



# Ensuring College Readiness for All Students

The College Board Resource Guide  
2012–2013



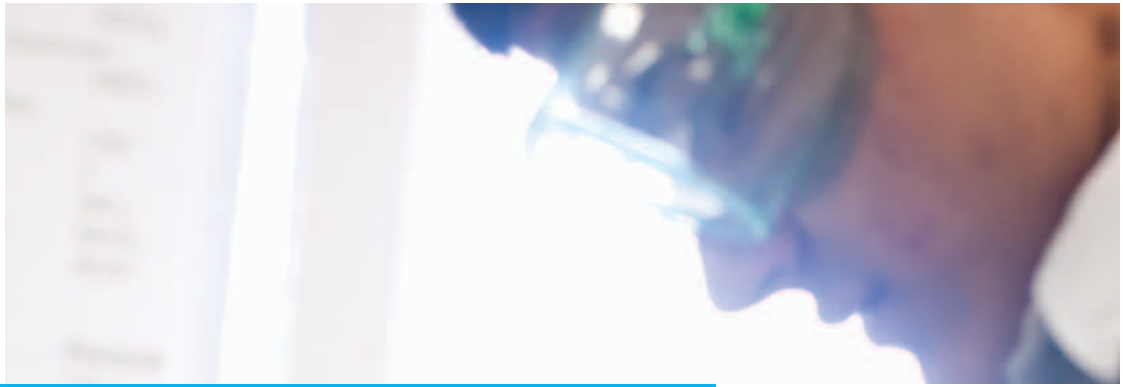
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OUR MISSION

The College Board's mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. We are a not-for-profit membership organization committed to excellence and equity in education.



2	<b>About the College Board</b>	College Readiness Common Core State Standards	6 8
10	<b>Assessments</b>	College and Career Readiness Pathway ReadiStep™ PSAT/NMSQT® SAT® SAT Subject Tests™ ACCUPLACER® College-Level Examination Program® (CLEP®) Fee Waivers and Fee Reductions Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD)	12 16 18 26 36 38 40 42 44
46	<b>Teaching and Learning</b>	SpringBoard® Advanced Placement Program® (AP®)	48 52
60	<b>Professional Development and District Services</b>	EXCEerator™ Workshops to Implement College Board Programs Successfully Best Practices in School Counseling Key Trends in Education	62 64 68 70
72	<b>Advocacy and Policy</b>	The College Board Advocacy & Policy Center CollegeKeys Compact™ The National Office for School Counselor Advocacy (NOSCA) The Educational Experience of Young Men of Color Five Ways Ed Pays The College Completion Agenda	74 76 78 80 82 84
86	<b>College Planning Resources for Students and Families</b>	BigFuture™ YouCanGo!™ Student Search Service®	88 90 92



## About the College Board

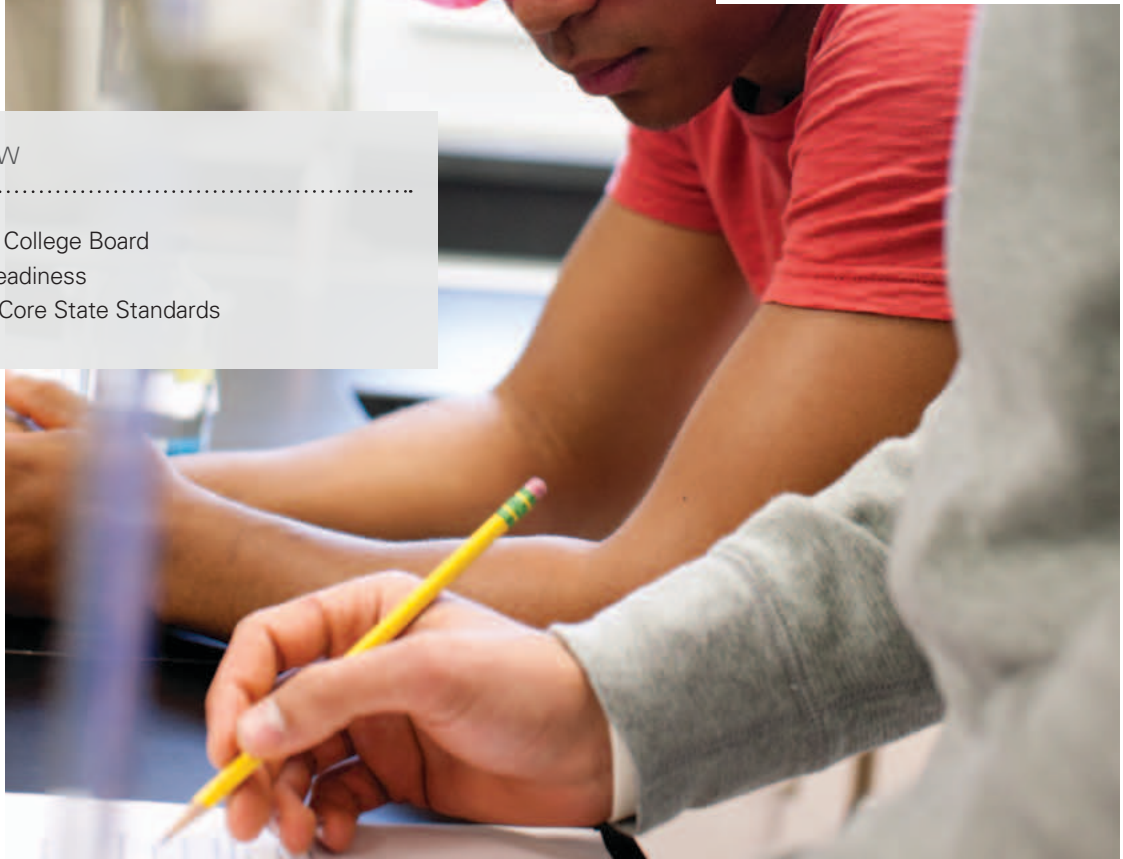
**CONNECTING STUDENTS  
TO COLLEGE SUCCESS  
AND OPPORTUNITY**



### OVERVIEW

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- 04 About the College Board
- 06 College Readiness
- 08 Common Core State Standards





Every student deserves the opportunity to prepare for, enroll in and graduate from college. That is what drives us. That is the ethic we share with educators across the globe. People like you.



Each year, we serve 7 million students and their families, 23,000 middle and high schools and 3,800 colleges in over 180 countries and territories through programs and services in college readiness, college admission, guidance, assessment, financial aid and enrollment.

Here is how it happens.

## LONGSTANDING PARTNERSHIP WITH EDUCATORS, STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

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Since 1900, the College Board has been dedicated to educational opportunity and achievement, innovation, equity and excellence for generations of students.

For over 100 years, the College Board has partnered with schools, districts and states to help implement rigorous curriculum and instruction and create a college-going culture. We empower teachers, counselors and administrators with research-based assessments, instructional support and best practices. And we advocate for students, families and communities to ensure that all children — regardless of race, income or geography — have the opportunity to prepare for, enroll in and graduate from college.

Our work falls broadly into three categories: College Readiness; College Connection and Success; and Advocacy.

The College Board is driven by a single goal — to ensure that every student has the opportunity to prepare for, enroll in and graduate from college.

### College Readiness

College Board College Readiness initiatives promote curricula, assessment tools and district and guidance resources that help prepare students for the academic rigors of higher education. For example, the PSAT/NMSQT® and the SAT® measure the critical reading, mathematics and writing skills needed for success in college, while the Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) offers high-school students access to rigorous college-level courses in a range of subject areas.

### College Connection and Success

The College Board provides resources, tools and services to students, families, counselors, colleges and universities in the areas of college planning, recruitment and admissions, financial aid and retention. The SAT®, a trusted measure of the academic skills fundamental for postsecondary success, and Student Search Service® programs have helped millions of students of diverse backgrounds learn about college, apply and enroll.

### Advocacy

The College Board invests in the future of America's students by building critical connections between policy, research and real-world experience to drive systemic reform in education. Our College Board Advocacy & Policy Center focuses on three critical areas:

- > **College Preparation and Access** We develop evidence-based tools and resources to help educators build a college-ready culture of high expectations and achievement. We also work to raise awareness of the value and contributions of teachers and school counselors who work directly with students, their families and communities.
- > **College Affordability and Financial Aid** We offer recommendations to improve and simplify the financial aid system so that enrollment and participation in college is possible for all students. We also provide institutions and policymakers with data on the current and long-term trends of college prices and financial aid.
- > **College Admission and Completion** We advance evidence-based practices and policies to increase postsecondary attainment, particularly among students from low-income and minority backgrounds, and underserved schools and districts.

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## A Deep Commitment to Research and Validation

At the core of the College Board's mission is a relentless pursuit of quality and validity in our assessments and educational initiatives. The ongoing work of our Research and Development team provides data-based solutions to important education questions and applies research-based procedure to develop improvements to current assessments, as well as design new assessments and educational tools.

School leaders can be confident that when implementing any College Board assessment, program or resource it has been developed, researched and proven to have the greatest impact on student success.

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## Membership-Driven Organization

More than 6,000 school districts, two- and four-year colleges, universities, nonprofit organizations and government agencies in every U.S. state and territory and around the world are part of the College Board. Members create critical connections between policy, research and real-world practice to develop innovative solutions to the most pressing challenges in education today.

Representatives from member institutions serve on national and regional assemblies, committees and on the Board of Trustees. Their efforts in governing the association, influencing the development of College Board programs and services and participating in advocacy initiatives help to ensure that all students have the opportunity to be successful in college and in life.

To learn more about the College Board or to become a member visit [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org).



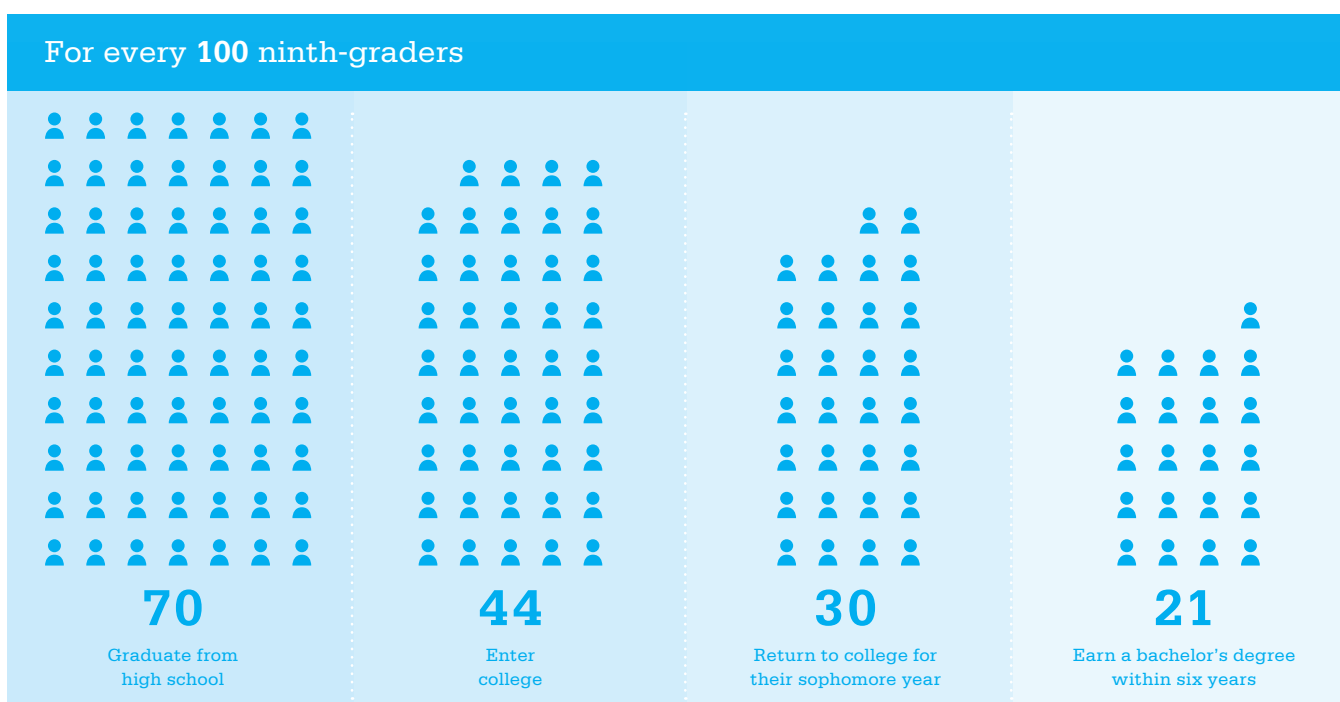
Why do we fight so hard for education? Because of one simple belief: when more people achieve higher levels of education, the whole world benefits.

# COLLEGE READINESS

BUILDING THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, BEHAVIORS AND AWARENESS FOR SUCCESS

Today's students face a world influenced by a global economy, technological advances and rapid changes in the way we share information, communicate and conduct business. It has never been more critical to help them build the knowledge, skills, behaviors and awareness necessary to succeed in college and beyond.

Improving postsecondary success for all our citizens, but most urgently for low-income and minority students, is vital to our nation's economic and social health, and global competitiveness. Yet, college remediation and completion rates suggest that many students leave high school without the skills and knowledge required to succeed in postsecondary education.



Source: The National Center for Higher Education Management Systems Progress and Completion data

## What Is College Readiness?

A student is college ready when he or she has the knowledge, skills, behaviors and cultural awareness to successfully complete a college course of study—without the need for remediation. To be college ready, students need high proficiency levels in four key areas:

- > **Knowledge** Key content mastery, including the foundational academic skills such as reading and writing, and the core content of math and the sciences
- > **Skills** Key cognitive strategies and processes such as problem solving, research precision and accuracy
- > **Behaviors** Self-awareness and self-management skills such as goal setting, persistence, study skills, time management and collaborative learning
- > **Awareness** Knowledge of college admission requirements, the ability to select a college that fits interests and abilities, and understanding of how to navigate college, including relationships with professors and peers

## Pathways to College Readiness

Cultivating college readiness calls for research-validated programs and resources that support teachers, students and families. The College Board has developed a flexible, integrated suite of assessments, curricula and professional development resources that help to ensure all students succeed.

The College Board also recognizes that students will traverse different paths to success. Some will need remediation and additional practice in order to achieve academically; others will be ready for college-level course work in high school. Regardless of the path, the College Board’s programs and resources can support states, districts and schools in their important mission of preparing students for the future.



“The college-ready student is able to understand what is expected in a college course, can cope with the content knowledge that is presented and can take away from the course the key intellectual lessons and dispositions the course was designed to convey and develop.”

— **Dr. David Conley**  
 Professor; Director, Center for Educational Policy Research,  
 University of Oregon

# COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

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The Common Core State Standards have been designed to provide a rigorous learning platform that prepares our nation's students to perform in the classroom, to succeed in college and to prosper in their careers and in life.

The College Board has been a consistent advocate and committed collaborator in the development of Common Core State Standards. In fact, our research informed the drafting of the standards and our experts helped guide the standards development process.

Through an ongoing partnership with states, districts and schools, we can work together to achieve the rigorous requirements set forth by the Common Core Standards, and to align today's classroom experiences to better meet our students' future needs.

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## Putting Our Proven Portfolio to Work

The College Board provides a comprehensive range of research-based, proven-to-work assessments, curriculum and resources to help states, districts and schools implement the Common Core State Standards.

### Rigorous Assessments

The College Board's College Readiness Assessment Pathway is a series of integrated diagnostic tools — ReadinessStep™, PSAT/NMSQT and SAT — that measure a student's college readiness from the 8th through 12th grades. When these assessments are used as a comprehensive solution, they systematically and progressively measure students' reading, writing and mathematical knowledge and skills and provide a path to college readiness.

### Challenging Curriculum and Instruction

SpringBoard® is the research-based English Language Arts and Mathematics curriculum for grades 6–12. Students are exposed to rigorous instruction that builds critical thinking skills and leads to success in college-level courses, including Advanced Placement® classes.

### State and District Reform

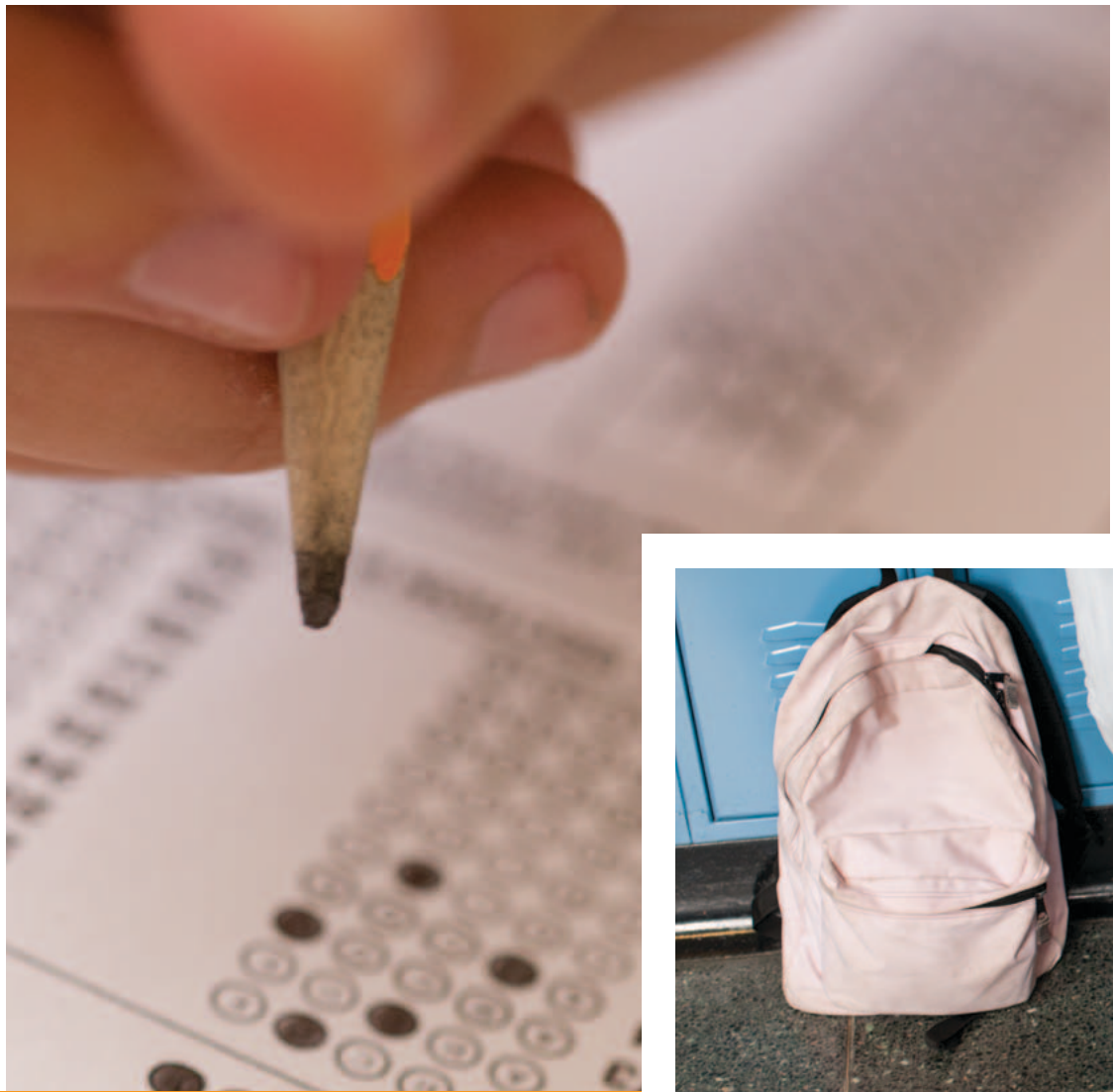
The College Board's two unique advisory services help states and districts create capacity to implement the Common Core Standards and establish a commitment to college readiness for all students. Standards and Curriculum Alignment Services helps determine the degree of alignment between current state standards and the Common Core, while EXCEerator™ focuses on improving college readiness at the district level through a multiphase diagnostic and implementation process.

