SAT

Fall 2026

SAT SCHOOL DAY

Understanding Scores

For Students and Families

SAT Score Resources

Congratulations to your student for taking the SAT at their school. Included is information about scores that may be helpful for students and their families.

What's Included

This document delves deeper into the meaning of your student's scores, including what the assessment measures, how it is scored, and how students and their families can use the data to monitor their progress. The document also provides a sample PDF score report walk-through so you can interpret your student's score reports.

Related Resources

Visit **sat.org/scores** to find information about:

- Score release dates
- Managing access to online scores
- Resources for online score reports
- Downloadable Understanding Scores for Students and Families documents

Contact Us

Customer Service Line

866-630-9305 (+1 212-713-8000 international)

For Students and Parents

sat.org/inquiry

For Educators

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InSchoolSupport@collegeboard.org

k12reports@info.collegeboard.org

About College Board

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

The SAT Suite of Assessments

How the SAT Suite of Assessments Works

The SAT® Suite of Assessments is an integrated system of tests that includes the SAT (for students in grades 11 and 12), the PSAT/NMSQT® and the PSAT™ 10 (for grades 10 and 11), and the PSAT™ 8/9 (for grades 8 and 9). The tests measure the same skills and knowledge in grade-appropriate ways. They work together to show college readiness over time so educators, students, and parents can monitor student progress. Their content reflects the kind of meaningful, engaging, and challenging work that students find in middle school and high school courses taught today.

How the SAT Is Organized

The SAT Suite uses multistage adaptive testing (MST). Relying on MST means we can fairly and accurately measure the same things with a shorter, more secure test while preserving test reliability. Both the Reading and Writing and the Math sections are divided into two equal-length and separately timed stages, each composed of a module of questions. The first module contains a mix of easy, medium, and hard questions. Based on how a student performs on the first module, the second module of questions will either be more difficult or less difficult. By adapting to a student's performance level, the responsive test will provide students with a more efficient assessment of their academic strengths.

How the SAT Is Scored

The SAT Suite uses a multistage adaptive test design and item response theory (IRT) methodology to precisely measure students' knowledge and skills with fewer questions in less time. Every test includes a standardized set of question types and measures the same content domains, so all students have the same opportunity to demonstrate their strengths. Your scores depend on several factors, including whether you answer questions right or wrong, the difficulty level of the questions, and the probability that you might be guessing. For most students, it's better to guess than leave a question blank, especially if you can eliminate one or two wrong answers first. To learn more about how assessments in the SAT Suite adapt to your performance, watch our **What Is Digital SAT Adaptive Testing?** video.

SAT Scores

TEST SCORING

SAT Score Reported	Details	Score Range
Section Scores (2)	• Reading and Writing (RW)	• 200–800
	• Math (M)	• 200–800
Total Score	Sum of the 2 section scores	400–1600

Accessing Official Student Scores

U.S. students who took the SAT and provided a mobile phone number during testing can view their scores on the BigFuture® School app. For more information, see page 10 in this document, or go to **satsuite.org/k12bigfutureschool**.

> **NOTE:** The BigFuture School app is available to U.S. students age 13 and over.

Your student's school has access to a downloadable PDF called *Your Score Report* for every SAT test taker. Students can review this score report with educators at their school and share it with their families.

As always, students age 13 and older may use a personal College Board student account to view additional insights online.

Using SAT Scores to Predict Scores on Other Assessments

The SAT Suite—from the PSAT 8/9 through the SAT—uses a common score scale for the total and section scores. The ranges reported for each assessment reflect grade-level appropriateness within the common score scale. The total range for the SAT is 400–1600.

This common score scale means that a student who took the SAT and received a Math section score of 500 would be expected to also get a 500 on the PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, or PSAT 8/9 if they had taken any of those tests on that same day; a score of 500 represents the same level of academic achievement on all 4 assessments.

This also means that student growth across the SAT Suite is easy to determine. If a student took the PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10 last year and received a 500 Math section score, then took the SAT this year and earned a 550 Math section score, that student has shown a growth of 50 points, which likely resulted from hard work both in and out of school.

Overview of the Score Report PDF

In the official score report PDF, the student can view the three scores available from their SAT assessment—total score, Reading and Writing section score, and Math section score.

For each score, the official score report PDF also includes:

- The range of possible scores: 400–1600 for total score, and 200–800 for section scores.
- The All Tester Percentile of each score. For example, if a student's score is in the 70th percentile, 70% of a comparison group achieved scores at or below that student's score.
- The total and section Average Score of all testers based on all SAT test takers across the last 3 years.

All Tester Percentiles are based on the actual scores of the past 3 cohorts of students who took the SAT in 12th grade for tests completed anywhere in the world.

Individual Score Ranges

A student's ability is better represented by score ranges than points. Score ranges are derived from the standard error of measurement and show how much a student's scores would likely vary if they took a different administration of the test under identical conditions.

