



## The SAT<sup>®</sup>

# A Guide to PDF Score Reports

The SAT<sup>®</sup> focuses on the core skills and knowledge most essential for success, and the scores shared with higher education institutions convey a cohesive profile of college readiness.

**IMPORTANT:** All SAT scores sent to your higher education institution are reported in a single PDF score report. Paper score reports are no longer supported; however, the higher education reporting portal allows you to access and print PDFs of student score reports. For more information about accessing scores online, visit [collegeboard.org/hedreports/help](https://collegeboard.org/hedreports/help).

This guide provides helpful information about PDF score reports if you plan to use them.

## SAT Scores

PDF score reports show scores sent to your higher education institution for the SAT in a grid that lists scores for up to six test administrations the student may have sent. The most recent scores can be found on the left and shaded in blue.

### DIGITAL AND PAPER AND PENCIL SAT:

The scores include:

- Total score (400–1600)
- Section scores (200–800) for the Reading and Writing section and Math section
- Essay (2–8) for some state-provided testing

The SAT transitioned from paper and pencil to digital testing in March 2023. Score reports for paper and pencil tests include the total and section scores shown above, plus the following scores and subscores:

- Test scores (10–40) for the Reading and Writing, and Math sections
- Cross-test scores (10–40) for Analysis in History/Social Studies and Analysis in Science
- Subscores (1–15) in 7 categories throughout the 2 sections

## More About Scores

### SAT SCORE RANGES

A student's scores are usually stable over different administrations of the same test and over short periods of time, but they do vary slightly. These variations are best captured by score ranges, rather than single score points.

Score ranges for the SAT vary by score type:

- Total:  $\pm 40$  points
- Section:  $\pm 30$  points

## Student Data Privacy

As a reminder, in 2023-24 we changed the way we collect and share student data on score reports for students who take the SAT during the school day. This change was made as a part of our commitment to delivering opportunities to students while protecting their privacy.

The fields that will be provided when you receive SAT School Day score reports will include the following:

- Name
- Gender
- Birth Date
- College Board Student and School ID
- Address (all fields)
- Graduation Date
- Homeschool Indicator

Some fields will be blank, including:

- Race/Ethnicity Student Response
- Derived Aggregate Race/Ethnicity
- Telephone Number
- Email Address
- All Student Data Questionnaire Fields

The information in SAT School Day score reports may only be used for application support and file completion outreach—not for recruitment purposes or other outreach. The Recruitment/Contact Eligible field in the Find a Student feature of the portal, which you'll use to download a score report PDF, should be used to designate whether or not the student data included in the report can be used for recruitment purposes.

## High School Information

Information about the student's high school including the number of Advanced Placement® courses offered, student enrollment, and types of students served. It's provided by the school and isn't independently verified.

## Student Information

### STUDENT DETAILS

The PDF score report provides you information about the student to help you match that student to records in your system. This information includes the student's name, date of birth, and address.

### GEO MARKETS

If your institution has access to Enrollment Planning Service™ through College Board Search, you'll see a geo market code near the student's name and address. College Board Search provides these codes to enhance geographic understanding of student populations and inform strategic recruitment plans. Learn more about College Board Search at [cbsearch.collegeboard.org](https://cbsearch.collegeboard.org).

### EDUCATION, PLANS, AND ACTIVITIES

You may also view responses the student provided in the student questionnaire related to their educational background, activities and interests, and their college plans. This information may be blank if the student didn't provide it, or if the scores sent were for an SAT School Day administration (see Student Data Privacy on page 1 for more information).

Students registering for an SAT Weekend administration at a center have the option to provide information that will be reflected on the score report delivered to higher education institutions.

## Electronic Score Reports (ESR)

You can also access scores sent to your institution using the ESR data files posted in Downloads in the higher education reporting portal. You can download a .txt or a .csv ESR. The data reported in the PDF score report is also reported in the ESR and additionally includes percentile information that is not available in the PDF score report. Learn more about ESRs at [satsuite.collegeboard.org/help-center/higher-ed-reporting-portal/downloads](https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/help-center/higher-ed-reporting-portal/downloads).

## INDIVIDUAL SAT PERCENTILES

A student's SAT percentiles show the percentage of students whose score is equal to or lower than their score.

**Nationally Representative Sample Percentiles** are derived via research study samples of U.S. students in the 11th and 12th grades, weighted to represent all U.S. students in those grades, regardless of whether they typically take the SAT.

**SAT All Tester Percentiles** are based on the actual scores of students in the past three graduating classes who took the SAT during high school.

**SAT State Percentiles\*** are based on the actual scores of students in the past three graduating classes who took the SAT during high school in the student's state.

**SAT Country Percentiles\*** are based on the actual scores of students in the past three graduating classes who took the SAT during high school in the student's country.

*\*These percentiles are reported for digital SAT administrations only.*

## SUBJECT TEST SCORES

SAT Subject Tests™ scores for tests taken prior to 2021 may also be provided if the student sent those scores to your institution. Subject test scores include a total score (200–800) and, when applicable, a usage subscore for reading and listening.

## Old or Discontinued Scores

Section scores were renamed from Evidence-Based Reading and Writing to Reading and Writing. All test scores, cross-test scores, and subscores have been dropped.

Scores from any SAT given before March 2016 have a different score reporting format, and are listed on the PDF score reports in the grid below scores from the current SAT.

Most students taking the SAT after June 2021 don't have the option of taking the SAT Essay. You may still see some Essay scores (on a scale of 2–8) from students taking a state-provided assessment that includes the Essay. You'll continue to see Essay scores earned before July 2021.

SAT Subject Tests were also discontinued in June 2021, but if a student took one or more of these tests, their score reports will continue to include them, unless the student chooses not to send them. SAT Subject Test scores appear in their own grid, below student information on the PDF score reports.

## Contact Us

For more information, contact College Board at 855-475-3636 or [hedreports@collegeboard.org](mailto:hedreports@collegeboard.org).