## Committed to the Common Core

Recent alignment studies confirm that ReadinessStep, PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, SpringBoard and AP support the goals of the Common Core State Standards. States and districts can confidently integrate these assessments and programs into their implementation of the Common Core State Standards.

To learn more visit [collegeboard.org/commoncore](http://collegeboard.org/commoncore).





## Assessments

### IDENTIFYING AND MEASURING PERFORMANCE TOWARD COLLEGE READINESS

#### OVERVIEW

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- 12 College and Career Readiness Pathway
- 16 ReadiStep™
- 18 PSAT/NMSQT®
- 26 SAT®
- 36 SAT Subject Tests™
- 38 ACCUPLACER®
- 40 College-Level Examination Program® (CLEP®)
- 42 Fee Waivers and Fee Reductions
- 44 Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD)

The College Board's suite of **assessments** offers insightful, **grade-appropriate feedback** about student achievement and **growth**. When used together, the tests can help educators **identify and manage** the **curricular modifications** students may need as they progress from middle school through high school, ensuring that every student **graduates** from high school **prepared for success** in college and beyond.



## COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS PATHWAY

MEASURING THE SKILLS CRITICAL FOR SUCCESS

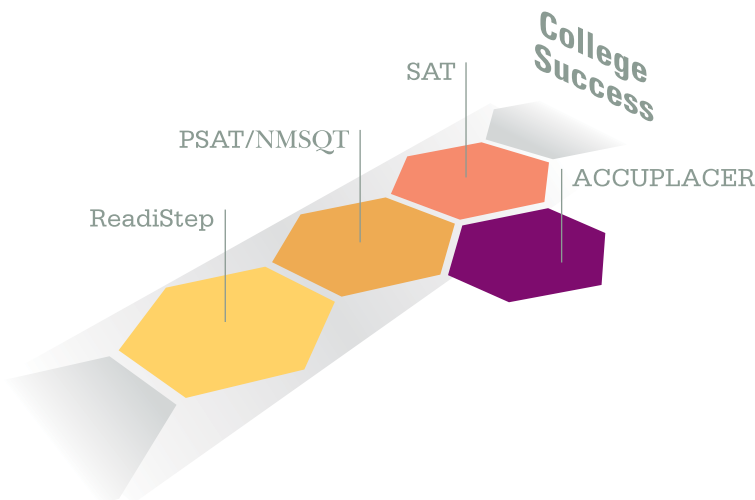
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The College and Career Readiness Pathway is a series of integrated assessments — ReadiStep, PSAT/NMSQT, and SAT — that measure a student’s college and career readiness from the 8th through 12th grades. When these assessments are used as a comprehensive solution, they systematically and progressively measure the reading, writing and mathematical knowledge and skills that are critical for success.

The feedback and tools within the Pathway also help students improve their skills and enable immediate academic intervention by teachers to enhance learning, important in the drive to ensure college and career readiness for all students.

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### Four Assessments: One Powerful Tool



#### **ReadiStep: Intervening Early**

##### **Grades 8–9**

Offering early feedback to help students identify the skills they need to be college ready.

#### **PSAT/NMSQT: Identifying Opportunity**

##### **Grades 10–11**

Identifying potential success in AP and areas of opportunity for improved college readiness.

#### **SAT: Providing College Access**

##### **Grades 11–12**

Providing insight into a student’s level of college readiness and potential success upon high school graduation.

#### **ACCUPLACER: Reducing Remediation in Higher Education**

##### **Grades 11–12+**

Offering online diagnostics, intervention and placement that assesses students’ academic skills in an immediate and accurate way.

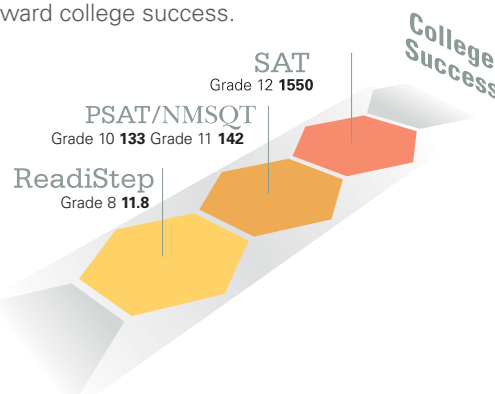
# COLLEGE READINESS BENCHMARK

ENSURING STUDENTS ARE ON A PATH TO SUCCESS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Based on rigorous research, the College Readiness Benchmarks for ReadiStep, PSAT/NMSQT and SAT help secondary-school educators and administrators measure the college readiness of groups of students. Schools and districts can use these benchmarks to determine what proportion of their student body is on track for college, beginning in the eighth grade. Schools can also identify students who may need extra support while there is still time for improvement, as well as find students who may be ready for more rigorous course work.

## Continuum of College Readiness

The Benchmarks for ReadiStep, PSAT/NMSQT and SAT give secondary school educators and administrators a cohesive way to measure, monitor and help direct student progress toward college success.

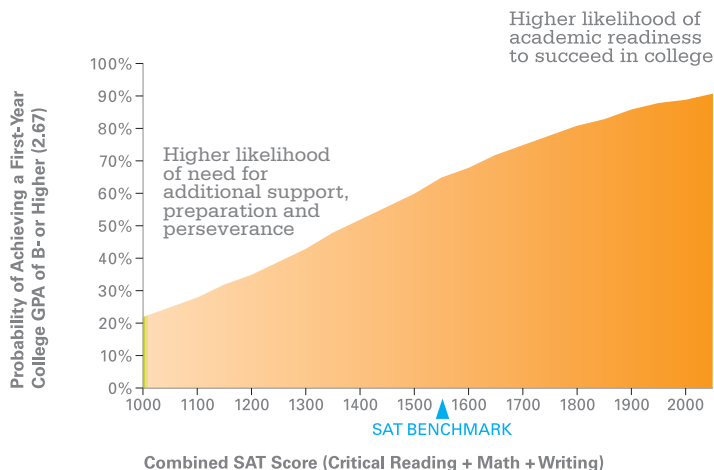


**For eighth-graders**, the ReadiStep benchmark is the score associated with a 50 percent likelihood of achieving the 10th grade PSAT/NMSQT benchmark.

**For sophomores and juniors** taking the PSAT/NMSQT, the benchmark is the score associated with a 65 percent likelihood of achieving a B- average or higher during the first year of college. Note that the benchmark values are different for 10th- and 11th-graders as each group's benchmark is calculated separately.

**For juniors or seniors**, the SAT Benchmark is a score of 1550 (critical reading, mathematics and writing sections combined) that indicates a 65 percent likelihood of achieving a B- average or higher during the first year of college.

It is important to note that college readiness is a continuum, and students who score below the SAT Benchmark may still be successful in college, especially with additional preparation and perseverance.



## COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS PATHWAY AT A GLANCE

	ReadiStep	PSAT/NMSQT	SAT	ACCUPLACER
<b>Recommended Testing Grades</b>	8–9	10–11	11–12	11–12+
<b>Target Students</b>	All students	All students	All students	At-risk students entering 2- and 4- year institutions
<b>2012–2013 Test Dates</b>	October 17–31, 2012	October 17, 2012 October 20, 2012	October 6, 2012 November 3, 2012 December 1, 2012 January 26, 2013 March 9, 2013 May 4, 2013 June 1, 2013  <b>SAT School Day:</b> October 17, 2012 February 27, 2013 April 17, 2013	Throughout the school year
<b>Testing Time</b>	2 hours	2 hours and 10 minutes	3 hours and 45 minutes	Untimed
<b>Content Tested</b>	Critical reading, mathematics and writing skills	Critical reading, mathematics and writing skills	Critical reading, mathematics and writing skills	Critical reading, mathematics and writing skills
<b>Identifies Skills to Inform Curriculum/ Instruction</b>	Summary of Answers and Skills (SOAS) Report  ReadiStep Skills Insight™	Summary of Answers and Skills (SOAS) Report  PSAT/NMSQT Skills Insight™  AP Potential™	SAT Skills Insight™	ACCUPLACER Diagnostics  ACCUPLACER®// MyFoundationsLab®
<b>Helps Students Improve Skills</b>	Student Score Report  ReadiStep Skills Insight	Score Report <i>Plus</i>  PSAT/NMSQT Skills Insight	SAT Skills Insight	ACCUPLACER Diagnostics  ACCUPLACER// MyFoundationsLab  Official ACCUPLACER Study App for iPhone
<b>Supports College and Career Planning</b>	MyRoad™	My College QuickStart™  Student Search Service	Student Search Service	ACCUPLACER Diagnostics  ACCUPLACER// MyFoundationsLab  Official ACCUPLACER Study App for iPhone
<b>Learn More</b>	<a href="http://collegeboard.org/readistep">collegeboard.org/readistep</a>	<a href="http://collegeboard.org/psat">collegeboard.org/psat</a>	<a href="http://collegeboard.org/sat">collegeboard.org/sat</a>	<a href="http://collegeboard.org/accuplacer">collegeboard.org/accuplacer</a>

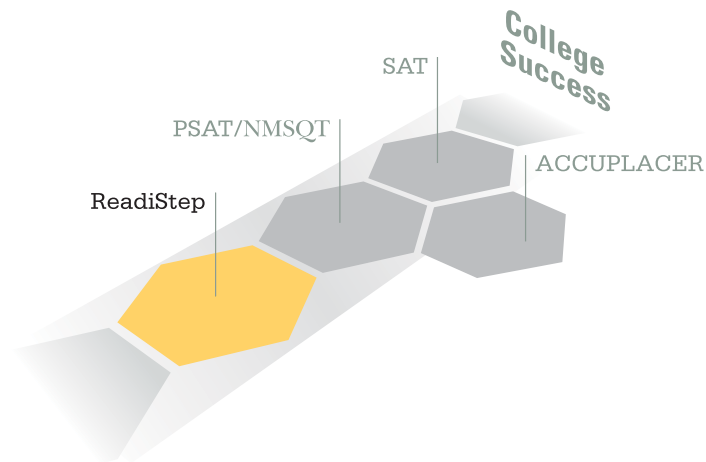


## READISTEP

OFFERING EARLY INSIGHT INTO ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Grades 8–9

ReadiStep is a middle grades assessment that measures the skills students need to be on track for college success. Together, ReadiStep, PSAT/NMSQT and SAT measure a progression of skills and help middle and high school educators work collaboratively to improve student learning.



### Benefits for Your Students

- > **Early Academic Feedback:** ReadiStep results help students understand their strengths, as well as the academic skills that may need work as they transition into high school.
- > **College and Career Planning:** Each ReadiStep test-taker receives free access to MyRoad, an online resource that includes a personality profiler, overviews of 65+ academic fields and more to help middle school students begin to explore college and career opportunities that fit their interests. Learn more at [collegeboard.org/myroad](https://collegeboard.org/myroad).



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## Supporting the Transition from Middle School to High School

ReadiStep offers early insight into students' academic progress that enables educators to help students create a road map for success. This data identifies areas where students excel and helps teachers and students identify skills that require further development. ReadiStep can help schools begin to measure college readiness, inform course selection and support students' transition from middle to high school.

- > **Actionable Data on Academic Performance** Reports at the student, school and district levels show how each student is performing in key academic areas. Specifically, the Summary of Answers and Skills Report will help administrators to identify and close performance gaps, while teachers can use this information to guide instruction and curriculum development.
- > **Inform Course Selection** ReadiStep results help identify students who are ready for more rigorous work in high school, such as AP courses, or those who may be in need of remediation.
- > **College Readiness Benchmarks** College and career readiness benchmarks indicate whether students are on track to have the skills needed for success in college and beyond while there is still time to make necessary adjustments and target academic areas that may need attention. When used in conjunction with the PSAT/NMSQT and SAT, these benchmarks allow educators to monitor progress toward college readiness from middle school through high school.
- > **Standards Alignment Reports** Alignment reports detail how the critical reading, math and writing skills assessed by ReadiStep help schools target key skills in their state's curriculum.

Learn more at [collegeboard.org/readistep](http://collegeboard.org/readistep).

### ReadiStep at a Glance

**Recommended Testing Grades:** 8–9

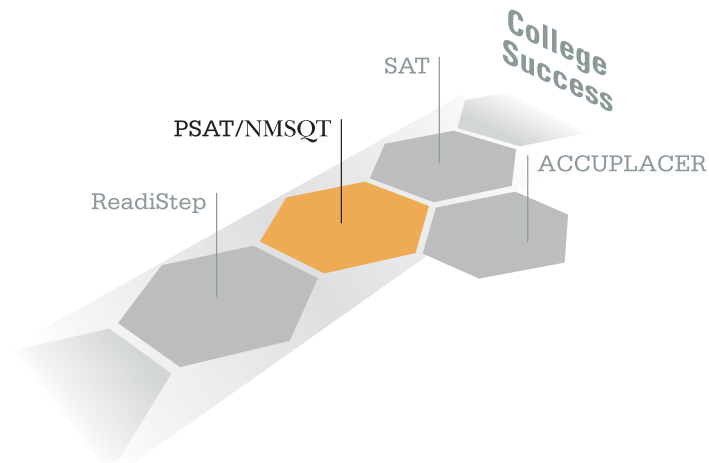
**Target Students:** All students

**Test Dates:** October 17–31, 2012

**Testing Time:** 2 hours

**Content Tested:** Critical reading, math and writing skills

The PSAT/NMSQT is a comprehensive program that helps put students on the path to college, while offering schools and districts robust data and tools to measure college readiness. The PSAT/NMSQT measures the critical reading, mathematics and writing skills students need to succeed in college and beyond. Each year more than 3.5 million students participate in the PSAT/NMSQT, making it an important step on the path to college.



## Benefits for Your Students

- > **Personal Academic Performance Outlook** The PSAT/NMSQT Score Report *Plus* gives students comprehensive, personalized feedback on their test performance, allowing them to see which questions they answered incorrectly and which academic skills they should work to improve.
- > **College Planning Tools** My College QuickStart™, an online personalized college- and career-planning kit that is available free with the PSAT/NMSQT, helps students search for colleges, explore majors and careers, get a personalized SAT study plan and view their AP Potential. Students can access My College QuickStart until they graduate from high school. Learn more at [collegeboard.org/quickstart](https://collegeboard.org/quickstart).
- > **Scholarship Opportunities** The PSAT/NMSQT provides entry into National Merit Scholarship Corporation competitions, as well as other scholarship and recognition programs.
- > **SAT Preparation** On average, students who take the PSAT/NMSQT score 145 points higher on the SAT than those who do not, and students who take the PSAT/NMSQT more than once earn even higher SAT scores.
- > **Information from Colleges** Through the Student Search Service (SSS®), PSAT/NMSQT participants can receive free admission and financial aid information from colleges, universities and scholarship programs, helping students start to think about and explore higher education opportunities.

## Ensuring All Students Are College Ready

Offering the PSAT/NMSQT to all students helps to build a college-going culture, spark college-going aspirations and introduce students to opportunities available after high school. The PSAT/NMSQT also provides schools and districts with important college readiness benchmarks and data that can help identify students who may need extra support or find those students who are ready for more rigorous course work.

- > **Actionable Data to Improve Academic Achievement** The PSAT/NMSQT Summary of Answers and Skills (SOAS) report and Skills Insight tool allow educators to take a closer look at students' scores and skill performance. These tools can help counselors identify remediation efforts to improve learning and assist teachers in making adjustments to curricula and instructional practices.
- > **Expose More Students to Rigorous AP Courses** AP Potential™ is an easy-to-use, free online tool that identifies students likely to succeed in AP (score a 3 or higher on a given AP Exam). Based on research that shows strong correlations between PSAT/NMSQT scores and AP Exam results, AP Potential is designed to help your school expand access to rigorous AP courses and to ensure that no student who has the chance of succeeding in AP is overlooked.

These studies show that PSAT/NMSQT scores are a strong predictor of students' AP Exam scores, in addition to traditional factors such as high school grades, grades in previous same-discipline course work and the number of same-discipline courses a student has taken. For more information, visit [collegeboard.org/appotential](http://collegeboard.org/appotential).

- > **Align to Standards** Alignment reports detail how the critical reading, math and writing skills assessed by the PSAT/NMSQT help schools target key skills in their state's curriculum.

Learn more at [collegeboard.org/psateducator](http://collegeboard.org/psateducator).

### PSAT/NMSQT at a Glance

**Recommended Testing Grades:** 10–11

**Target Students:** All students

**Test Dates:** October 17, 2012  
October 20, 2012

**Testing Time:** 2 hours and 10 minutes

**Content Tested:** Critical reading, math and writing skills



# SUCCESS STORY

## The Power of PSAT/NMSQT in Hillsborough, Florida

In 2000, Florida passed *1007.35: Florida Partnership for Minority and Underrepresented Student Achievement*, stipulating that a precollege entrance exam be made available to all 10th-grade students for free. With the success of the 10th-grade program, Hillsborough County Public Schools subsidized the ninth-grade PSAT/NMSQT as well.

After all ninth-grade students had free access to the test, AP enrollment increased significantly, as schools were able to use PSAT/NMSQT data to identify AP-qualified students more systematically, earlier in the process and with greater precision. In 2008-09, the district also began paying for the PSAT/NMSQT for 11th-grade students to address waning junior year participation.

In addition to increasing the number of students participating, this free testing has helped enhance the value of the College Board's AP Potential™ tool in Hillsborough County. A free, Web-based resource, AP Potential uses PSAT/NMSQT results to identify students capable of succeeding in rigorous AP courses.

### **Increasing AP Achievement and Student Success**

From 2008 to 2010, Hillsborough achieved the largest increase in the number of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher of any school district in the nation, an increase of 1,814 students. In the same time period, Hillsborough increased student participation in AP courses and exams by an annual rate of 19 percent.

Using a customized college readiness strategy, Hillsborough County has effectively engaged students, parents and teachers in ways that have dramatically accelerated student achievement.

“At every grade level, the PSAT/NMSQT has become an expected part of the overall college readiness process.”

— **Patricia Smith**, counselor consultant,  
Hillsborough County Public Schools



## PSAT/NMSQT List of Academic Skills

The PSAT/NMSQT and other assessments in the Pathway measure the following critical reading, mathematics and writing skills that have been developed through years of instruction in a wide range of courses.

### Critical Reading Skills

#### Determining the Meanings of Words

Use vocabulary skills, context, roots, prefixes and suffixes to determine the meanings of words.

#### Author's Craft

Understand how authors use tone, style and writing devices such as metaphor or symbolism.

#### Reasoning and Inference

Understand assumptions, suggestions and implications in reading passages and draw informed conclusions.

#### Organization and Ideas

Understand the organization of a reading passage, and identify the main and supporting ideas.

#### Understanding Literary Elements

Understand literary elements such as plot, setting and characterization.

### Mathematics

#### Number and Operations

Understand types of numbers (integers, fractions, decimals), their properties and the correct order of operations (addition, multiplication, division).  
Perform computations correctly.

#### Algebra and Functions

Solve problems using algebraic expressions and symbols to represent relationships, patterns and functions of different types.