Score Sends Held

If **Score Sends Held** appears at the top of the score report, it means that College Board was unable to confirm a complete set of responses was available when the test was scored. Incomplete responses could negatively affect scores, and we will not report them to colleges, universities, or scholarship programs unless you ask us to.

Knowledge and Skills

Students can view a graphic showing their performance on each of the eight content domains measured on the SAT. There are four content domains in Reading and Writing and four in Math.

In each content domain, students can view:

- The approximate number of questions in the content domain and what percentage of the section that represents (e.g., 12–14 questions would be about 26% of the Reading and Writing section).
- A visual indication of how the student performed in each content domain.

Students can use this section to identify content domains they may want to focus on to practice and improve.

Additional Support

The score report includes a Career Insights Snapshot, a list of growing careers in a student's state that connect to their scores. These careers are examples, not recommendations, and can inspire career exploration earlier in high school.

The last section of the score report PDF focuses on next steps the student can take after reviewing their scores. Students can use the provided QR code or link to access more information on tools and services related to these next steps, which include reviewing additional insights on their scores, Official SAT Prep on Khan Academy®, and college and career exploration.

Benchmarks

What the Benchmarks Mean

The **College and Career Readiness Benchmarks** for the SAT predict a 75% likelihood of achieving a C or higher in related first semester, credit-bearing college courses. The benchmarks are set at the section level, so there is a benchmark for Reading and Writing and a benchmark for Math. Students meeting or exceeding these benchmarks are considered on track to be college ready.

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS BENCHMARKS

Reading and Writing	Math
480	530

Through the online K–12 score reporting portal, the SAT reports separate benchmarks for students in 11th grade and 12th grade to help teachers understand students' level of readiness for college and career training programs. Equipped with this information, teachers can address challenge areas for their students while there is still time for improvement. Teachers can also accelerate the progress of students who meet or exceed the benchmarks.

How to Use Scores

How Students May Send Their Scores

When students take the SAT, they have the opportunity to choose up to four colleges, universities, or scholarship programs to receive their scores from that day's test for free. We share with their school and district the names of the organizations they select for their four free score sends. Students may make their free selections within the Bluebook™ testing app during testing or within three days after testing. Students can also select additional institutions to share their score with later online, but they'll have to pay for each score they send (unless they're eligible for a fee waiver). Scores will not be sent to the selected score send institutions if the score report says **Score Sends Held** in the top right corner.

In certain college and university systems, once a student submits their score to one school, other schools within that system will also have access to that score. Please note, however, that if they are applying to more than one school within a college or university system, it is still important for them to send their SAT scores to each individual school. If they are not sure whether the specific school they are applying to is part of such a system, they should contact the school's admissions office.

When a student requests that we send their scores to colleges or other organizations as directed by the student during school day testing, we send their scores along with demographic information sufficient for identity matching to those colleges and organizations, who may then use it to support the student's applications to those organizations.

The scores the student receives and the score reports received by colleges and their high school contain total and section scores. Additional score sends include their last six scores unless they choose otherwise, as explained further in the **SAT School Day Student Guide**. Watch the **A Guide to Score Choice** video to find out more. College Board doesn't use their reported scaled score by itself or in combination with any other information to predict their individual future academic performance at specific postsecondary institutions. However, College Board does help individual colleges and universities use and interpret SAT scores.

How Students and Families May Use Scores

Families can:

- Help your student think of ways to develop each of the skills they have identified for focus and improvement. **Official SAT Prep on Khan Academy** and free **Official SAT Tutoring at Schoolhouse.world** can help supplement this work, and when your student is ready, they can take practice tests in Bluebook and review the results on **My Practice** to learn more about what their practice scores mean. They can also build skills with the SAT **Question of the Day**, which provides a gamified, interactive way to work on a Reading and Writing or Math question each day.
- Use the career examples to talk about career interests and options with your student.
- Compare your student's scores to the grade-level benchmarks together to understand what those scores mean.
  - If your student is meeting the benchmark for a section, remind them to continue to take rigorous courses and work hard to stay on track for college success.
  - If your student is not meeting the benchmark for a section, work with their teacher to connect them to classroom work that is focused on areas that need improvement.

Benchmarks shouldn't be used to assign academic tracks, to discourage students from pursuing college, or to keep students from participating in challenging courses. Rather, the benchmarks are intended to help all students better prepare for life after high school.

How Schools May Use Scores

Through our K–12 score reporting portal, educators can access the official downloadable score report PDF for printing and sharing with the student. Educators can also see additional interpretive insights about the student's results. The PDF, titled *Your Score Report*, (sample shown on page 8) clearly summarizes a student's current achievement levels and encourages next steps to increase college and career readiness. Teachers can review the official score report PDFs with students to help them understand what their scores mean. Reviewing their scores can also help students see their strengths, which can increase their confidence and help them identify content domains where they can handle more advanced coursework.

