

# FAQs for Districts & Schools

## General Information

### 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 public high school juniors, the small percentage of students with severe cognitive disabilities will continue to take the DCAS-Alt.

### When and where will the Delaware SAT be administered to Grade 11 students?

Eleventh grade students will take the SAT during the regular school day on April 12, 2016. A make-up date is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, 2016.

### Who takes the SAT?

Delaware public school students who are enrolled in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade will take the SAT. Both the Delaware Department of Education and each district/charter school are legally responsible to administer these assessments to all students. A district or charter school may choose to also fund administration of the test to a non-11<sup>th</sup> grade student to take the test on April 12<sup>th</sup> or the make-up day, April 27<sup>th</sup>. However, these students will not be bulk registered. It is the responsibility of the district/charter to register any student not enrolled in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade on the College Board website. Please follow the same procedure from previous years for registration of students not enrolled in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

### Are there costs to take the test?

There is no cost to 11<sup>th</sup> grade students enrolled in a Delaware public high school testing on April 12. As it has since 2011, the state covers the cost of the SAT for every 11<sup>th</sup> grader enrolled in a Delaware public high school.

### Are there specific instructions for setting up the school for administration of the Delaware SAT?

The process to set up all schools/programs for the administration of the School Day SAT is the *same* as it has been since 2011. Each school needs an attending institution (AI) code, a test center number, as well as a person designated to be the Test Center Supervisor. This person is responsible for managing the building activities related to the administration of the SAT.

## Test

### What does the Delaware SAT measure?

The SAT measures reading, mathematics and writing. There are three sections on the SAT: evidence based reading and writing, mathematics, and a writing essay. While the essay portion is considered optional nationally, Delaware students will complete and receive scores for this component.

### **What are the changes in the new SAT?**

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.

### **What does the evidence-based reading and writing test measure?**

The evidence-based reading and writing section, as well as the SAT Essay, requires students to read and apply information found in a range of different sources such as tables, charts, graphs, or multi-paragraph passages from literature and nonfiction texts. For example, students may be asked to identify what part of the text supports an answer, or to pull together information conveyed in words and graphics to answer the question.

### **What does the mathematics test measure?**

The redesign of the math test places an in-depth focus on three areas: Problem Solving and Data Analysis, Heart of Algebra and Passport to Advanced Math. Problem Solving and Data Analysis includes ratios, percentages, and proportional reasoning to solve problems in science, social science and career contexts. Heart of Algebra includes linear equations and systems, and Passport to Advanced Math includes more complex equations.

### **What does the essay component measure?**

According to College Board, the SAT Essay component will require a student to “read a passage and explain how an author builds an argument to persuade an audience. The task closely mirrors college writing assignments because it is asking you to analyze how the author used evidence, reason and stylistic and persuasive elements.” \*\*\*The SAT Essay is a required component of the Delaware SAT.\*\*\*

### **How will growth be measured given the transition to SAT?**

The Delaware Department of Education has identified that this transition will have an impact on both growth and growth-to-proficiency calculations. We are addressing these implications through collaboration with external researchers and in coordination with other states that also are making such a change. More details will be provided on an ongoing basis.

### **Is there a new college and career preparation benchmark for accountability purposes?**

Scores from the 2015 administration will be used to calculate College and Career Preparation for high schools this year.

## **Test Registration and Administration**

### **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. Students will receive in their ID number at home, and the schools will also be given a list of each students ID number as well. The registration guide may be found [here](#).

## What accommodations are available for students with disabilities and/or English Language Learners?

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 condition 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.

More detailed information about what accommodations are available and how to apply for accommodations can be found at: <http://www.doe.k12.de.us/Page/2718>. A crosswalk document can also be found on that page to show how the accommodations for SAT align to accommodations the students have been using in the past.

The department training offered in January will also address college reportable and non-reportable accommodations, required documentation and the application process. The process for requesting accommodations is the same process as it has been for the past five year. Any accommodation that was previously approved by College Board for a student is considered approved for five years.

	College Reportable Accommodations	Delaware State-Allowed Accommodations For State Accountability
Students with Disabilities	Used for accountability and college admission	Used for accountability purposes only
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extended time</li> <li>- Extra breaks, extended breaks or breaks as needed</li> <li>- Time of day</li> <li>- Limited timed testing</li> <li>- Modified setting (home, hospital, other)</li> <li>- Noise buffers</li> <li>- Preferential seating</li> <li>- Small group or one-on-one</li> <li>- Separate setting (within school)</li> <li>- Text-to-speech (computer, MP3, human reader)</li> <li>- Augmentative/alternative communication devices</li> <li>- Speech-to-text</li> <li>- Auditory amplification/FM system</li> <li>- Braille</li> <li>- Braille writer</li> <li>- Large print</li> <li>- Use of computer</li> <li>- Specialized calculator/talking calculator</li> <li>- Zoom/magnification</li> <li>- Arithmetic tables</li> <li>- Scribe</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- American Sign Language – test content</li> <li>- American Sign Language – student responses</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Color overlays</li> <li>- Special adaptive writing tools or desks</li> <li>- Additional paper to record answers</li> <li>- American Sign Language (directions)</li> <li>- Signed Exact English (test content and directions)</li> </ul> <p>Note: not all accommodations are included and a school may apply for any accommodation that is not listed</p>	
<b>English Learners</b>	<b>Used for accountability and college admission</b>	<b>Used for accountability purposes only</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Translated test directions (by native language reader)</li> <li>- Printed test directions (Arabic, Chinese, Haitian-Creole, Portuguese, and Spanish)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bilingual dictionary, word for word translation</li> <li>- Extended time</li> </ul>

### Where can a district find SAT translation services for ELL students?

Information related to translation vendors can be found on the bottom of the Title III webpage at <http://www.doe.k12.de.us/translations>.