#### Geometry and Measurement

Solve problems based on understanding the properties of shapes, such as triangles and circles, and the spatial relationships between angles and lines.

#### Data, Statistics and Probability

Analyze data, understand descriptive statistics, make inferences and determine the likelihood that certain events will occur.

#### Problem Solving

Solve abstract and practical problems by applying and adapting a variety of strategies. Monitor progress and evaluate answers in terms of questions asked.

#### Representation

Use and translate among representations including verbal, numerical, symbolic and graphical to communicate mathematical ideas and solve problems.

#### Reasoning

Develop and use mathematical arguments and proofs to explore the truth of conjectures and justify conclusions.

#### Connections

Connect ideas from different areas of mathematics (particularly geometry and algebra) to state or solve abstract or applied problems.

#### Communication

Express mathematical ideas precisely and communicate them coherently and clearly in the language and notation of mathematics.

### Writing Skills

#### Manage Word Choice and Grammatical Relationships Between Words

Understand relationships between and among words, including subject–verb agreement, pronoun reference, and verb form and tense.

#### Manage Grammatical Structures Used to Modify or Compare

Understand correct use of adjectives or adverbs, comparative structures (such as neither and nor) and phrases used to modify or compare.

#### Manage Phrases and Clauses in a Sentence

Use well-formed sentence structures (e.g., parallelism, connectives and relative clauses) to indicate relationships between and among sentence elements.

#### Recognize Correctly Formed Sentences

Recognize correct sentence structure.

#### Manage Order and Relationships of Sentences and Paragraphs

Identify how to order the elements of a sentence or paragraph to improve clarity, meaning and the progression of ideas.

## Using PSAT/NMSQT Scores to Estimate SAT Scores

The PSAT/NMSQT includes the same critical reading, mathematics and writing multiple-choice questions as the SAT (though the PSAT/NMSQT writing section does not have an essay component like the SAT). These similarities are intentional, as the PSAT/NMSQT is designed to get students ready for the SAT.

It is possible to estimate from a student's PSAT/NMSQT score the SAT score range where a student may expect to fall. Two times out of three, 11th-graders will earn SAT scores within the predicted SAT ranges; actual scores earned may be higher or lower than these estimates.

Students who wish to improve their estimated performance on the SAT should:

- > Develop academic skills through rigorous course work;
- > Read extensively and develop strong writing skills; and
- > Take a practice test and continue to become more comfortable with the format of the SAT.

For more information about how you can help your students prepare for the SAT, visit pages 30–31.

## Estimated 11th-Grade SAT Scores from 11th-Grade PSAT/NMSQT Scores

PSAT/NMSQT Score	SAT Critical Reading Range	SAT Math Range	SAT Writing Range
20	240–310	230–290	240–310
21	240–320	230–300	250–320
22	250–320	240–310	250–320
23	250–330	250–320	260–330
24	260–340	250–320	270–340
25	270–350	260–330	270–350
26	270–350	270–340	280–360
27	280–360	270–350	290–370
28	290–370	280–360	300–370
29	300–380	290–370	310–380
30	310–390	300–380	310–390
31	310–390	310–390	320–400
32	320–400	320–390	330–410
33	330–410	330–400	340–420
34	340–420	340–410	350–430
35	350–430	350–420	360–430
36	360–440	360–430	370–440
37	370–440	360–440	370–450
38	380–450	370–450	380–460
39	380–460	380–460	390–470
40	390–470	390–470	400–480
41	400–480	400–470	410–490
42	410–480	410–480	420–500
43	420–490	420–490	430–500
44	430–500	430–500	430–510
45	440–510	440–510	440–520
46	450–520	450–520	450–530
47	460–530	460–530	460–540
48	460–540	460–540	470–550
49	470–540	470–550	480–560
50	480–550	480–550	480–560

PSAT/NMSQT Score	SAT Critical Reading Range	SAT Math Range	SAT Writing Range
51	490–560	490–560	490–570
52	500–570	500–570	500–580
53	510–580	510–580	510–590
54	520–590	520–590	520–600
55	530–600	530–600	530–610
56	540–600	540–610	530–610
57	550–610	550–620	540–620
58	560–620	560–630	550–630
59	560–630	570–630	560–640
60	570–640	570–640	570–650
61	580–650	580–650	580–650
62	590–600	590–660	580–660
63	600–670	600–670	590–670
64	610–680	610–680	600–680
65	620–690	620–690	610–690
66	630–700	630–700	620–690
67	640–710	640–710	620–700
68	650–720	650–720	630–710
69	660–720	660–730	640–720
70	670–730	670–730	650–720
71	680–740	680–740	650–730
72	690–750	690–750	660–740
73	700–760	700–760	670–740
74	710–770	700–760	670–750
75	720–770	710–770	680–750
76	730–780	720–770	690–760
77	740–780	730–780	690–760
78	740–790	730–780	700–770
79	750–790	740–790	710–770
80	750–790	750–790	710–770

## National Merit Scholarship



TIP

Detailed information about entry requirements, program recognition and scholarships may be found in the *Official Student Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT* (sent to PSAT/NMSQT Coordinators), in NMSC program publications (sent to high school principals in September) and at [nationalmerit.org](http://nationalmerit.org).

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) is an independent, not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance. NMSC conducts two annual competitions for recognition and scholarships. The 2012 PSAT/NMSQT is the entry vehicle for NMSC's 2014 programs. NMSC uses the PSAT/NMSQT Selection Index (the sum of the critical reading, mathematics and writing skills scores) as an initial screen of program entrants and to designate groups of students to receive recognition.

### National Merit Scholarship Program

The National Merit Scholarship Program is open to all students who meet entry requirements. Each year, some 1.5 million high school students enter the competition, 50,000 are recognized for their academic potential and 9,600 win Merit Scholarship awards or Special Scholarships for college undergraduate study. Students who qualify for recognition in the National Merit Program are notified through their schools in September.

### National Achievement Scholarship Program

The National Achievement Program is an academic competition in which only Black American high school students participate. More than 160,000 students enter each annual competition, 4,700 participants receive recognition and some 800 win Achievement Scholarship awards. Students who qualify for recognition in the National Achievement Program are notified through their schools in September.

## Student Entry Requirements

To participate in the National Merit Scholarship Program, a student must:

- ▶ Take the PSAT/NMSQT in the specified year of the high school program and no later than the third year in grades 9 through 12, *regardless of grade classification or educational pattern*.
- ▶ Be enrolled as a high school student, progressing normally toward graduation or completion of high school, and planning to enroll full-time in college no later than the fall following completion of high school.
- ▶ Be a citizen of the United States, or be a U.S. lawful permanent resident (or have applied for permanent residence, the application for which has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law.

For the National Achievement Scholarship Program a student must also mark Section 14 on the PSAT/NMSQT answer sheet if applicable, thereby identifying himself or herself as a Black American.

## PSAT/NMSQT Resources

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**AP Potential** A free Web-based tool that allows schools to generate rosters of students who are likely to score a 3 or higher on a given AP Exam.  
[collegeboard.org/appotential](https://collegeboard.org/appotential)

**Downloadable Resources** Parent, student and teacher resources provide information on the benefits of, and preparing for, the PSAT/NMSQT.  
[collegeboard.org/psatdownloads](https://collegeboard.org/psatdownloads)

**Fee Waivers** Juniors who are unable to pay test fees themselves may be eligible for fee waivers from the College Board.  
[collegeboard.org/psatfeewaiver](https://collegeboard.org/psatfeewaiver)

**My College QuickStart** An online college and career planning kit available free to all students who take the PSAT/NMSQT.  
[collegeboard.org/quickstart](https://collegeboard.org/quickstart)

**Official Educator Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT** An overview of important dates and deadlines, tools for interpreting results, handouts for families and more.  
[collegeboard.org/psateducator](https://collegeboard.org/psateducator)

**PSAT/NMSQT Alignments** Alignment reports providing information on how the skills tested on the PSAT/NMSQT complement your state's education standards.  
[collegeboard.org/psatalignments](https://collegeboard.org/psatalignments)

**PSAT/NMSQT Ordering** An Education Professional account offers access to many College Board programs and services, including PSAT/NMSQT Ordering.  
[collegeboard.org/school](https://collegeboard.org/school)

**Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD)** Appropriate accommodations are provided to allow students with disabilities an equal opportunity to take College Board tests.  
[collegeboard.org/ssd](https://collegeboard.org/ssd)

**Skills Insight** A free online tool designed to help students and teachers gain a better understanding of how students' scores relate to specific academic skills.  
[collegeboard.org/psatskills](https://collegeboard.org/psatskills)

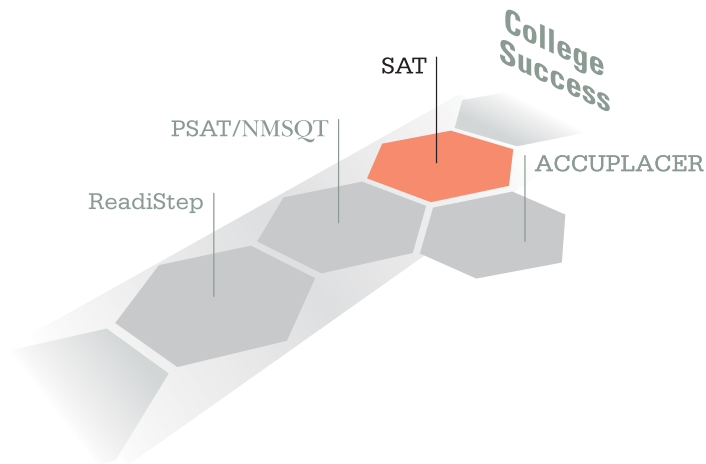
**Summary of Answers and Skills (SOAS) Report** A tool that offers a detailed look at students' scores and skill performance to help schools make adjustments to curricula and instructional practices.  
[collegeboard.org/psatreports](https://collegeboard.org/psatreports)



The SAT is a benchmark college entrance assessment designed to test what students are learning in school today — the content of the SAT has evolved to keep current with high school curricula. The SAT measures knowledge learned in the classroom, including reading, writing and math, and how well students can apply that knowledge. The SAT delivers insight to colleges on how a student thinks, communicates and solves problems.

Each year, more than two million students take the SAT. Nearly every college or university in the U.S. uses SAT scores because the SAT is the most researched standardized admission test and the standard in reliability and validity.

The SAT is also one of the best predictors of college success. Research shows that the SAT, along with high school grades, is the most effective way to determine whether a student is likely to do well in college.



## Benefits for Your Students

- > **A Trusted Measure of College Readiness** Since its launch in 1926, the SAT remains the most reliable, effective way students can demonstrate they are college ready. The SAT tests the subject matter learned in high school and how well students apply that knowledge — the critical thinking skills necessary to succeed in college. Nearly every college in the U.S. accepts the SAT as an objective measurement of students' college readiness.
- > **Connects Students to Colleges and Universities** Through the Student Search Service (SSS), SAT participants can receive free admission and financial aid information from colleges, universities and scholarship programs, helping students explore higher education opportunities.
- > **Fair for All Students** The SAT is carefully designed to be fair for all students across genders and ethnicity groups. After rigorous research and analysis, each question on the SAT goes through an extensive review process with students in all 50 states to ensure that it is fair and unbiased, and that it appropriately tests classroom material. There are no tricks designed to trip students up. Students who do well in the classroom are often the same ones who will do well on the SAT.

## Helping All Students Prepare for Higher Education

### SAT School Day

The College Board offers states and districts the option of hosting the SAT during a school day. The SAT School Day, offered in the fall, the winter, and the spring, helps states and districts foster a college-going culture and increases access to college, especially among first-generation college-bound students. It also sends a powerful message of a state's or a district's commitment to prepare all students for the next step after high school.

Districts and states that offer the SAT to every student help to create new opportunities for students to achieve their aspirations for higher education. The SAT can be an important tool for assessing students' mastery of state standards in mathematics, reading and writing and evaluating a school or district's educational policies and programs to determine how well they are serving all of their students.

- > **SAT Skills Insight** Educators can use Skills Insight to see the skills typically mastered at each score band and develop strategies for improvement. It also provides a clear framework for integrating essential academic skill insights into classroom instruction and curriculum to increase college readiness.

Skills Insight provides detailed information on the academic skills related to students' scores, real test questions and answers and suggestions by score band to help improve college readiness skills that are needed to succeed on the SAT, in the classroom and in higher education.

- > **Actionable Data** Schools and districts can choose from a range of reports that provide valuable information about a school's senior class, monitor the college readiness of students, deliver important information to key educational stakeholders and implement effective curricular planning when the data is used in conjunction with SAT Skills Insight.

School counselors can also utilize the online SAT Counselor Registration Report to monitor who registered, tested, used a waiver and more.

For more information on the SAT, visit [collegeboard.org/sateducator](http://collegeboard.org/sateducator).

### SAT at a Glance

**Recommended Testing Grades:** 11–12

**Target Students:** All students

**Test Dates:** October 6, 2012  
November 3, 2012  
December 1, 2012  
January 26, 2013  
March 9, 2013  
May 4, 2013  
June 1, 2013

**SAT School Day:**

October 17, 2012  
February 27, 2013  
April 17, 2013

**Testing Time:** 3 hours and 45 minutes

**Content Tested:** Assesses knowledge learned in high school and problem solving skills in critical reading, mathematics and writing



# SUCCESS STORY

## SAT School Day Fosters a College-Going Culture

With the Delaware Department of Education's support, districts were able to demonstrate the state's commitment to the SAT as a weekday option. As a result, there was a cultural shift.

"The impact of the SAT [School Day] test was amazing. It helped to change the children's attitudes toward their future. Knowing the test would be offered in their home school, and on a regular school day, made them feel that they were capable of great things. It truly inspired achievement. They now know that someone believes in them.

Teachers witnessed how seriously the students took this opportunity, which inspired them as well."

— **Marian Wolak**, Director, Curriculum,  
Delaware Department of Education



"For many of our students, the SAT [School Day] opened their eyes to their potential. But they would not have taken the test had it not been brought to our campus."

— **Rick Nolly**, Principal



## Preparing Students for the SAT

Preparing for the SAT is an important step on students' path toward higher education. To support your school or district, the College Board provides the SAT Readiness Program, an integrated system of free and low-cost print materials, online services and teacher workshops.

The SAT Readiness Program makes valuable preparation available to students of all abilities and backgrounds. Schools can select individual components to augment existing programs or use them to build a new SAT preparation program.

### Begin with a Rigorous Curriculum

Keep in mind that the foundation of a student's SAT and college preparation is a rigorous curriculum of English, mathematics, science, history and other academic subjects. Students should read extensively and develop good writing skills.

### Encourage Students to Take the PSAT/NMSQT

The best practice for the SAT is the PSAT/NMSQT. It covers the same topics under similar test conditions, and provides students with an interactive score report and personalized SAT study plan. Learn more about the PSAT/NMSQT on pages 18–25.

### Create a Comprehensive SAT Preparation Course

The Official SAT Teacher's Guide enables teachers to create a comprehensive SAT preparation course. Teachers can also incorporate these skills into their regular instruction. Learn more or order the guide at [collegeboard.org/satteacherguide](https://collegeboard.org/satteacherguide).

### Incorporate Professional Development Opportunities

The College Board offers a series of engaging and informative workshops for teachers on SAT preparation topics. These workshops will help you improve students' writing skills and prepare students for the test and college success. Teachers can also earn CEU (Continuing Education Unit) credits. Learn more about SAT professional development opportunities on page 66.

The SAT measures knowledge learned in the classroom, including reading, writing and math, and how students can apply that knowledge. The most effective way for students to prepare for the test is to take challenging and rigorous courses.



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## Introducing Students to *Free SAT Preparation* Resources

The College Board provides several free resources to help students prepare for the SAT. Learn more at [collegeboard.org/satpractice](https://collegeboard.org/satpractice).

### **SAT Online Practice**

The SAT student website features free practice resources such as SAT test directions, sample questions, test-taking approaches and an official practice test.

### **Official SAT Practice Test**

A full-length practice SAT test is available online for students with immediate scoring capability. The test includes an essay section and students can choose to print out the test for a paper version.

### **The Official SAT Question of the Day™**

Students can find a free daily practice SAT question online or receive it by email. Hints and detailed answer explanations are provided for each question. Students can record their performance and track their progress on mathematics, critical reading and writing questions.

### **SAT Skills Insight**

SAT Skills Insight is an online tool that is beneficial to all students before and after they take the SAT. It shows students the academic skills that are tested on the SAT and gives them the confidence and motivation to reach their desired score.

### **Getting Ready for the SAT**

This downloadable booklet contains important information about the SAT, the types of questions on each section and how to prepare for test day.

## **Additional SAT Preparation Tools Available for Purchase**

### **The Official SAT Online Course™**

The SAT Online Course is personalized, comprehensive and available 24 hours a day from any computer connected to the Internet. Students will find interactive instruction, official practice tests and immediate essay scoring. Get more information at [collegeboard.org/satonlinecourse](https://collegeboard.org/satonlinecourse).

### **The Official SAT Study Guide™: Second Edition**

This guide features 10 official practice tests, including three recently administered tests, exclusive access to online answer explanations, practice essay questions and more. Learn more or order this guide at [collegeboard.org/satpractice](https://collegeboard.org/satpractice).

## Frequently Asked Questions About the SAT

### Q: What is the SAT?

A: The SAT is a college entrance assessment that tests what students know and how well they can apply that knowledge. SAT questions are based on the same content that is taught every day in high school classrooms, such as algebra, geometry and grammar.

### Q: What does the SAT test?

A: The SAT tests the critical reading, mathematical reasoning and writing skills students have been taught in a rigorous high school curriculum and that they need to be successful in college.

- > The **reading section** assesses students' ability to draw inferences, synthesize information, distinguish between main and supporting ideas and understand vocabulary as it is used in context.
- > The **mathematics section** requires students to apply mathematical concepts, solve problems and use data literacy skills in interpreting tables, charts and graphs.
- > The **writing section** requires students to communicate ideas clearly and effectively; improve writing through revision and editing; recognize and identify sentence-level errors; understand grammatical elements and structures and how they relate to each other in a sentence; and improve coherence of ideas within and among paragraphs. The writing section includes both multiple-choice questions that deal with the mechanics of writing and an essay as a direct measure of writing skills.

### Q: Why should students take the SAT?

A: Each year, more than two million students take the SAT. Nearly every college or university in the U.S. uses SAT scores because the test is the best independent, standardized measure of a student's college readiness skills. Combined with high school grades, the SAT is actually the best predictor of college success, with a high correlation between SAT scores and first-year college GPA.

### Q: How long is the SAT?

A: The SAT is 3 hours and 45 minutes. Students get three short breaks during the test. Testing accommodations are available for students with a documented need. Learn more about Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) on page 44 or at [collegeboard.org/ssd](http://collegeboard.org/ssd).

### Q: How are SAT questions created?

A: Every SAT question goes through a very careful review process before making it into an exam booklet. Each question has been:

- > Reviewed by a team of experts, including math and English teachers, to make sure that it reflects what most students are learning in high school; and
- > Thoroughly tested to make sure that it is fair for students of all backgrounds and ethnicities in all 50 states.

Questions that don't make it through these steps will never show up on an actual exam.

