEN

**“Since we started to analyze the data related to the SAT Suite of Assessments, we increased the number of our graduates attending college by 15 percentage points. The SAT Suite is clearly having a positive impact.”**

Dr. Mark Smithberger, Principal,  
Berea-Midpark High School

### BIGFUTURE SCHOOL

**“Amazing app!!! It has helped me so much to explore new colleges and career opportunities, AND it shows me my test scores along with my strengths and weaknesses! Highly recommend, you will not be disappointed.”**

Marlen, student

## Setting the Bar for Digital Test Delivery

In spring 2024, College Board successfully transitioned the entire SAT Suite of Assessments to a fully digital format. The digital transformation allowed College Board to rethink the testing experience. We've made it easier for educators, who have a growing list of daily demands, to implement and administer the SAT Suite.

In the fall, states, districts, and schools can choose to offer SAT School Day any day during the October testing window. In the spring, they can choose any day in March and April.

And the time needed to test is shorter than ever—the adaptive format allows for a shorter testing time at just over two hours, gives students more time per question, and preserves the validity of the test. This means **less time testing, and more time for instruction.**

By directly overseeing test delivery, development, and administration, we've reduced testing disruptions and equipped states, districts, and schools with the information they need to support the students and educators in their care. We have full control over the testing experience, including the timeline for introducing new features and enhancements. In the event of an issue, the buck stops with us.

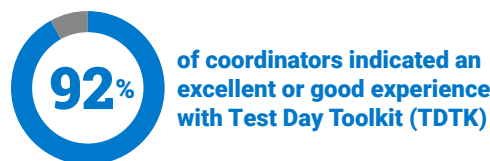
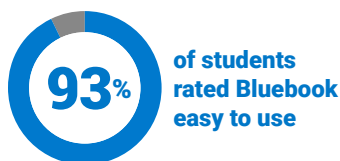
### PRESSURE-TESTED SYSTEMS

Before it was used at-scale Bluebook™, College Board's custom-built digital testing platform, was piloted with over 70,000 students over a 3-year period. The platform is designed to withstand intermittent disruptions in connectivity and power—which means it can be seamlessly used in areas with less stable connectivity.

- Largest ever concurrent digital administration with 1.25 million tests taken on a single day
- More than 10 million digital SAT Suite tests have been taken successfully
- 99.9% success rate for test submissions
- Successfully used in over 170 countries across rural, urban, and developing environments
- Delivers a full range of universal testing tools and accommodations

In addition to Bluebook, we've created tools specifically designed to support educators with other critical test administration functions.

A custom-built system, designed to meet the needs of state testing programs, supports data management tasks for student registration and test administration staff. And College Board's Test Day Toolkit (TDTK) application makes it easy for school administrators to prepare for and administer tests in the classroom. Extensive resources on our website guide school officials through the process and offer high-touch step-by-step implementation support.



#### BLUEBOOK

**“It was excellent because the features were easy to use. I also loved the timer feature where it told me how much time I had left and how much time I had in my break. This tool was very helpful.”**

Digital SAT Test Taker

**“Bluebook was very simple and easy to utilize. The questions were easy to read and somewhat engaging (rare for an exam). I had enough time to go back and check all the questions twice for each section.”**

Digital SAT Test Taker

#### TEST DAY TOOLKIT

**“From test coordination to test proctoring, our staff thought the digital test was much easier to administer than the paper and pencil version. The Bluebook application, with its embedded instructions, helped us stay organized and made test preparation and administration very easy!”**

Kelly Simmons, School Counselor,  
Streetsboro High School, Ohio



## PUBLICLY AVAILABLE RESEARCH

State leaders and educators should feel confident about the efficacy of the tests they provide to students and be able to answer questions about them. Results from the development of the digital SAT Suite are [publicly available](#), and the SAT remains the most well-researched assessment of its type.

Our state partners—and the educators and students in their care—can trust our programs’ effectiveness and reliability without simply taking our word for it.

## INDUSTRY-LEADING INFORMATION SECURITY AND DATA PRIVACY

College Board systems are fortified and secured by over **70 information security professionals**.

That security is verified by industry-leading information security certifications ISO27001 and SOC2, and College Board is one of very few organizations **certified in all five Trust Principles** (Security, Availability, Processing Integrity, Confidentiality, and Privacy).

Since College Board administers the SAT Suite and most Advanced Placement® Exams on our own proprietary digital testing platform, Bluebook; no student data is shifted to a third-party vendor.

We don’t license or share data without explicit consent. And, in-school test takers have access to [Connections™](#), a free service for students that lets them see colleges and scholarship organizations interested in them before they decide when and whether to share their information.

## TEST SECURITY

Test security is a top priority for College Board. Digital testing allows every student to receive a unique but comparable test form, making it practically impossible to share answers. This allows us to offer 4- and 8-week testing windows, allowing states, districts, and schools to test any day, any time, and any way they want.

To ensure test security standards are upheld, our best-in-class test security function is staffed by 21 industry-leading experts, including former law enforcement and military personnel.

## ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL STUDENTS

College Board began providing accommodations **50 years** before the Americans with Disabilities Act was passed. We strive to make testing accessible for all students and have:

- **7 website accessibility professionals** who ensure digital products are fully accessible to students with disabilities
- **27 clinical professionals** who ensure that students with disabilities receive the accommodations they need

Bluebook is designed to support most testing accommodations directly in the platform. Paper tests are available for students who need them.



## Purposeful Practice for All Students

The SAT measures what students are learning in class. Mastery of these foundational skills and knowledge matters for all postsecondary pathways. College Board is the only organization that makes a comprehensive [set of free resources](#), designed specifically for the digital SAT, available to all students:

- 6 full-length, adaptive, automatically scored digital SAT practice tests on the Bluebook student testing platform, with accompanying linear, paper/PDF, and further accommodated (braille, raised-line drawings, etc.) versions
- A question bank with over 3,500 real SAT questions tagged to state standards
- Lessons and quizzes on Khan Academy®, a globally recognized leader in test prep and College Board’s exclusive test prep partner

Teachers also have access to free resources including a [Teacher Implementation Guide](#), [Khanmigo for Teachers](#), and the [SAT Suite Question Bank](#), to make it easier to integrate SAT results and practice into their instruction.

**“The Khan Academy resources worked well, and I love College Board’s feature where you can see what you missed on practice and have explanations.”**

Cesar, student



## How States Are Using the SAT Suite

The SAT Suite is widely used for accountability purposes.

- 8 states administer the digital SAT statewide for federal accountability purposes.
- 14 states and the District of Columbia provide the digital PSAT/NMSQT or digital PSAT 10 assessments statewide in grades 10 or 11.
- 2 states provide the digital PSAT™ 8/9 to all 8th- or 9th-grade students; 1 uses the digital PSAT 8/9 for federal accountability purposes.

In addition to in-school testing, the SAT is also offered to millions of students on the weekend and is the college entrance exam most widely chosen by students and families across the nation.

For more information on the SAT Suite and its benefits, please visit [cb.org/satbenefits](https://collegeboard.org/satbenefits).

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## About College Board

College Board reaches more than 7 million students a year, helping them navigate the path from high school to college and career. Our not-for-profit membership organization was founded more than 120 years ago. We pioneered programs like the SAT® and AP® to expand opportunities for students and help them develop the skills they need. Our BigFuture program helps students plan for college, pay for college, and explore careers. Learn more at [cb.org](https://collegeboard.org).