### 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 signed (using American Sign Language) 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 school staff.

### 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* is also used for state accountability purposes. A non-reportable score may not be sent to a college for admissions purposes and will be used for state accountability purposes only.

### What is the protocol for SAT administration for homebound students?

This is available as an accommodation and a trained SAT test administrator must administer the SAT to the homebound student.

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

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

### **Will the SAT be available in other languages?**

Printed test directions are available for the following languages: Spanish, Haitian Creole, Arabic, Chinese, and Portuguese. With regard to oral translation of directions, any language can be supported assuming the school/district can provide an authorized translator. The content portion of the SAT cannot be translated.

### **If a school wants to use a substitute for a proctor for SAT, how would that substitute get certified?**

Associate Supervisors need to go through the online training. It would be best to have an extra staff member or two, depending on your school size, prepared before test day. Additional Proctors and Hall Monitors can be directed by the Test Center Supervisor on test day.

### **How many extra “standby” registration forms does College Board send to each test center?**

College Board will send an overage of about five “standby” registration forms or about 10% for larger testing sites. If the test center would like to request more forms, contact ETS Test Administration Support at 800-257-5123 or [tas@ets.org](mailto:tas@ets.org).

### **If a registered student at school X moves to school Y, will their registration follow them?**

No. This student should be treated the same as a “new” student to the district. The student should complete a “standby” registration form at School Day SAT.

### **Will students receive admission tickets mailed to their home residence?**

Students will only receive admission tickets mailed to their home address IF they have a College Board account. All schools will receive an admission ticket for each student registered to test at their site.

### **When will the Delaware Department of Education pull the list of students from eSchool for bulk registration?**

Bulk registration will be processed between March 6, 2016 and March 15, 2016. Any student “new” to the school after this date will need to complete a “standby” registration form.

### **How will a school know whether a student has already applied for and received an accommodation through the College Board?**

The Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Online dashboard provides an up-to-date view of all accommodations for students at your school. The NAR (Non-standard Administration Roster) and the SOAR (Supervisor’s Roster) will list accommodations for each student that has received approvals, and will update in real-time as new approvals come through right until test day.

### **Will schools receive a list of all students that were bulk registered at their school?**

After the Delaware Department of Education processes bulk registration, College Board will update the Counselor Roster, SOAR, and NAR. This will happen during the third week of March.

### **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.

### **The College Board “Support for Students with Temporary Physical/Medical Condition” document states that this temporary support is available only to seniors. How do we apply for this support for juniors?**

College Board has waived the restriction for seniors only. Please disregard this restriction and follow the other listed directions on the form for all Delaware students testing on April 12 or April 27.

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

All grade 11 students 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>

### **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>.

## **Resources**

### **What resources are provided to districts and charter schools to prepare for the Delaware SAT?**

Beginning in early 2016, the department will provide regional workshops and training webinars addressing the following topics:

- Overview of the new SAT
- Test Delivery
- Accommodations
- Question and Answer

Information regarding these trainings may be found on the state’s [SAT webpage](#). Additional detailed information about these trainings for District Test Coordinators, Special Education District Coordinators, Counselors, and Test Center Supervisors will be sent via email in the next few days. Registration for the training will be handled through PDMS.

Resources related to the accommodations process, score reports and other helpful links may be found on DDOE’s [Office of Assessment webpage](#).

To assist districts with communications and outreach, several SAT documents detailing the SAT redesign (effective March 2016) and student supports are available as well. These documents include infographics for parents and students, 7 things schools can do to support stronger SAT scores, talking points and more. All information can be accessed now on Schoology and will also be available on the DDOE SAT webpage.

Teacher guides and professional development modules are also available to support educators integrating SAT practice into their classrooms. Resources are available online, and College Board can

come to districts to assist with training. More information:  
<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/educators/k-12/>.

### **What resources are available to students?**

The new test is focused on the skills and knowledge students are learning in school and that they'll need to succeed after school. In addition, and new this year, Delaware sophomores will be able to use Khan Academy, an online website that provides individualized learning experiences beyond the classroom, to engage in personalized practice based on their PSAT results. Every Delaware student has access to [free practice questions](#) through Khan Academy. Working through some of the questions will familiarize students with the type of questions they will see on test day, helping them feel more comfortable when exam time comes.

More information on the re-designed SAT, personalized practice recommendations, and important SAT dates and news, is available at <http://satpractice.org>.

## **Score Reports**

### **What information will educators receive from the score reports and how can they use that information to support learning?**

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 sub-scores 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). Finally, they will receive a score for the SAT Essay. Again, there is no longer a penalty for wrong answers. 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.

### **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.

### **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.

**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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