Section	Content	Number of Questions
<b>Reading</b>  70 minutes (two 25-minute subsections and one 20-minute subsections)	Extended Reasoning	36–40
	Literal Comprehension	4–6
	Vocabulary in Context	4–6
	Sentence Completions	19
	<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Mathematics</b>  70 minutes (two 25-minute subsections and one 20-minute subsections)	Number and Operations	11–14
	Algebra and Functions	19–22
	Geometry and Measurement	14–16
	Data Analysis, Statistics and Probability	5–8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Writing</b>  60 minutes (one 25-minute essay, one 25-minute multiple-choice subsection and one 10-minute multiple-choice subsection)	Essay	1
	Improving Sentences	25
	Identifying Sentence Errors	18
	Improving Paragraphs	6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>

**Q: How is the SAT scored?**

A: Each section of the SAT (critical reading, mathematics and writing) is scored on a 200- to 800-point scale, for a possible total of 2400. Students also get two “subscores” on the writing section: a multiple-choice score from 20 to 80, and an essay score from 2 to 12.

Two steps happen before students see a final score:

- > The raw score is determined by adding points for correct answers and subtracting a fraction of a point for wrong answers. (Skipped questions don’t count either for or against a score, and points aren’t taken away for wrong answers on the math questions where students needed to enter the answer into a grid.)
- > The raw score is then turned into a scaled score. This is where the score of 200–800 points comes from, and it is done through a statistical process called “equating.” This process makes it possible to compare one student’s score with the scores of other students who took alternative versions of the test and to a student’s own scores on previous tests.

**Q: What is the “unscored” section?**

A: Each SAT exam includes an extra 25-minute critical reading, mathematics or writing multiple-choice section that doesn’t count

toward a student’s score. This section is where the College Board tries out new questions to make sure that future exams are fair for students from different backgrounds. It also helps to make sure that scores from students taking future exams can be compared to scores from students who took earlier versions of the test.

**Q: How can students do their best on the SAT?**

A: The best way to get ready for the SAT is to take challenging courses, study hard and read and write in and outside of the classroom. Cramming and short-term prep can’t substitute for hard work in school. The PSAT/NMSQT is one of the best ways to begin preparing for the SAT, because it covers the same subjects under timed conditions.

It also helps to become familiar and comfortable with the test format and question types. Students should take advantage of free online practice tools such as online or printable practice tests, sample questions, The Official SAT Question of the Day and more. Learn about these resources on page 31.

**Q: Is the SAT fair for all students?**

A: The SAT is committed to being the fairest test possible. To accomplish this, the SAT meets rigorous fairness standards:

- > Every question is reviewed by external experts (math or English teachers) to make sure it reflects what students learn in school.

- > Every question goes through a special sensitivity review process to avoid any stereotyping or disconcerting references.
- > Every question is pretested in all 50 states and any question that performs substantially differently for any gender or ethnic group is eliminated.

There are numerous research studies demonstrating the fairness of the SAT, including studies by researchers at the University of California–Santa Barbara and the University of Minnesota. Explore SAT research studies at [collegeboard.org/research](http://collegeboard.org/research).

**Q: How important is the SAT in college admission?**

A: SAT scores are the best independent, standardized measure of a student’s college readiness skills. Combined with high school grades, the SAT is actually the best predictor of college success, with a high correlation between SAT scores and first-year college GPA.

Every college and university uses a different combination of criteria for admission. The SAT is just one factor among many that colleges use to get to know students better. It is part of a comprehensive admission process that also takes into account high school academics, extracurricular activities, recommendations, personal essay and other factors.

**Q: When should my students take the SAT?**

A: Most students take the SAT during the spring of their junior year of high school. Many students choose to take the SAT a second time in the fall of their senior year after becoming familiar with the test day experience.

**Q: How many times should a student take the SAT?**

A: Most students take the SAT once or twice. The College Board doesn't recommend taking it more than twice because there's no evidence that taking the SAT multiple times significantly changes a score.

**Q: When and how are scores reported?**

A: Each student's official score report will be provided to the student and their high school, if they included the code, about five weeks after the test (online or by mail). Students may also get SAT scores by phone for an additional fee.

**Q: What scores are reported if a student tests more than once?**

A: Score Choice™ gives students the option to choose which scores (by test date for the SAT and by individual test for SAT Subject Tests™) they send to colleges — in accordance with an institution's stated score-use practice.

If a student decides not to use Score Choice, all of their scores will be sent to the colleges they are applying to. Students should still feel comfortable sending all scores, since most colleges consider a student's best score. For more information, visit [collegeboard.org/scorechoice](https://collegeboard.org/scorechoice).

**Q: What if my students cannot afford the SAT fee?**

A: Test fees can be a barrier to college entrance for some students. SAT fee waivers are intended to help these students pay for the SAT and SAT Subject Tests. High school juniors or seniors in the U.S. or U.S. territories, including Puerto Rico, who cannot afford to pay the test fees are eligible. If testing internationally, only U.S. citizens are eligible for fee waivers.

Each SAT fee waiver covers registration fees for a single test date, either for the SAT or for up to three SAT Subject Tests, and a total of four additional flexible score reports that can be ordered any time after a student registers, even after a student has seen his/her scores.

To learn more about fee waivers, visit page 43.

**Q: What if you have reason to suspect a test has been compromised or students had an unfair advantage?**

A: Students and educators can confidentially report suspected cheating on the SAT by contacting the Office of Testing Integrity at 1-800-353-8570 or

[testsecurity@info.collegeboard.org](mailto:testsecurity@info.collegeboard.org).



## SAT Resources

**Fee Waivers** Eligible juniors and seniors who are unable to pay test fees themselves can receive fee waivers.  
[collegeboard.org/satfeewaiver](https://collegeboard.org/satfeewaiver)

**Getting Ready for the SAT**  
This booklet contains important information about the SAT, the types of questions on each section and how to prepare for test day.  
[collegeboard.org/gettingreadyforsat](https://collegeboard.org/gettingreadyforsat)

**SAT Counselor Resource Center** A full range of resources and tools to support students with information on the tests, dates and deadlines, score reports and more.  
[collegeboard.org/crc](https://collegeboard.org/crc)

**SAT Educator's Handbook**  
A comprehensive booklet that presents important information about SAT Program tests, including details on registration, testing procedures, test preparation, scoring policies and research on the SAT's validity.  
[collegeboard.org/sateducator](https://collegeboard.org/sateducator)

**SAT Scores and Reporting**  
An overview of how the SAT is scored, as well as sample reports that provide detailed information about students' performance.  
[collegeboard.org/satscoreoptions](https://collegeboard.org/satscoreoptions)

**SAT Skills Insight** A free online tool that shows students the academic skills that are tested on the SAT and gives them the confidence and motivation to reach their desired score.  
[collegeboard.org/satskillsinsight](https://collegeboard.org/satskillsinsight)

**SAT Student Website**  
A comprehensive source of information about the SAT and SAT Subject Tests where students can learn more about registration and free practice resources.  
[collegeboard.org/sat](https://collegeboard.org/sat)

**Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD)** Appropriate accommodations are provided to allow students with disabilities an equal opportunity to take College Board tests.  
[collegeboard.org/ssd](https://collegeboard.org/ssd)

**The Official SAT Online Course**  
An online course that is personalized, comprehensive and available anytime, anywhere. Students can use the course in the classroom or for self-paced study.  
[collegeboard.org/satonlinecourse](https://collegeboard.org/satonlinecourse)

**The Official SAT Practice Test**  
A full-length practice SAT test is available online with immediate scoring capability.  
[collegeboard.org/satpracticetest](https://collegeboard.org/satpracticetest)

**The Official SAT Question of the Day**  
A free daily practice SAT question online or sent by email. Hints and detailed answer explanations are provided for each question.  
[collegeboard.org/satpractice](https://collegeboard.org/satpractice)



TIP

In order for students to demonstrate their true abilities, it is important that they feel as confident as possible. Taking practice tests can help students become familiar with the test and feel more at ease on test day.



SAT Subject Tests are hour-long, content-based tests that allow students to showcase achievement in specific subject areas where they excel. These are the only national admission tests that allow students to choose the tests that best demonstrate their achievements and interests.

## Benefits for Your Students and School

- > **Stand Out in the College Admission Process** SAT Subject Tests allow students to differentiate themselves in the college admission process and send a strong message regarding their readiness to study specific majors or programs. In conjunction with other admission credentials (high school record, SAT scores, teacher recommendations, etc.), they provide a more complete picture of a student's academic background and interests.
- > **Course Placement** Some colleges and universities use SAT Subject Tests to place students in appropriate courses. Based on performance on the test(s), students could potentially fulfill basic requirements or receive credit for introductory-level courses.
- > **Evaluate School's Curricula** The SAT Subject Tests can be an important tool for assessing students' mastery of content knowledge in specific subject areas and can also provide insight into your school or district's educational policies and programs to determine if they are appropriately serving students.

Learn more at [collegeboard.org/satsubjecttests](http://collegeboard.org/satsubjecttests).

## SAT Subject Tests at a Glance

**Recommended Testing Grades:** 11th and 12th grades, although some tests should be taken as soon as possible after taking the subject, including World History, Biology E/M, Chemistry and Physics. Students will do better in other subjects, such as languages, after at least two years of study.

**Target Students:** Students who are confident in their achievement in specific subjects

**Test Dates:** October 6, 2012  
November 3, 2012  
December 1, 2012  
January 26, 2013  
May 4, 2013  
June 1, 2013

See page 37 for more information.

**Testing Time:** 1 hour

**Content Tested:** Content taught through school-based curricula

Test Name	Oct. 6, 2012	Nov. 3, 2012	Dec. 1, 2012	Jan. 26, 2013	May 4, 2013	June 1, 2013
Literature	x	x	x	x	x	x
United States (U.S.) History	x	x	x	x	x	x
World History		x	x		x	x
Mathematics Level 1	x	x	x	x	x	x
Mathematics Level 2	x	x	x	x	x	x
Biology E/M (Ecological/Molecular)	x	x	x	x	x	x
Chemistry	x	x	x	x	x	x
Physics	x	x	x	x	x	x
<b>Languages: Reading Only</b>						
French	x		x	x	x	x
German						x
Modern Hebrew						x
Italian			x			
Latin			x			x
Spanish	x		x	x	x	x
<b>Languages: Reading and Listening</b>						
Chinese		x				
French		x				
German		x				
Japanese		x				
Korean		x				
Spanish		x				

## ACCUPLACER®

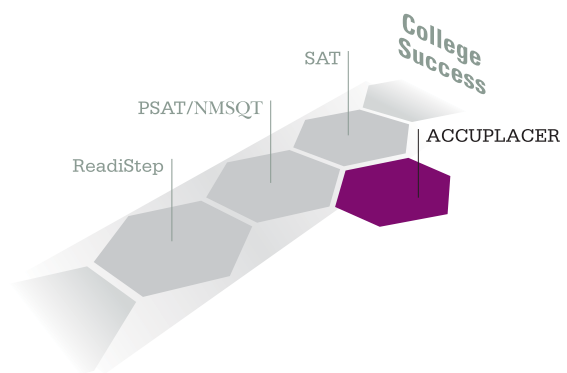
REDUCING REMEDIATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION WITH  
EARLY DIAGNOSTICS AND INTERVENTION

Grades 11–12+

ACCUPLACER is a computer-adaptive diagnostic, online intervention and placement testing system that assesses student academic skills in reading, writing and mathematics in an immediate and accurate way.

ACCUPLACER helps identify areas of strength and weakness and offers appropriate intervention and personalized instruction to enhance students' academic performance.

Learn more at [collegeboard.org/accuplacer](http://collegeboard.org/accuplacer).



## ACCUPLACER®//MyFoundationsLab®

The College Board and Pearson have partnered to offer ACCUPLACER//MyFoundationsLab, a comprehensive online diagnostic and intervention system that enhances student preparedness and opportunity for college success. Based on performance on the diagnostic tests, ACCUPLACER//MyFoundationsLab generates a personalized learning path for each student.

This easy-to-use learning system offers targeted intervention and has the flexibility to be used in a wide variety of school settings. It provides options for short programs (10 weeks or less) or programs of 12 months or longer. School districts can use ACCUPLACER//MyFoundationsLab to complement their curriculum while preparing students for college:

- ▶ In the 11th or 12th grades as a pre- and post-test tool to assess academic progress;
- ▶ For students enrolled in academic intervention, summer school or credit recovery programs;
- ▶ While students transition to college in preparation for college placement tests;
- ▶ With students preparing for dual-enrollment courses or “middle college” programs; and
- ▶ For GEAR UP programs.

### ACCUPLACER at a Glance

**Recommended Testing Grades:** 11–12+

**Target Students:** At-risk students entering 2- and 4-year institutions

**Test Dates:** Anytime throughout the school year

**Testing Time:** Untimed

**Content Tested:** Critical reading, math and writing skills



# SUCCESS STORY

## ACCUPLACER: Motivating Students with Early Assessments

Hundreds of at-risk students in Colorado Springs, Colorado are starting to accumulate college credits while earning their high school diplomas.

The students attend Colorado Springs Early Colleges (CSEC), a unique tuition-free public charter school that has partnered with Colorado Technical University, Pikes Peak Community College and the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

Students who have lower test scores are encouraged to take ACCUPLACER Diagnostics to isolate areas for improvement. The CSEC adviser also guides students to relevant developmental resources so they can focus on strengthening language or math skills. Following their studies, students can retake ACCUPLACER and advance to higher-level college courses.

In 2011, students' ACCUPLACER scores, on average, increased 7.2% in sentence skills, 15.3% in reading comprehension, 17.3% in arithmetic, 20.5% in writing and 68.4% in elementary algebra. By high school graduation, nine out of 10 CSEC students have passed college courses while completing their high school requirements. In 2011, 24 of the 124 CSEC graduates earned associate degrees along with their high school diplomas.

“If you give students the opportunity, you will be impressed with how many of them, from the start, look at their ACCUPLACER results and say, ‘Wow, I have this deficiency, and I can solve it and make progress.’ Students feel that the yardstick of the ACCUPLACER test is a fair assessment and they have the opportunity to evaluate themselves against that standard of achievement.”

— **Keith King**, Founder and Administrator,  
Colorado Springs Early Colleges  
Colorado State Senator

The College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) is the most widely accepted credit-by-examination program in the nation, working with over 2,900 colleges and universities and administered in over 1,700 test centers. This rigorous program offers students the opportunity to earn college credit for demonstrating mastery of course content through general academic instruction, significant independent study or extracurricular work. Test-takers include traditional college students, adults just entering or returning to school and military service members.

### **Earn College Credit for Life Experiences**

CLEP offers 33 computer-based exams in five subject areas, covering material taught in courses that students generally take in the first two years of college. Exams are developed by over 600 faculty members from institutions across the country.

Students who earn credit through CLEP perform better in subsequent upper-level courses and complete their degrees at a higher rate.

Learn more at [collegeboard.org/clep](https://collegeboard.org/clep).

“ Thanks to the College Board’s CLEP program, I was able to meet my foreign-language graduation requirements, as well as advance to my junior-level Spanish class. CLEP allowed me to save time, money and shorten my path to graduation. CLEP truly rewards you for what you know.”

— **Abe S.**, student,  
Texas A&M International University

### **CLEP at a Glance**

**Recommended Testing Grade:** Post high school

**Target Students:** Traditional college students, adults just entering or returning to college, home-school students and military service members

**Test Dates:** Anytime throughout the school year

**Testing Time:** 90 minutes (except for the College Composition exam, which is 120 minutes)

**Content Tested:** CLEP offers 33 exams within business, composition and literature, world languages, history and social sciences, science and mathematics



## FEE WAIVERS AND FEE REDUCTIONS

FULFILLING THE ACADEMIC POTENTIAL OF LOW-INCOME STUDENTS

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The College Board fee-waiver and fee-reduction service assists qualified, economically disadvantaged students who plan to take the PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, SAT Subject Tests and AP Exams. Generally a student must be either enrolled in, or eligible to participate in, the Federal Free and Reduced Price Lunch Program (FRPL) in order to receive a fee waiver.

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### PSAT/NMSQT

The College Board offers PSAT/NMSQT fee waivers for 11th-graders who are unable to pay test fees themselves. Schools must identify eligible juniors from low-income families and request fee waivers on their behalf.

**Eligibility Guidelines** Juniors who are either enrolled in or eligible to participate in the Federal Free or Reduced Price Lunch Program (FRPL) qualify to receive a fee waiver.

If a junior is not enrolled in the FRPL Program, or their enrollment status cannot be easily determined, use these additional indicators to determine student eligibility:

- > The junior's annual family income falls within the Income Eligibility Guidelines set by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service.

- > The junior is enrolled in a federal, state or local program that aids students from low-income families (e.g., TRIO programs such as Upward Bound).
- > The junior's family receives public assistance.
- > The junior lives in federally subsidized public housing, a foster home or is homeless.
- > The junior is a ward of the state or an orphan.

For more information on PSAT/NMSQT fee waivers visit [collegeboard.org/psatfeewaiver](https://collegeboard.org/psatfeewaiver).



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## SAT and SAT Subject Tests

Eligible students must be in the 11th or the 12th grade to use fee waivers for the SAT. Students may be in any grade of high school, 9–12, to use fee waivers for SAT Subject Tests.

**Eligibility Guidelines** If a high school student requests a fee waiver, he or she must meet at least one of the following guidelines:

- > Be enrolled in a free or reduced-price lunch program.
- > Be enrolled in a program for the economically disadvantaged (for example, a TRIO program such as Upward Bound).
- > Come from a family receiving public assistance.
- > Come from a family living in federally subsidized public housing.
- > Be a resident in a foster home.
- > Have an annual family income that falls within the levels for reduced-price lunch set by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service.

A student who is eligible for fee waivers can receive the following services free or at a reduced price:

- > Two fee waivers for SAT registrations
- > Two fee waivers for SAT Subject Test registrations, for up to three tests per registration
- > A total of four additional flexible score reports that can be ordered at any time
- > The Question-and-Answer Service or the Student Answer Service (for the SAT only) when ordered during registration
- > A discount on The Official SAT Online Course when ordered during online registration.

Students who have received SAT or SAT Subject Test fee waivers may also be eligible for up to four college application fee waivers.

For more information on SAT and SAT Subject Test fee waivers visit [collegeboard.org/satfeewaivers](https://collegeboard.org/satfeewaivers).

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## AP Exams

The College Board provides a \$28 fee reduction per exam for eligible students; schools normally forgo their \$8 rebate in these instances. The federal government and many states offer additional contributions to low-income students.

**Eligibility Guidelines** Students who are either enrolled or eligible to participate in the Federal Free or Reduced Price Lunch Program qualify for the \$28 College Board fee reduction on all AP Exams that they take in a given year.

If a school prefers to use another method for determining which students qualify for AP Exam fee reductions, any of the following criteria are allowed:

- > The student's family's income is at or below the Census Bureau's current "poverty threshold."

- > The student's family receives assistance under part A of Title IV of the Social Security Act.
- > The student is eligible to receive medical assistance under the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act.

For more information on AP fee reductions visit [collegeboard.org/apfeereductions](https://collegeboard.org/apfeereductions).

## SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (SSD)

PROVIDING TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The College Board is committed to ensuring that students with disabilities receive appropriate accommodations on its tests. Students who have a documented disability may be eligible to take the PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, SAT Subject Tests and AP Exams with accommodations such as Braille tests, large print and extended time.

### SSD Eligibility Requirements

To take a College Board test with testing accommodations, a student must:

- > Have a disability that requires testing accommodations
- > Submit a complete request for accommodations before the stated deadline (usually submitted by the student's school using SSD Online)
- > If required, submit complete documentation of a disability, describing the need for the requested accommodation

Most schools have SSD Coordinators, who help students during the eligibility process and help administer College Board tests with accommodations. SSD Coordinators should periodically consult SSD Online to verify their students with approved accommodations are accurately reflected on the roster.

Visit [collegeboard.org/ssd](http://collegeboard.org/ssd) for complete information on eligibility requirements, guidelines for documentation and access to the online SSD system.

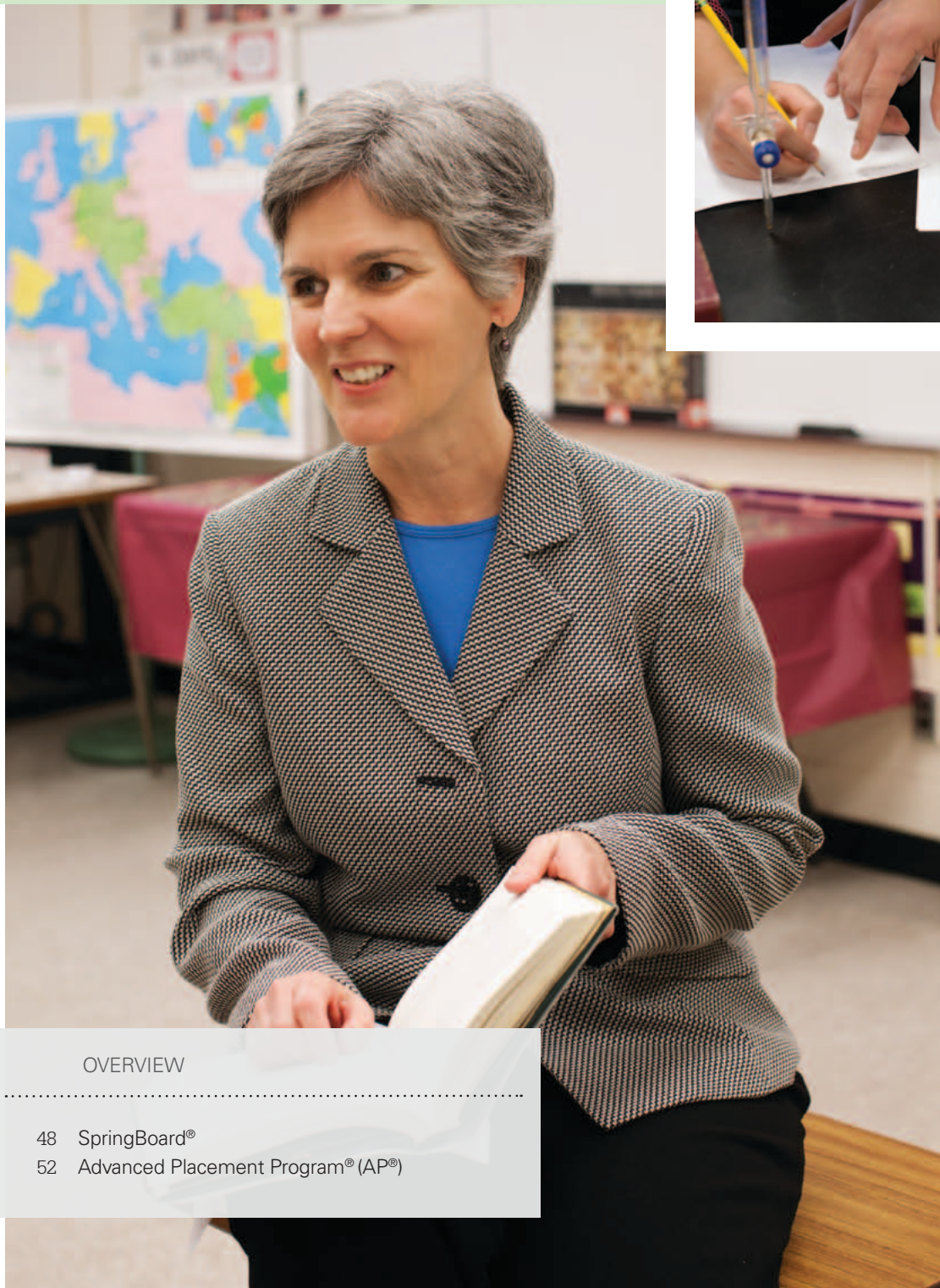
### Deadlines for Submitting Accommodation Requests for 2012–2013

College Board Test	Accommodation Request and Complete Documentation Deadline
SAT and SAT Subject Tests: October 6, 2012	August 17, 2012
PSAT/NMSQT: October 17 and 20, 2012	August 29, 2012
SAT and SAT Subject Tests: November 3, 2012	September 14, 2012
SAT and SAT Subject Tests: December 1, 2012	October 12, 2012
SAT and SAT Subject Tests: January 26, 2013	December 7, 2012
SAT: March 9, 2013	January 18, 2013
SAT and SAT Subject Tests: May 4, 2013	March 15, 2013
AP Exams: May 6–10, 13–17, 2013	February 22, 2013
SAT and SAT Subject Tests: June 1, 2013	April 12, 2013



# Teaching and Learning

**DEVELOPING THE ABILITY  
TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF  
RIGOROUS COURSE WORK**



## OVERVIEW

- 48 SpringBoard®
- 52 Advanced Placement Program® (AP®)



**All students**—regardless of background, ethnicity or geography—should be exposed to a **rigorous curriculum** so that they are prepared for the demands of higher education and the workplace. Through the College Board’s SpringBoard curriculum and Advanced Placement Program (AP), students develop key **critical thinking and 21st century skills** to ensure that they will be successful in high school, **college and beyond**.

SpringBoard is a research-based English Language Arts and Mathematics curriculum designed to prepare students for success in AP, college and careers through integrated instructional materials, formative assessments and sustained professional development and coaching services.

SpringBoard's instruction is built around culturally and personally relevant activities designed to engage students in problem solving, academic discourse and critical analysis. This unique approach to individualized learning provides teachers with a road map for opening the doors to a bright future for all students.

Given the results in hundreds of schools across the country, SpringBoard is proof that high expectations, supported by a genuine commitment to preparing all students for college-level work, yield success.

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### **Prepare More Students for College-Level Work**

SpringBoard emphasizes higher-order thinking skills that challenge students to aim higher and achieve more. Additionally, the curriculum is designed to help students personalize and own their learning, and encourage self-exploration and the application of learning strategies that work best for students as individuals.

SpringBoard embeds Pre-AP® and AP teaching and learning strategies inside the curriculum and provides specific guidance for differentiating instruction for students at varying learning levels.

Learn more at [collegeboard.org/springboard](https://collegeboard.org/springboard).



ONLINE

SpringBoard has been proven to prepare students for success in AP courses and in college. Read efficacy studies, success stories and testimonials at: [collegeboard.org/springboard](https://collegeboard.org/springboard).



## A Pre-AP® Program



### **English Textual Power™:** **Grades 6–12**

- > Levels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and Senior English

### **Mathematics with Meaning™:** **Grades 6–12**

- > Middle School Math 1
- > Middle School Math 2
- > Middle School Math 3
- > Algebra 1
- > Geometry
- > Algebra 2
- > Precalculus

### **Consumable Student Edition**

- > Culturally relevant activities provide context for learning
- > Collaborative activities engage all students
- > Students learn strategies they can apply to all courses

### **Annotated Teacher Edition**

- > Essential questions guide and focus learning
- > Teaching strategies proven successful in AP courses
- > Flexibility to incorporate other resources

### **Formative Assessments**

- > *Embedded Assessments* — Performance-based measurements
- > *Unit Assessments* — Contain the College Board’s high-quality test items with distractor rationales
- > *Student and Teacher Reflections* — Unit self-assessments

### **SpringBoard® Online**

- > Customizable assessments and reports to inform instruction
- > Instructional materials and resources correlated to state standards, the Common Core State Standards and the College Board Standards
- > *A Professional Learning Community* — A peer-to-peer Web 2.0 resource for teachers and administrators to exchange ideas, discuss hot topics and share documents

### **Professional Development**

All trainers are current or former SpringBoard teachers, coaches or administrators extensively trained and certified by the College Board, bringing practical experience in successful implementation.

- > *Administrator Workshops* — Provide administrators with the knowledge and tools they need to support their teachers
- > *Summer Institutes* — Teachers participate in three days of Initial Institute training in year one and two days of Advanced Workshop training in subsequent years
- > *Customized Services* — Workshops on curriculum mapping, cognitive coaching, differentiated instruction and more professional development



# SUCCESS STORY

## SpringBoard in Peninsula School District: Increasing Critical Reading and Writing Skills Leads to Success in AP

The Peninsula School District, located in Gig Harbor, Washington, is a relatively small, primarily rural school district. As part of their focus on increasing college-ready literacy skills, district leaders researched K–8 literacy practices and soon recognized that continued use of a literature anthology was not in keeping with their new instructional philosophy.

Principals and teachers reviewed SpringBoard ELA materials and found the program fit their philosophy. Teachers were pleased with the connection to AP and the student-centered materials. SpringBoard became the adopted language arts program for all students and was implemented over a three-year period in grades 6–12.

### Teacher Empowerment Is the Secret to Success

Peninsula leaders have high standards and expected all teachers to implement SpringBoard with fidelity. To ensure success, all schools have reading and writing goals with associated activities, assessments and monitoring components. Teachers were involved in all phases of the decision-making process, including the original decision to adopt SpringBoard as the core instructional program.

A very high percentage of teachers attend SpringBoard summer institutes year after year. In the first years of implementation, district staff provided numerous after-school training opportunities that included national training for key teachers. Administrators also attended SpringBoard workshops, and district staff continue to partner with school leaders for classroom walk-throughs.

The ultimate goal: to empower a cadre of teacher leaders in every building who provide support and training close to the classroom to implement SpringBoard with fidelity.

**“The greatest benefit from using SpringBoard is the consistency of learning that is occurring across our district. SpringBoard helps all teachers to achieve higher levels of instructional skill, and their confidence in delivering the program has soared. Success breeds success.”**

— **Dr. Claudia Thompson**, Academic Officer,  
Learning and Teaching, Peninsula School District

## The Results: Peninsula's Advanced Placement Program<sup>®</sup> Increases

Because of the importance of critical reading and writing skills in preparing students for success in AP courses, the district anticipated improvement in its AP program as more students entered AP better prepared. According to Dr. Thompson, their investment in rigorous academics paid off and after four years of SpringBoard implementation, Peninsula's overall Advanced Placement enrollments increased without sacrificing performance results.

Between 2007 and 2010, enrollments in AP English Language and Literature classes increased by 33 percent and at the same time, the number of AP Exam scores of 3 or higher increased by 27 percent.



The Advanced Placement Program (AP) exposes students to rigorous curriculum, teaches essential critical thinking skills and enables students to pursue college-level studies while still in high school. Through 34 college-level courses, each culminating in a rigorous exam, AP provides students with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement or both.

## Foster College Persistence and Success

Enrolling in an AP course fosters college persistence and success. According to a recent study, students who scored a 3 or higher on 4 popular AP Exams earned higher first-year GPAs in college and were more likely to continue on to a second year of college.

Additionally, AP courses offer opportunities for traditionally underserved students to succeed. The National Center for Educational Accountability found that minority and low-income students who participate in AP — particularly those who score a 3 or higher on the exam — are more likely to earn a college degree within five years of beginning college than comparable minority and low-income students who do not participate in AP.

For more information about the AP Program visit [collegeboard.org/ap](https://collegeboard.org/ap). Students can learn more at [ExploreAP.org](https://exploreap.org).

## AP Courses and Exams



- ▶ Art History
- ▶ Biology
- ▶ Calculus AB
- ▶ Calculus BC
- ▶ Chemistry
- ▶ Chinese Language and Culture
- ▶ Comparative Government and Politics
- ▶ Computer Science A
- ▶ English Language and Composition
- ▶ English Literature and Composition
- ▶ Environmental Science
- ▶ European History
- ▶ French Language and Culture
- ▶ German Language and Culture
- ▶ Human Geography
- ▶ Italian Language and Culture
- ▶ Japanese Language and Culture
- ▶ Latin
- ▶ Macroeconomics
- ▶ Microeconomics
- ▶ Music Theory
- ▶ Physics B
- ▶ Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism
- ▶ Physics C: Mechanics
- ▶ Psychology
- ▶ Spanish Language
- ▶ Spanish Literature and Culture
- ▶ Statistics
- ▶ Studio Art: 2-D Design
- ▶ Studio Art: 3-D Design
- ▶ Studio Art: Drawing
- ▶ United States Government and Politics
- ▶ United States History
- ▶ World History



## Increasing Rigor

AP teachers encourage their students to do more, to think more deeply, and to always ask “Why?” — habits and skills crucial for college success. AP may not be right for every student, and it’s not the only answer to increasing rigor in the nation’s classrooms, but it’s a key tool to foster a college-going and college-ready culture. To increase the rigor in their curriculum, schools and districts can:

- > **Use Data to Ensure Successful Learning and Instruction** A range of reports enable teachers and school and district administrators to review student performance, target areas for focus in the curriculum, learn which colleges and universities received students’ AP scores and more. Data is also available at the school, state and global levels for comparison.
- > **Recruit, Train and Mentor AP Teachers** Each school year the College Board hosts a number of AP workshops, seminars and events that provide AP teachers and administrators with the support and training needed to develop effective strategies for teaching an AP course. New and experienced teachers can benefit from these professional development opportunities. Learn more about the AP Annual Conference and other AP professional development opportunities on pages 64–65.



ONLINE

In classrooms around the country, AP teachers are preparing students for tomorrow by teaching them how to think and learn today. AP students learn to construct solid arguments, test theories, and see many sides of an issue — the kind of thinking that solves tough problems both in and outside the classroom, in college and beyond.

The **AP Report to the Nation** shows how well educators across the nation are providing students with access to AP opportunities. Learn more at [collegeboard.org/apreport](http://collegeboard.org/apreport).



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## Promoting Equity and Fulfilling AP Potential

Despite strides made in recent years, minority and low-income students remain underrepresented not only in the AP classroom and in the population of successful AP students, but also among Americans with a college degree.

The College Board strongly encourages educators to make every effort to ensure their AP classes reflect the diversity of their student population. Schools and districts should eliminate barriers that restrict access to AP; instead, they should give all willing and academically prepared students the opportunity to participate in AP. College Board resources can help in this endeavor:

- > **Identify Students with AP Potential** Use AP Potential, an easy-to-use, free online tool that identifies students likely to score a 3 or higher on a given AP Exam, particularly students from underserved backgrounds. Based on research that shows strong correlations between PSAT/NMSQT scores and AP Exam results, AP Potential is designed to help your school expand access to rigorous AP courses and to ensure that no student who has the chance of succeeding in AP is overlooked. For more information visit [collegeboard.org/appotential](https://collegeboard.org/appotential).
- > **Reduce Financial Barriers** Exam fees should never prevent a student from taking an AP Exam. The College Board provides a \$28 fee reduction per exam for eligible students with acute financial need. Schools normally forgo their \$8 rebate in these instances. The federal government and many states offer additional contributions to low-income students; for more information visit page 43 or [collegeboard.org/apfeereductions](https://collegeboard.org/apfeereductions).

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## Supporting STEM

Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education plays a key role in ensuring the nation's long-term prosperity. According to a 2009 study of 65 countries, the U.S. ranked 23rd in science proficiency and 31st in math. AP science and math courses and exams are one way the nation can regain its lead:

- > **Prepare Students for Success** Establish a program for Pre-AP science classes that incorporates and develops the laboratory-based skills necessary for success in AP science. Encourage teachers to continually demonstrate real-world applications of STEM concepts, and give students hands-on learning experiences earlier and more often.
- > **Create a STEM Pipeline** Use AP Potential to identify students in a school or district who are likely to succeed in AP math and science. Where there are sufficient numbers of potential students for particular subjects, use these data to select new math and science course offerings.

## AP at a Glance

**Recommended Testing Grades:** 10–12

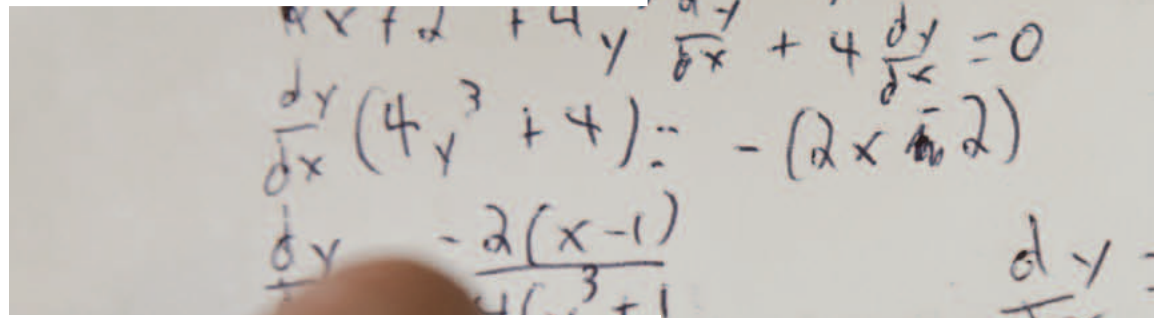
**Target Students:** All willing and academically prepared students in grades 10–12

**Test Dates:** May 6–17, 2013  
See below for specific exam dates and times.

**Testing Time:** 2–3 hours

**Content Tested:** Assesses subject matter learned in each of 34 AP courses

Week 1	Morning 8 a.m.	Afternoon 12 noon	
Monday, May 6	Chemistry Environmental Science	Psychology	
Tuesday, May 7	Computer Science A Spanish Language	Art History	
Wednesday, May 8	Calculus AB Calculus BC	Chinese Language and Culture	
Thursday, May 9	English Literature and Composition	Japanese Language and Culture Latin	
Friday, May 10	English Language and Composition	Statistics	
	Studio Art — Last day for Coordinators to submit digital portfolios (by 8 p.m. EDT) and to gather 2-D Design and Drawing students for the physical portfolio assembly. Teachers should have forwarded students' completed digital portfolios to Coordinators before this date.		
Week 2	Morning 8 a.m.	Afternoon 12 noon	Afternoon 2 p.m.
Monday, May 13	Biology Music Theory	Physics B Physics C: Mechanics	Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism
Tuesday, May 14	United States Government and Politics	Comparative Government and Politics French Language and Culture	
Wednesday, May 15	German Language and Culture United States History	European History	
Thursday, May 16	Macroeconomics World History	Microeconomics Italian Language and Culture	
Friday, May 17	Human Geography Spanish Literature and Culture		



## AP Course Revisions

Revisions to AP courses promote rigorous curricula that reflect current advances in teaching and learning at the college level, with AP Exams that assess both content and skills. History and science revisions focus on reducing scope, freeing teachers to develop their students' critical thinking skills and cognitive strategies. Revisions to world languages concentrate on incorporating thematic units and developing skills through the three modes of communication (interpersonal, interpretive and presentational).

Courses that took effect in fall 2012 include AP Biology, AP Latin, and AP Spanish Literature and Culture. Visit [collegeboard.org/apcentral](http://collegeboard.org/apcentral) to learn more and access teacher support materials.

Courses that will launch in fall 2013 include AP Chemistry and AP Spanish Language and Culture. For more information about these course revisions, visit [collegeboard.org/advancesinap](http://collegeboard.org/advancesinap).



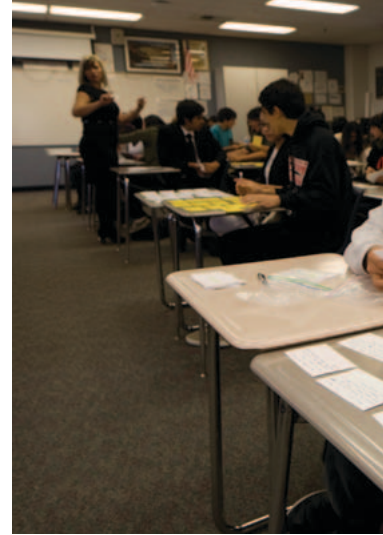
## SUCCESS STORY

### **AP in a District: Val Verde Unified School District, Calif.**

Over 30 percent of students enrolled in the Val Verde Unified School District are minority students, and over 30 percent of the total enrollment qualifies for free or reduced lunch. Demographics like these are not usually associated with strong academic growth, but in Val Verde, “Nothing could be further from the truth,” said Assistant Superintendent Michael R. McCormick.

Among medium-sized districts, Val Verde leads the nation in expanding access to AP courses while maintaining or improving AP Exam performance. From 2009 to 2011, the district experienced annual increases of 9 percent, 11 percent and 13 percent respectively in AP student participation, number of students earning a 3 or above on at least one AP Exam, and percentage of underserved minority students earning a 3 or above on at least one AP Exam. For these stand-out achievements, Val Verde was awarded the College Board’s 2011 Advanced Placement District of the Year Award.

Beyond the numbers, much of Val Verde’s success can be attributed to Val Verde Scholars, a specialized program created so well-qualified students have a rigorous and structured pathway to prepare them for college success. Each student admitted to the Val Verde Scholars program receives a netbook, access to a designated computer lab and the benefit of several college and university visits. Faculty members also mentor these students on a regular basis.



**“We work closely with students to instill the value of hard work and personal character ... Students come to believe it is fashionable to be academically successful.”**

— **Alan Jensen,**  
District Superintendent



## AP Resources

**AP Central** The College Board's online home for AP teachers. The site is free for all users and features content written by AP teachers for AP teachers. [collegeboard.org/apcentral](http://collegeboard.org/apcentral)

**AP Coordinator's Manual** The primary source of information for AP Coordinators and proctors on nearly all aspects of administering AP Exams. [collegeboard.org/apcoordinatorsmanual](http://collegeboard.org/apcoordinatorsmanual)

**AP Credit Policy** An online search tool that finds the AP credit policy information at colleges and universities. [collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy](http://collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy)

**AP Potential** A free, Web-based tool that allows schools to generate rosters of students who are likely to succeed on AP Exams. [collegeboard.org/appotential](http://collegeboard.org/appotential)

**AP Professional Development** Dates, session overviews and registration information for workshops, seminars and events for AP teachers, Coordinators and administrators. [collegeboard.org/pdworkshops](http://collegeboard.org/pdworkshops)

**AP Report to the Nation** An annual report that looks at students' entire experience with AP, tracking exams taken by seniors throughout their high school career. [collegeboard.org/apreport](http://collegeboard.org/apreport)

**Expanding Advanced Placement Access** A comprehensive guide, developed by the Broad Foundation, which provides practical suggestions and case studies to help school and district leaders expand access to AP, particularly for low-income and minority students. [broadeducation.org](http://broadeducation.org)

**Online Score Reports** A secure, Web-based system where authorized counselors, teachers and administrators can view, print and download AP score reports. [collegeboard.org/onlineapscores](http://collegeboard.org/onlineapscores)

**Share AP** Free, downloadable resources that help counselors to inform and inspire students considering AP courses and exams. [collegeboard.org/shareap](http://collegeboard.org/shareap)



FACT

903,630 U.S. public high school graduates took at least one AP Exam in 2011. Learn more at [collegeboard.org/apreport](http://collegeboard.org/apreport).



## Professional Development and District Services

**GETTING YOUR SKILLS UP  
TO SPEED AND AHEAD OF  
THE CURVE**



### OVERVIEW

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- 62 EXCEerator™
- 64 Workshops to Implement College Board Programs Successfully
- 68 Best Practices in School Counseling
- 70 Key Trends in Education



The College Board offers a range of **in-person and online** professional development seminars and workshops designed to equip administrators, teachers and school counselors with the **strategies and tools** they need to create a **college-going culture**, engage students in **active, high-level learning** and implement Common Core State Standards to ensure that all students are **college ready**. The College Board also convenes educators from across K–12 and higher education at several conferences and events to discuss **key trends** in education and share **best practices** currently in place to help all students be successful in college and beyond.

The EXCEerator Group is a team of College Board professionals focused on improving college readiness for all students, especially those who are traditionally underserved. EXCEerator partners with school districts using the EXCEerator Diagnostic Approach, a hands-on data-driven method that offers customized programs and services to improve a district's college readiness infrastructure.

EXCEerator helps districts analyze, improve and sustain five key components of college readiness:

**1. District Infrastructure** focuses on goals, policies, practices and processes that establish college readiness as a priority.

**2. Curriculum Coherence** focuses on district guidelines that ensure scope and sequence in core content areas are aligned to college readiness expectations.

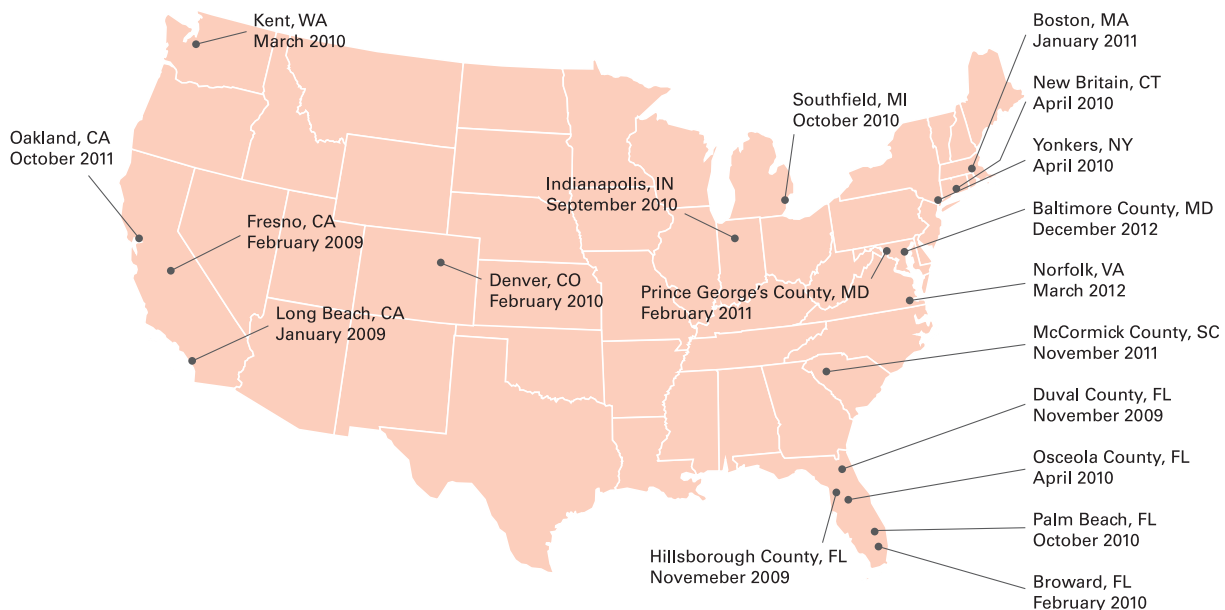
**4. Student Academic Support** focuses on strategies and programs that build students' capacities to engage in learning experiences essential for college readiness.

**3. Assessments that Inform** focuses on the use of assessment data to improve instruction and increase college readiness at the district, school and classroom levels.

**5. Culture and Community** focuses on strategies and programs that empower students and families to plan and prepare for college success.

EXCEerator services currently include: District Diagnostic, Program Analyses, Implementation Services, Professional Development and Multiyear Partnerships. Learn more at [collegeboard.org/excelerator](http://collegeboard.org/excelerator).

## EXCEerator District Diagnostics, 2009–Present





## WORKSHOPS TO IMPLEMENT COLLEGE BOARD PROGRAMS SUCCESSFULLY

OFFERING EDUCATORS THE RESOURCES AND TOOLS TO HELP ACADEMIC INITIATIVES SUCCEED

Each year, the College Board offers a variety of flexible and accessible professional development opportunities for middle and high school educators. This series of conferences, workshops and institutes is designed to help teachers and administrators develop and deepen their programs to prepare students for the rigors of college.

Join the College Board at an upcoming workshop to learn from experienced educators, earn continuing education units (CEUs) and focus on research-based strategies and best practices that can help prepare students for college success.



### AP Annual Conference

**July 17–21, 2013  
Las Vegas, NV**

The AP Annual Conference is the largest professional development gathering of the AP Program and Pre-AP communities, AP Coordinators, school counselors and administrators from across the United States and throughout the world. This year's conference promises to engage, inspire and promote innovation in our schools. Conference highlights include:

- > The latest instructional strategies that lead to AP success
- > How to build and improve AP and Pre-AP programs in our schools
- > The latest information about AP course and exam redesigns
- > AP Exam results and discussions of student performance with AP Development Committees

Learn more and register at [collegeboard.org/apac](http://collegeboard.org/apac).

### AP and Pre-AP Summer Institutes

**Dates and locations vary by region**

The AP and Pre-AP Summer Institutes are subject-specific professional development opportunities that provide teachers with the support and training needed to teach AP courses and to utilize Pre-AP teaching strategies. Each institute is managed individually by staff at the sponsoring institution. Topics that are often covered in summer institute sessions include:

- > AP courses: goals, objectives, content, resources, bibliographies and equipment
- > The AP Exam: how it is developed and graded
- > How to refresh and improve existing AP courses
- > Recent changes in AP Courses
- > Instructional strategies to meet needs of a wide-range of learners
- > Vertical teaming

For more information, dates, locations and to register, visit [collegeboard.org/pdworkshops](http://collegeboard.org/pdworkshops).



### AP One- and Two-Day Workshops

#### Dates and locations vary by region

Led by experienced instructors, subject-specific AP workshops provide educators with the support and training needed to develop effective strategies for teaching an AP course. Specialized workshops are available for:

- > New AP teachers in the process of developing or refining an AP course;
- > Experienced AP teachers seeking to learn new strategies and share best practices;
- > Administrators interested in establishing or building and supporting an AP program; and
- > AP Coordinators planning the 2013 AP Exam administration.

For more information, dates, locations and to register, visit

[collegeboard.org/apcentral](http://collegeboard.org/apcentral).

### AP Online Courses and Events

#### Dates vary; online delivery

Beginning in July 2012, the College Board will offer a rich selection of online courses to support AP teachers. These online courses will offer the same high-quality content as face-to-face workshops from the comfort of school or home. Through AP online courses, teachers will:

- > Be better prepared to help all students become college-ready and succeed in AP courses; and
- > Learn more about revised courses, hard-to-teach topics, teaching strategies and differentiated instruction.

AP Online Events offer educators a flexible option for enhancing their skills and strengthening their content knowledge.

For more information, dates and to register, visit

[collegeboard.org/apcentral](http://collegeboard.org/apcentral).

### Pre-AP Professional Development Workshops

#### Dates and locations vary by region

Pre-AP workshops equip middle and high school teachers with the strategies and tools to engage students in active, advanced learning in preparation for AP and college-level course work across a number of subject areas. Workshops include:

- > **Setting the Cornerstones™** Review a step-by-step action plan for building an AP Vertical Team.
- > **Vertical Teaming** Focus on instructional strategies and curriculum alignment to aid teachers in building or strengthening their AP Vertical Team, and in preparing students for college-level course work.
- > **Instructional Leadership (for administrators)** Provide strategies that help integrate professional development into a systemwide process for improving instructional practices and student learning.

For more information, dates, locations and to register, visit

[collegeboard.org/pdworkshops](http://collegeboard.org/pdworkshops).



### SpringBoard Professional Development

**Dates and locations vary by region**

SpringBoard offers a suite of in-person and online workshops to support schools in implementing this rigorous curriculum. The cadre of trainers is comprised of current or former SpringBoard teachers, coaches and administrators extensively trained and certified by the College Board. SpringBoard workshops and online seminars for teachers, coaches and administrators include:

- > Curriculum Mapping
- > Cognitive Coaching
- > Progress Monitoring
- > SpringBoard Writing Workshops
- > Scoring Student Work
- > Creating a Collaborative Classroom
- > Differentiating Instruction
- > Cross Curriculum Strategies
- > Literature Circles
- > Principals' Leadership Academy

For more information, dates and locations visit [collegeboard.org/springboard](http://collegeboard.org/springboard).

### PSAT/NMSQT Workshops

**Dates and locations vary by region**

This half-day workshop for mathematics and English teachers, curriculum coordinators, school counselors and administrators provides educators with hands-on training in the use of reports that are based on annual PSAT/NMSQT® results. These reports include the Score Report Plus, Summary of Answers and Skills (SOAS) and AP Potential™. At the end of the workshop, educators will be able to use the PSAT/NMSQT program's valuable data to:

- > Shape instructional goals in the classroom;
- > Identify curricular and academic strengths and weaknesses; and
- > Understand how to interpret data effectively to spot disparities between their schools/ students and state, national and comparable groups.

Learn more at [collegeboard.org/psatworkshops](http://collegeboard.org/psatworkshops).

### SAT Workshops for Teachers

**Dates and locations vary by region**

The College Board offers a series of engaging and informative workshops on SAT preparation topics that can also be incorporated into instructional planning. These workshops help teachers better understand the SAT and prepare students for the test and college success. Public workshops are open to all educators and are held on dates scheduled by the College Board. Private workshops are organized by the College Board at the request of a high school or district. SAT Workshop topics include:

- > Animating Student Writing
- > Holistic Scoring Workshop
- > School-Based SAT Preparation
- > Writing Preparation for Educators of ESL/ELL Students

For more information, dates and locations visit [collegeboard.org/satworkshops](http://collegeboard.org/satworkshops).

## ACCUPLACER National Conference

**June 27–29, 2013  
San Antonio, TX**

The ACCUPLACER National Conference shares research and best practices on effective uses of ACCUPLACER to enhance student success. Conference highlights include:

- > Best practice sessions and panel discussions
- > Case studies on innovative tools and practices
- > Statistics highlighting previous year accomplishments

Learn more and register at [collegeboard.org/accuplacerconference](http://collegeboard.org/accuplacerconference).

## ACCUPLACER Professional Development Series

**Dates vary; online delivery**

ACCUPLACER Professional Development series are free, one-hour sessions for educators who want to learn more about ACCUPLACER products, best practices and system enhancements. Sessions cover the following topics and much more:

- > Overview of ACCUPLACER products, features and testing platform
- > Enhancements to the testing platform
- > The validity and reliability of ACCUPLACER tests
- > Innovative tools to improve academic performance

For more information and to register visit [collegeboard.org/accuplacer](http://collegeboard.org/accuplacer).



ONLINE

Search and register for online and in-person workshops and events by state, meeting type and/or subject at [collegeboard.org/meetings](http://collegeboard.org/meetings).



## BEST PRACTICES IN SCHOOL COUNSELING

ADVANCING THE PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE OF ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS

Workshops and events hosted by the College Board support school counselors by sharing the latest research, strategies and practices that help to ensure all students are college and career ready. Through these engaging and interactive opportunities, school counselors engage in discussions with peers, earn continuing education units (CEUs) and learn about relevant programs and services, college and financial aid advising, legal and ethical issues in the counseling profession and much more.



### Destination Equity: NOSCA Annual Conference

**April 12–13, 2013  
New Orleans, LA**

This annual event hosted by the College Board Advocacy & Policy Center National Office for School Counselor Advocacy (NOSCA) celebrates the crucial role school counselors play in equitable college counseling practices and programs that prepare all students to be college and career ready.

Participants will learn to:

- > Strengthen leadership and advocacy skills to support an equitable college-going culture;
- > Acquire hands-on strategies and tools that can be used to transform school counseling practice;
- > Gain skills in using data to demonstrate accountability; and
- > Align school counseling programs to federal and state legislation and local policy and mandates.

Learn more and register at [collegeboard.org/nosca](http://collegeboard.org/nosca).

### Fall Counselor Workshops

**Dates and locations vary by region**

Each free face-to-face workshop is designed to provide school counselors with the most up-to-date information on the College Board's programs, products and services. Fall Counselor Workshops also provide an opportunity to network with colleagues, share best practices and discover tools to help serve your students in the best possible way.

Topics include:

- > Successfully coordinate and administer College Board assessments
- > Review the results of a national survey of school counselors
- > Discover free student resources, including BigFuture™, a new comprehensive college planning website

Dates and locations vary by region. Learn more and register at [collegeboard.org/cw](http://collegeboard.org/cw).



## KEY TRENDS IN EDUCATION

CONVENING AROUND THE ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT MATTER

The College Board hosts a number of conferences each year that convene participants from school districts, higher education institutions, community-based organizations, state and local government and more. Each conference offers a platform to share best practices for increasing student achievement and connecting all students to college success.

Participants have a chance to learn from prominent experts, earn continuing education units (CEUs), network with peers and walk away with insight and practical tools to implement important change.

### College Board Forum: Investing in Education

**October 24–26, 2012**  
**Miami, FL**

Forum is the annual conference of the College Board and offers an unparalleled opportunity to discuss important issues affecting education. Professionals from schools and colleges across the nation and around the world gather to share ideas with educators of every role — superintendents, teachers, counselors, college presidents, faculty, and admission and financial aid officers. Conference highlights include:

- > Serving Our Students and Our Nation in a Time of Shifting Demographics
- > Ensuring All Students Are College Ready
- > Understanding Financial Aid in a Challenging Economic Climate

Learn more and register at [collegeboard.org/forum](http://collegeboard.org/forum).

### Save the Date for Forum 2013

October 23–25, 2013  
New York, NY

### Regional Forums

Regional Forums offer educators energizing environments in which to network with local peers, learn from leading educators and share insight and tools to implement important changes that increase student achievement.

#### **New England Regional Forum**

January 29–30, 2013  
Boston, MA  
Learn more and register at [collegeboard.org/nero](http://collegeboard.org/nero).

#### **Midwestern Regional Forum**

February 10–12, 2013  
Chicago, IL  
Learn more and register at [collegeboard.org/mro](http://collegeboard.org/mro).

#### **Middle States Regional Forum**

February 13–15, 2013  
Brooklyn, NY  
Learn more and register at [collegeboard.org/msro](http://collegeboard.org/msro).

#### **Western Regional Forum**

February 22–23, 2013  
San Diego, CA  
Learn more and register at [collegeboard.org/wro](http://collegeboard.org/wro).

#### **Southwestern Regional Forum**

February 27–28, 2013  
Dallas, TX  
Learn more and register at [collegeboard.org/swro](http://collegeboard.org/swro).

#### **Southern Regional Forum**

March 7–8, 2013  
Atlanta, GA  
Learn more and register at [collegeboard.org/sro](http://collegeboard.org/sro).



## Diversity Conferences

As part of its commitment to educational excellence and equity for all students, each year the College Board hosts a series of Diversity Conferences convening professionals and community leaders from schools, colleges and community-based organizations from across the country. Educators gather to share best practices and strategies that ensure all students — especially underrepresented students — can be successful in school, college and beyond.

### **Prepárate™**

May 1–2, 2013  
Chicago, IL

Prepárate brings together professionals from higher education, secondary schools and community-based organizations for thought-provoking sessions that address crucial topics in education. Educators will convene to share best practices that help prepare Latino students for opportunities and success. Learn more and register at [collegeboard.org/prepare](http://collegeboard.org/prepare).

### **A Dream Deferred™**

May 2–3, 2013  
Chicago, IL

A Dream Deferred continues to inspire powerful thinking around key issues that affect African American students. Educators from across the country will convene to develop a unified voice to advocate for, and effect, change. Learn more and register at [collegeboard.org/dreamdeferred](http://collegeboard.org/dreamdeferred).

### **Native American Student Advocacy Institute**

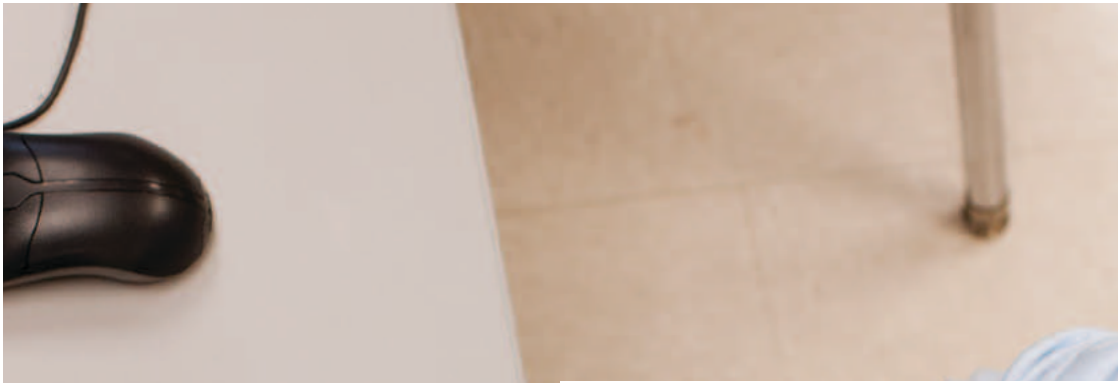
May 30–31, 2013  
Pablo/Missoula, MT

The issues that face Native American students are important to everyone seeking to advance equity and access for all students. The Native American Student Advocacy Institute enables educators to share best practices and strategies currently implemented in schools, colleges and communities around the country. Learn more and register at [collegeboard.org/nasai](http://collegeboard.org/nasai).

### **Asian American and Pacific Islander Summit**

Date and Location TBD

The Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Summit convenes educators, community leaders and policymakers to address the challenges facing AAPI students and those who serve them. The summit showcases effective partnerships and highlights community engagement initiatives and strategies for access and student success. Learn more at [collegeboard.org/aapi](http://collegeboard.org/aapi).



## Advocacy and Policy

### TRANSFORMING EDUCATION FOR ALL STUDENTS



#### OVERVIEW

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- 74 The College Board Advocacy & Policy Center
- 76 CollegeKeys Compact™
- 78 The National Office for School Counselor Advocacy
- 80 The Educational Experience of Young Men of Color
- 82 Five Ways Ed Pays
- 84 The College Completion Agenda





Guided by the organization’s principles of excellence and equity in education, the College Board Advocacy & Policy Center works to ensure that **students from all backgrounds** have the opportunity to **succeed** in college and beyond. The Center’s work focuses on three critical areas—**college preparation and access, college affordability and financial aid** and **college admission and completion**—and makes critical connections between policy, research and real-world practice to develop innovative solutions to the most pressing challenges in education today.



## College Preparation and Access

We develop evidence-based tools and resources to help educators build a college-ready culture of high expectations and achievement. We also work to raise awareness of the value and contributions of teachers and school counselors who work directly with students, their families and communities.

### CollegeKeys Compact™

Ensuring that students from low-income backgrounds get ready for, get into and get through college. [collegeboard.org/collegekeys](https://collegeboard.org/collegekeys)

### National Office for School Counselor Advocacy (NOSCA)

Promoting the value of school counselors as leaders in advancing school reform and student achievement. [collegeboard.org/nosca](https://collegeboard.org/nosca)

### Leading Success™: Dynamic Solutions for Every School, Each Student

Created through a collaboration with the Advocacy & Policy Center and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), *Leading Success* shares the techniques of successful educators through videos as well as an anthology of best practices, collaborative activities and research in an innovative toolkit for all educators.

### The Educational Experience of Young Men of Color

Increasing minority male participation and success in secondary and postsecondary education. [collegeboard.org/youngmenofcolor](https://collegeboard.org/youngmenofcolor)

### Teacher Advocacy

Highlighting the critical importance of teachers and amplifying their voices in policy debates about educational reform. [collegeboard.org/teacheradvocacy](https://collegeboard.org/teacheradvocacy)

### Undocumented Students and the DREAM Act

Advocating for passage of the federal DREAM Act to help unauthorized immigrant students attend college. [collegeboard.org/dreamact](https://collegeboard.org/dreamact)

### The National Commission on Writing

Working to improve the teaching and learning of writing in American schools, a critical skill in our communication-driven society. [collegeboard.org/writingcommission](https://collegeboard.org/writingcommission)

### Arts at the Core

Helping students understand and shape the world through the power of art. [collegeboard.org/arts-task-force](https://collegeboard.org/arts-task-force)



ONLINE

Visit [collegeboard.org/advocacy](https://collegeboard.org/advocacy) for more information on each initiative and to download relevant research, resources and tools.



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## College Affordability and Financial Aid

We offer recommendations to improve and simplify the financial aid system so that enrollment and full participation in college is possible for all students. We also provide institutions and policymakers with data on the current and long-term trends in college prices and financial aid.

### Student Aid Reform

Offering a path toward simplicity, predictability and clear focus on students who need financial assistance to achieve college success.

[collegeboard.org/studentaidreform](https://collegeboard.org/studentaidreform)

### Trends in Higher Education

Answering critical questions on college affordability and informing policymakers, researchers, student advocates and others in their analyses of college pricing and student financial aid. [collegeboard.org/trends](https://collegeboard.org/trends)

### Five Ways Ed Pays

Helping students and their families explore the benefits of going to college.

[collegeboard.org/fivewaysedpays](https://collegeboard.org/fivewaysedpays)

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## College Admission and Completion

We develop evidence-based practices and policies to increase postsecondary attainment, particularly among students from low-income and minority backgrounds, and underserved schools and districts.

### College Completion Agenda

Reestablishing the United States as a global leader in education, by ensuring that 55 percent of Americans hold a postsecondary credential by 2025.

[collegeboard.org/completionagenda](https://collegeboard.org/completionagenda)

### Community Colleges

Advancing the success of two-year institutions through easy access to data that describes the progress and success of community college students.

[collegeboard.org/completionarch](https://collegeboard.org/completionarch)

### Admissions in the 21st Century

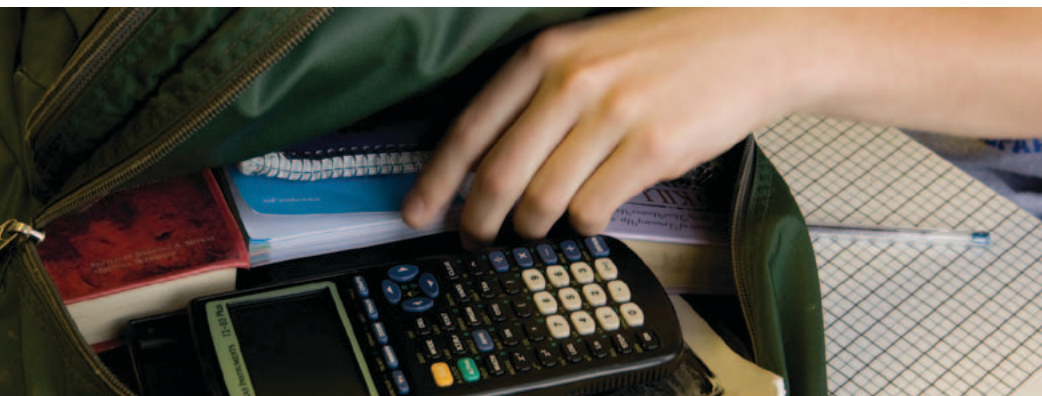
Addressing the broad challenges facing the school counseling, admissions, enrollment and financial aid professions in the 21st century.

[collegeboard.org/admissionsinthe21stcentury](https://collegeboard.org/admissionsinthe21stcentury)

### Access and Diversity Collaborative

Helping institutions advance their student-focused access and diversity goals and maximize the educational benefits of diversity for all students.

[collegeboard.org/diversitycollaborative](https://collegeboard.org/diversitycollaborative)



## COLLEGEKEYS COMPACT

EXPANDING OPTIONS FOR LOW-INCOME STUDENTS

The College Board is determined to make college access and success a reality for all students, including those from low-income backgrounds. The CollegeKeys Compact™ is a call to action to school districts, colleges and universities, state education agencies and nonprofit organizations to identify, share and intensify ways to address the needs and challenges of increasing access and success for low-income students. Learn more at [collegeboard.org/collegekeys](https://collegeboard.org/collegekeys).



### How You Can Help Your Students Get Ready, Get In and Get Through

Join the College Board in a national effort to reshape American education and to make the American Dream a reality for all young people across the country.

- ▶ **Sign the Partners' Commitment** Affirm your school or district's commitment to higher education for all students.
- ▶ **Engage a Team of Senior Leaders** Review your current commitments to supporting the college aspirations of students from low-income backgrounds and identifying opportunities for expanding these efforts.
- ▶ **Conduct the CollegeKeys™ Inventory** Complete a detailed inventory of your institution's strengths and needs with regard to college readiness, student achievement and student success.
- ▶ **Establish Goals** Create measurable institutional goals for expanding your institution's progress (based on your goal statement) and share those goals with us.
- ▶ **Share Effective Practices** Commit to sharing your best practices in achieving your institution's goals so that other schools can learn from your success.

Visit [collegeboard.org/collegekeys](https://collegeboard.org/collegekeys) to join the Compact, download the CollegeKeys™ inventory and learn about effective practices taking place across the country.

The precollegiate achievement gap between children from high- and low-income families has been increasing for at least 50 years and is roughly 30–40 percent larger among children born in 2001 than among those born 25 years earlier.



FACT



# THE NATIONAL OFFICE FOR SCHOOL COUNSELOR ADVOCACY (NOSCA)

PROMOTING THE VALUE OF SCHOOL COUNSELORS AS LEADERS IN SCHOOL REFORM,  
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND COLLEGE READINESS

The National Office for School Counselor Advocacy (NOSCA) advocates for school counseling that helps every student graduate from high school with the educational preparation and social capital necessary for success. NOSCA identifies and supports the skills, practices, and relationships school counselors need to ensure that all students are college and career ready.

NOSCA partners with national and state organizations and institutions to tap distinguished researchers and practitioners to gather information from surveys, case studies, in-depth interviews and data analysis. These research-based projects focus on schools that have a high population of low-income students, and emphasize raising the academic achievement and future options for all students.

## 8 Components of College and Career Readiness Counseling



**1 Nurture College Aspirations**  
Build a college-going culture based on early college awareness by nurturing in students the confidence to aspire to college and the resilience to overcome challenges along the way. Maintain high expectations by providing adequate supports, building social capital and conveying the conviction that all students can succeed in college.

**2 Advance Academic Planning**  
Advance students' planning, preparation, participation and performance in a rigorous academic program that connects to their college and career aspirations and goals.

**3 Ensure Enrichment and Extracurricular Engagement**  
Ensure equitable exposure to a wide range of extracurricular and enrichment opportunities that build leadership, nurture talents and interests and increase engagement with school.

**4 Enable College and Career Exploration and Selection Processes**  
Provide early and ongoing exposure to experiences and information necessary to make informed decisions when selecting a college or career that connects to academic preparation and future aspirations.

**5 Promote College and Career Assessments**  
Promote preparation, participation and performance in college and career assessments by all students.

**6 Provide College Affordability Planning**  
Provide students and families with comprehensive information about college costs, options for paying for college, and the financial aid and scholarship processes and eligibility requirements, so they are able to plan for and afford a college education.

**7 Increase Understanding of the College and Career Admission Processes**  
Ensure that students and families have an early and ongoing understanding of the college and career application and admission processes so they can find the postsecondary options that are the best fit with their aspirations and interests.

**8 Transition from High School Graduation to College Enrollment**  
Connect students to school and community resources to help the students overcome barriers and ensure the successful transition from high school to college.

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## Own the Turf

NOSCA's Own the Turf is a national advocacy campaign developed to galvanize and mobilize school counselors to own the turf of college and career readiness counseling, and to take the lead in establishing a college-going culture in their schools, districts, communities and states. The goals are to:

- > Provide every student with the inspiration, planning, academic preparation and social capital to graduate from high school ready for college and careers; and
- > Increase awareness and understanding of the value and importance of college and career readiness counseling among school and district leaders, policymakers and the public.

School counselors who join the Own the Turf campaign become part of a national community of counselors striving to prepare all of their students for enrollment and success in college and the workforce. In addition to receiving the initial Own the Turf Toolkit, counselors will receive updates, tools, and other materials on a regular basis and can join an online community.

Learn more or join the campaign at [collegeboard.org/nosca](http://collegeboard.org/nosca).



### PARTICIPATE

Join NOSCA on April 12–13, 2013 in New Orleans to learn from practitioners, network with colleagues and celebrate the crucial role school counselors play in equitable college counseling practices and programs that prepare all students to be college and career ready. Learn more at [collegeboard.org/nosca](http://collegeboard.org/nosca).

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## Annual National Survey of School Counselors

School counselors are among the least strategically deployed professionals in the education system. One way NOSCA is addressing this guidance gap is through a national survey, the first of its kind, to see how school counselors view their mission, spend their days and believe they can better serve students.

Read the complete survey at [collegeboard.org/nosca](http://collegeboard.org/nosca).

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## Principal–School Counselor Relationships

An effective relationship between school principals and counselors is crucial to promoting school reform and improving academic outcomes. School principals provide leadership and direction. School counselors support this vision by helping all students and their families successfully attain rigorous academic preparation and navigate the sometimes confusing path to college and careers.

Download the Enhancing the Principal-School Counselor Relationship Toolkit and other resources at [collegeboard.org/nosca](http://collegeboard.org/nosca).

“I consider counselors to be part of my administrative team and frequently ask their input on policy decisions. Every counselor must have a philosophy of high expectations, which includes preparing ALL our students for admission to university.”

— **Anita Berger**, Principal,  
Banneker High School

# THE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE OF YOUNG MEN OF COLOR

IMPROVING EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

The fastest growing populations in the country are also the minority groups with the lowest levels of male educational attainment. If present levels of education and current population trends hold, the United States will see a decline in the educational attainment of the country as a whole. As part of its commitment to ensuring that at least 55 percent of Americans hold a postsecondary credential by 2025, the College Board recognizes that this goal cannot be met without the full participation of our nation's young men of color.

The Advocacy & Policy Center compiled a research-driven report and collaborated with the Business Innovation Factory and Education Counsel LLC to include student perspectives and policy implications called *The Educational Experience of Young Men of Color*. This report provides a comprehensive understanding of the issues affecting the academic performance of young men of color and offers a compelling narrative that tracks the progress and pitfalls on their way to college. Learn more at [collegeboard.org/youngmenofcolor](http://collegeboard.org/youngmenofcolor).

## 6 Recommendations to Support the Education of Young Men of Color

**1 National Priority** Make improving outcomes for young men of color a national priority.

**2 Mentoring and Support** Increase community, business and school partnerships to provide mentoring and support to young men of color.

**3 College and Career Readiness** Reform education to ensure that all students, including young men of color, are college and career ready when they graduate from high school.

**4 Teacher Education** Improve teacher education programs and provide professional development that includes cultural- and gender-responsive training.

**5 Persistence and Retention** Create culturally appropriate persistence and retention programs that provide wraparound services to increase college completion for men of color.

**6 Research and Studies** Produce more research and conduct more studies that strengthen the understanding of the challenges faced by males of color and provide evidence-based solutions to these challenges.



PARTICIPATE

### JOIN THE CONVERSATION

As part of its commitment to educational excellence and equity, each year the College Board hosts a series of Diversity Conferences where educators can share best practices and strategies that ensure all students can be successful in school, college and beyond. Learn more on page 71.



# STUDENT VOICES



“There are so many students of color who look to come to schools like this, but when they get here they leave, because they realize ‘I just can’t fit in here. I just can’t function at all.’ I don’t think it’s due to not being smart enough. It’s due to the social interactions that occur when you go to an institution that’s white, elite and affluent. When you come from a historically marginalized [group], you don’t know the codes of social interaction.”

**Shawneil**

African American, four-year private school

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“People here talk about guidance counselors. I never had one so I don’t know what they have to offer. But I’d like a guidance counselor — someone to talk to on an educational level. If you’re that ignorant in the subject, you don’t know if the choices you’re making are the best choices you could make or, is there a better way?”

**Sammy**

Asian American/Pacific Islander, two-year public school

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“[I’m] going for what I want and not letting others influence me. It’s always good to have a goal for yourself ... short-term goal or long term. Just put it on a Post-it note and look at it every day. Say, this is what I want to do and I want to accomplish it by ... ”

**Rafi**

Hispanic/Latino, four-year private school

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“Whatever I’ve invested I’ve gotten 10 times more out of it. I wasn’t dedicated in high school ... Once I realized I could study something I care about everything changed. I was willing to put everything into it.”

**Kellen**

Native American, four-year public school

## FIVE WAYS ED PAYS

EMPOWERING STUDENTS TO PURSUE A POSTSECONDARY DEGREE AND  
ELIMINATING MISCONCEPTIONS FOR PARENTS

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For most students who go to college, the increase in their lifetime earnings far outweighs the costs of their education. That's a powerful argument for college. But more income is by no means the only positive outcome students can expect. The knowledge, fulfillment, self-awareness and broadening of horizons that come from a college experience can transform students' lives in other equally valuable ways. More security, better health, closer family, stronger community, these, in addition to greater wealth, are the real value of a college education.

The College Board Advocacy & Policy Center launched the Five Ways Ed Pays Campaign to get students excited about the benefits of a college degree. The campaign is built upon the data and research highlighted in *Education Pays 2010: The Benefits of Higher Education for Individuals and Society*. Five Ways Ed Pays takes these data and builds a compelling message to parents and creates a vision for students — particularly first-generation, minority, and low-income students — that college has the potential to transform their lives.

Order free posters, brochures and other resources in English and Spanish at [collegeboard.org/fivewaysedpays](http://collegeboard.org/fivewaysedpays).

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FACT

In 2009, the unemployment rate for those with at least a four-year college degree was 4.6%, significantly lower than the 9.7% unemployment rate for high school graduates.

## 5 Ways Ed Pays

**Better Health** Individuals ages 25 to 34 with a four-year college degree are 70% more likely to engage in vigorous exercise than those with only a high school diploma.

**Closer Family** Parents with four-year college degrees are 68% more likely to have attended a concert or live show with their children than parents with only a high school diploma.

**Greater Wealth** Individuals with a four-year college degree earn an average of \$22,000 more per year than those with only a high school diploma.

**More Security** Individuals with only a high school diploma are about twice as likely to be unemployed as those with a four-year college degree.

**Stronger Community** Individuals ages 18 to 24 with a four-year college degree were 75% more likely to vote in the 2008 election than those with only a high school diploma.



## THE COLLEGE COMPLETION AGENDA

GAINING LEADERSHIP IN POSTSECONDARY DEGREE ATTAINMENT

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The percentage of American adults with postsecondary credentials is not keeping pace with other industrialized nations. Improving postsecondary success for all our citizens, but most urgently for low-income and minority students, is critical to our nation's economic and social health.

The Commission on Access, Admissions and Success in Higher Education, formed by the College Board, has been created to study the educational pipeline as a single continuum and identify solutions to increase the number of students who graduate from college and are prepared to succeed in the 21st century. The commission established 10 interdependent recommendations to reach its goal of ensuring that at least 55 percent of Americans hold a postsecondary degree by 2025.

The College Board has developed the College Completion Agenda — incorporating a progress report that will be updated annually and a companion state policy guide that was co-created with the National Conference of State Legislatures. They combine comprehensive research from nationally recognized sources with best-practice policy examples, all aligned around 10 key recommendations. The agenda's purpose is to provide reliable, measurable information that tracks our collective progress, as well as policymaking strategies each state can use. Learn more at [collegeboard.org/completionagenda](https://collegeboard.org/completionagenda).





# 10 Recommendations for 55 Percent by 2025

## 1 **Preschool Education**

Provide a program of voluntary preschool education, universally available to children from low-income families so that all children enter school ready to learn.

## 2 **Middle and High School Counseling**

Improve middle and high school college counseling by meeting professional standards and involving colleges and universities in college planning.

## 3 **Dropout Prevention**

Implement the best research-based dropout prevention programs to identify students at risk of dropping out and then provide them with a safety net.

## 4 **Standards and Expectations**

Align the K–12 education system with international standards and college admission expectations so that all students are prepared for college, work and life.

## 5 **Teacher Quality**

Improve teacher quality and focus on recruitment and retention because an educational system can only be as good as its teachers.

## 6 **Admission Process**

Clarify and simplify the admission process to encourage more first-generation students to apply.

## 7 **Need-Based Aid**

Provide more need-based grant aid while simplifying and making financial aid processes more transparent.

## 8 **College Affordability**

Keep college affordable by controlling college costs, using available aid and resources wisely, and insisting that states meet their obligations for funding higher education.

## 9 **College Completion Rates**

Dramatically increase college completion rates by reducing dropouts, easing transfer processes and using data-based approaches to improve completion rates.

## 10 **Postsecondary Opportunities**

Provide postsecondary opportunities as an essential element of adult education programs.



# College Planning Resources for Students and Families

**SUPPORTING THE  
JOURNEY TOWARD SUCCESS  
IN HIGHER EDUCATION**



## OVERVIEW

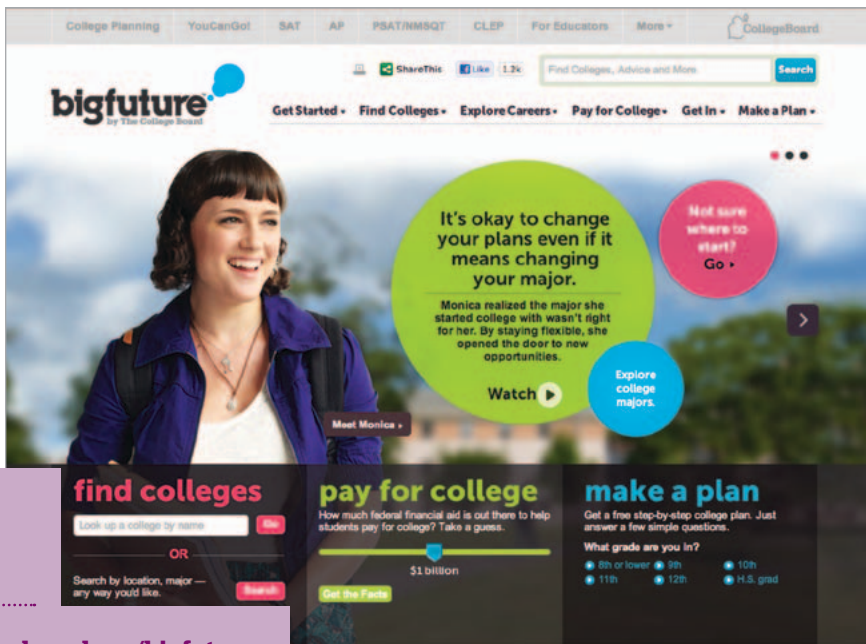
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- 88 BigFuture™
- 90 YouCanGo!™
- 92 Student Search Service® (SSS®)



The College Board offers many **free, easy-to-use** resources and tools to support students and their families as they prepare for, enroll in and graduate from college. From **searching** for colleges and universities to understanding the **financial aid process** and discovering **scholarship opportunities**, the College Board can support students throughout the entire **college planning process**.

BigFuture by the College Board is a free, comprehensive website that improves the college planning process for students, families and educators. BigFuture’s step-by-step approach makes college planning easier to navigate and less overwhelming. It helps students learn how to overcome the barriers that make college seem out of reach. Students and educators collaborated to create the interactive tools and media that guide students as they find, afford and enroll in a college that’s a good fit for them. Help students start to plan for college today at [collegeboard.org/bigfuture](http://collegeboard.org/bigfuture).



ONLINE



Visit [collegeboard.org/bigfuture](http://collegeboard.org/bigfuture) to help students find information about colleges, explore majors and careers, hear from other students and so much more.

## Find a College

At BigFuture, students can learn about nearly 4,000 colleges and universities.

Using the new interactive College Search tool, students can look up a specific college or university or they can search for colleges by as many or as few criteria as they want. BigFuture can also guide them through a step-by-step college search. Students can weight criteria to improve their college matches and can save college search results to a favorites list.

In addition, integrated guidance from real student videos and experts helps students make informed choices about their college options.

## Make a Plan

Beginning in middle school, BigFuture can help students make a plan for college.

Students can create a personal and interactive road map to guide them through their journey to college, helping them meet their goals and keep track of important deadlines. It starts with a few simple questions and evolves as students go through the college planning process. Answering one simple question — what grade you are in — gets students started.

Students can save their plans and go back any time to mark tasks completed and see their progress to college.

## Pay for College

TIP



BigFuture provides access to Net Price Calculators for nearly 4,000 schools — a great place to start in understanding college affordability and financial fit. The College Board's Net Price Calculator is a tool that estimates the “net price” to attend a particular college or university. Net price is the full cost of college (tuition, fees, room, board, books, supplies, transportation and personal expenses) minus any grants or scholarships the student receives.



BigFuture features a number of tools to help students and their families better understand the cost of college, navigate the scholarship and financial aid process and make an informed decision about which college to attend. “Financial fit” is just one of many important factors students and their families will want to consider in choosing a college.

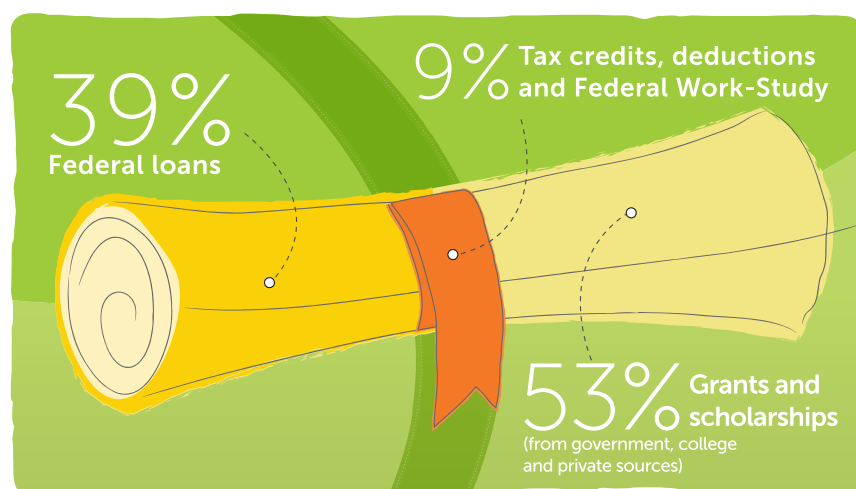
### Find Out What College Will Cost

Use the College Cost Calculator and other tools to help figure out what college really costs and how to pay for it. If a student needs loans, a calculator can also help to estimate the amount of debt that will need to be paid back.

### Understand the Financial Aid Process

Financial aid is intended to make up the difference between what a family can afford to pay and what college costs so that anyone is able to attend college, regardless of financial circumstances. Over half of the students currently enrolled in college receive some sort of financial aid to help pay college costs.

BigFuture offers students and their families all the resources they need to understand the financial aid process — financial aid lingo, questions to ask financial aid officers, how to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form and so much more.



### Search for Scholarships

BigFuture helps students locate scholarships, internships, grants and loans that match their education level, talents and background. Students can complete a brief questionnaire and the Scholarship Search tool will find potential opportunities from the database of more than 2,300 sources of college funding, totaling nearly \$3 billion in available aid.

YouCanGo!™ is a free website designed for students who don't think that college is an option for them. The site is an important entry point for lower-resourced students who need the extra inspiration, guidance and practical support to begin their college-going journey. For many students and educators, YouCanGo! acts as a first step in the process, inspiring students to take the next steps in college planning with BigFuture. Inspire students today at [collegeboard.org/ycg](http://collegeboard.org/ycg).

## Overcome Barriers to Pursue Higher Education

YouCanGo!™ helps counselors and educators to inspire students to consider college. It features:

- > Videos from real students describing how they overcame some of the most common college-going obstacles to make it to college
- > An interactive tool that shows all students they have many college options just by graduating high school, including local college options
- > A social tool that encourages students to build a support network by creating a "college pledge" to share with family and friends
- > A simple action plan for some steps students can take to start their college-going journey

ONLINE



Visit [collegeboard.org/ycg](http://collegeboard.org/ycg) to hear real-life stories of how students made it to college, view the many college options available to students just by graduating high school and so much more.





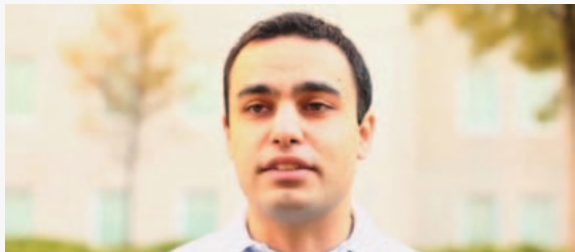
## MEET STEPHANIE

**In tenth grade, Stephanie dropped out of school, but once she was on her own she began to think it was a mistake.** “It was weird, lonely and scary,” she says, “because I realized I had just done something that could affect me for the rest of my life.”

After two months, she and her mother settled on a solution: Stephanie would take classes at an alternative high school, with her sights set on going to college. First, she needed to concentrate on her schoolwork. She had not been challenged at her old school, but the new setting made a difference.

“When I started the alternative school, I gained a sense of pride about taking control of my education,” Stephanie says. “I was there because I wanted to be there. I formed relationships with many of my teachers and felt a sense of belonging. School wasn’t such a chore; I enjoyed going and I became really attentive.” By the time she graduated, Stephanie had a 3.3 GPA — good enough to get into a number of colleges.

When it came time to choose a school, she decided to attend a community college her first two years since it was less expensive. Because she’d improved her grades, she received an academic scholarship that covered her tuition.



## MEET ALEX

**Alex’s family moved to the United States when he was very young.** Although his parents wanted him to go to college, they couldn’t afford to help him pay for it. “I would visit college websites and see how much tuition and dorms were, and it seemed sort of impossible,” Alex remembers. Some colleges had published prices that were as much as his family earned in a year.

In high school, Alex used his lunch breaks to research financial aid at his school’s counseling office. What he found surprised him. “There are a lot of different [scholarships] based on heritage, culture, religion ... for things you would never imagine.”

For Alex, money was definitely a factor when it was time to pick a school. “Basically, my decision came down to the financial aid package I was offered and the cost of in-state versus out-of-state tuition.” Alex decided to take advantage of lower tuition at a public university in his home state.

## STUDENT SEARCH SERVICE® (SSS®)

INTRODUCING STUDENTS TO COLLEGES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The College Board's Student Search Service (SSS) introduces students to higher education opportunities by offering them the option to provide personal information to colleges and scholarship programs that are looking for students like them — all at no cost to the student.

When students take a College Board exam — PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, SAT Subject Test or AP Exam — they can opt in to SSS during the registration process. The vast majority of exam-takers opt in to SSS to receive information about admission, financial aid and other postsecondary opportunities without being solicited by commercial entities.

More than 1,100 colleges, universities and scholarship programs use SSS every year to find the right students for their programs, scholarships and special activities.

Learn more at [collegeboard.org/student-search-service](https://collegeboard.org/student-search-service).

TIP



SSS is free to all students. Participation is voluntary, so remind students to actively opt in each time they register for a PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, SAT Subject Test or AP Exam.

Students consistently report that while they enjoy receiving information about familiar colleges and universities, they especially enjoy hearing from colleges and universities with which they were previously unfamiliar. This is particularly the case for students currently underrepresented in higher education and students from first-generation college families.



FACT



## College Planning Resources

**BigFuture** A new, free and comprehensive website that will improve the college planning process for all students.

[collegeboard.org/bigfuture](http://collegeboard.org/bigfuture)

▶ **College Search** A database of nearly 4,000 colleges and universities searchable by location, majors, cost and more.

[collegeboard.org/collegesearch](http://collegeboard.org/collegesearch)

▶ **Financial Aid Planner** An overview of the steps involved in understanding how to pay for college.

[collegeboard.org/financialaidplanner](http://collegeboard.org/financialaidplanner)

▶ **Scholarship Search** An online tool to help students locate scholarships, internships, grants and loans that match their education level, talents and background.

[collegeboard.org/scholarships](http://collegeboard.org/scholarships)

**Guidance Publications** Print resources that help students learn about college options, majors, scholarships and more.

[collegeboard.org/publications](http://collegeboard.org/publications)

**My College Dollars Tool** A Facebook application that connects students with targeted financial aid opportunities.

[collegeboard.org/mycollegedollars](http://collegeboard.org/mycollegedollars)

**My College QuickStart** An online college and career planning kit available free of charge to all students who take the PSAT/NMSQT.

[collegeboard.org/quickstart](http://collegeboard.org/quickstart)

**MyRoad** A comprehensive online major, college and career exploration program included in My College QuickStart. [collegeboard.org/myroad](http://collegeboard.org/myroad)

**Net Price Calculator** A free online tool that estimates the “net price” to attend a particular college or university.

[collegeboard.org/npc](http://collegeboard.org/npc)

**Student Search Service (SSS)**

A free tool that introduces students to colleges and scholarship programs that are looking for students like them.

[collegeboard.org/student-search-service](http://collegeboard.org/student-search-service)

**YouCanGo!** A free website that will inspire students who want to go to college but feel it’s not an option for them. [collegeboard.org/ycg](http://collegeboard.org/ycg)



## College Board Test Dates

### ReadiStep

October 17–31, 2012

### PSAT/NMSQT

October 17, 2012

October 20, 2012

### SAT

October 6, 2012

November 3, 2012

December 1, 2012

January 26, 2013

March 9, 2013

May 4, 2013

June 1, 2013

### SAT School Day

October 17, 2012

February 27, 2013

April 17, 2013

### SAT Subject Tests

October 6, 2012

November 3, 2012

December 1, 2012

January 26, 2013

May 4, 2013

June 1, 2013

### AP Exams

#### May 6, 2013

AP Chemistry

AP Environmental Science

AP Psychology

#### May 7, 2013

AP Art History

AP Computer Science A

AP Spanish Language

#### May 8, 2013

AP Calculus AB

AP Calculus BC

AP Chinese Language and Culture

#### May 9, 2013

AP English Literature and Composition

AP Japanese Language and Culture

AP Latin

#### May 10, 2013

AP English Language and Composition

AP Statistics

AP Studio Art Portfolios Due

#### May 13, 2013

AP Biology

AP Music Theory

AP Physics B

AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism

AP Physics C: Mechanics

#### May 14, 2013

AP Comparative Government and Politics

AP French Language and Culture

AP United States Government and Politics

#### May 15, 2013

AP European History

AP German Language and Culture

AP United States History

#### May 16, 2013

AP Italian Language and Culture

AP Macroeconomics

AP Microeconomics

AP World History

#### May 17, 2013

AP Human Geography

AP Spanish Literature and Culture

## College Board Conferences and Events

July 18–22, 2012

AP Annual Conference

October 24–26, 2012

College Board Forum

January 29–30, 2013

New England Regional Forum

February 10–12, 2013

Midwestern Regional Forum

February 13–15, 2013

Middle States Regional Forum

February 22–23, 2013

Western Regional Forum

February 27–28, 2013

Southwestern Regional Forum

March 7–8, 2013

Southern Regional Forum

April 12–13, 2013

NOSCA Annual Conference

May 1–2, 2013

Prepárate Conference

May 2–3, 2013

A Dream Deferred Conference

May 30–31, 2013

Native American Student Advocacy Institute

June 27–29, 2013

ACCUPLACER National Conference

July 17–21, 2013

AP Annual Conference

October 23–25, 2013

College Board Forum

## About the College Board

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](http://www.collegeboard.org).

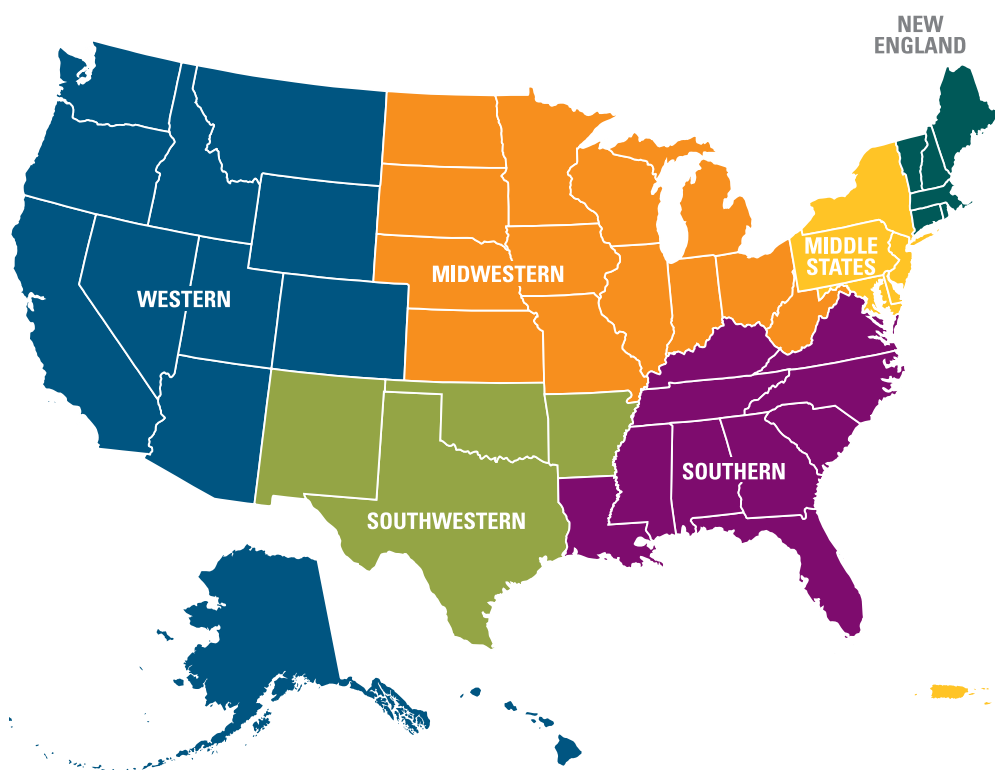
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# The College Board — A Committed Partner for Increasing College Readiness

The College Board is committed to supporting your school, district or state in a collaborative effort to connect more students to college success and opportunity. We are ready to partner with you to increase the college readiness for **all** of your students.

Learn more at [collegeboard.org](https://collegeboard.org).



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