The SAT Score Report

A Case Study: Sample SAT Score Report

Take a look at the sample score report below and on the next page. Use the corresponding information to help you interpret your student's SAT score report.

1 What are Camila's scores?

Camila's Reading and Writing score is 620, and her Math score is 500, for a total score of 1120.

Below her individual scores, she can see a score range, which shows the range of scores she might expect to get if she took the SAT multiple times. Camila can also see an average score of all testers in any grade who have taken the SAT in the last three years.

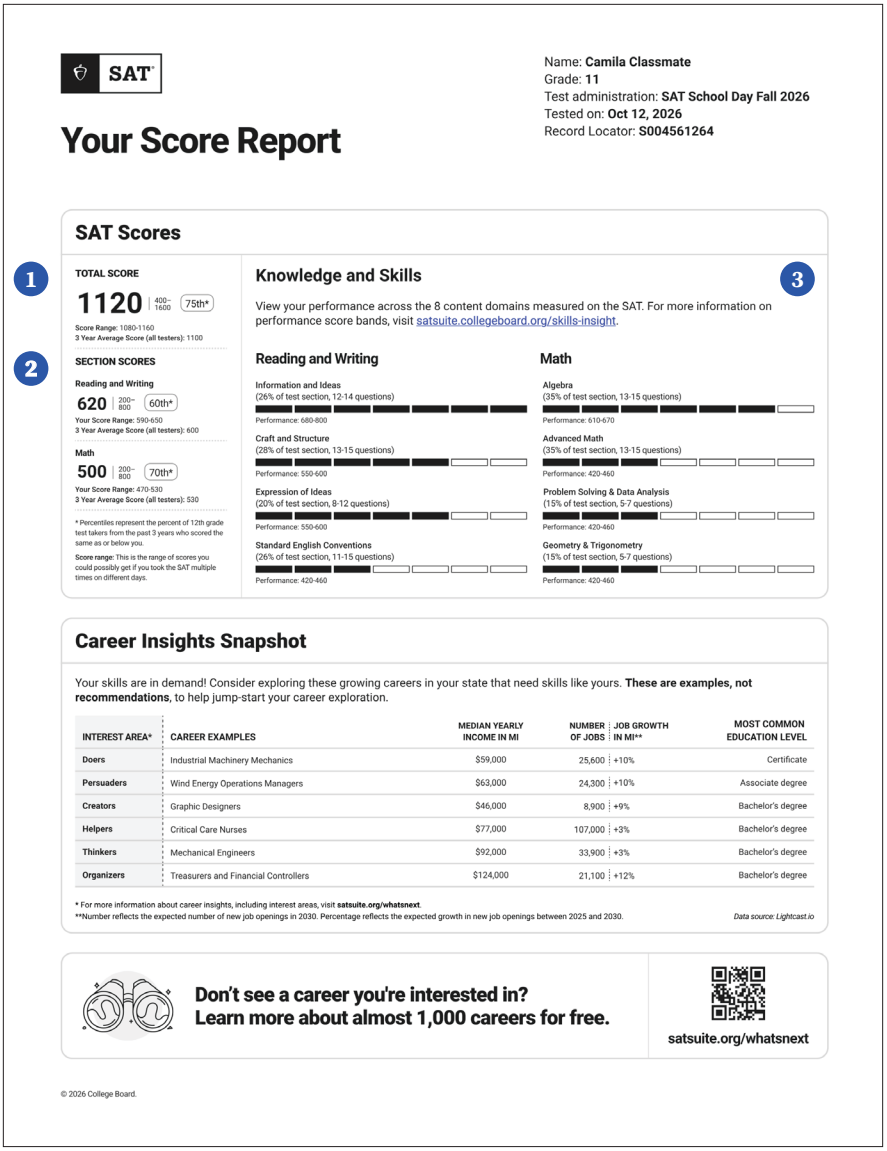
2 What are Camila's score percentiles?

Camila is in 11th grade, and the percentiles compare her scores with those of all SAT test takers from the last three years, including all SAT Weekend and SAT School Day administrations. Camila scored as well as or better in Reading and Writing than 60% of all test takers worldwide. In Math, she scored as well as or better than 70% of those test takers. Putting both scores together, Camila scored as well as or better than 75% of those test takers on the SAT as a whole.

3 What can Camila learn from this Knowledge and Skills section?

This section shows Camila a graphical progress bar in each of the eight content domains measured on the SAT. The filled-in part of each progress bar represents Camila's level of mastery in that content domain, not her actual score. Under each content domain, Camila can also see what percentage of the test and number of questions cover that domain.

The Performance range below each filled section shows Camila's score band for that domain. For more information about content domains, visit **satsuite.collegeboard.org/practice/content-domains**.



SAT

Your Score Report

Name: **Camila Classmate**
Grade: **11**
Test administration: **SAT School Day Fall 2026**
Tested on: **Oct 12, 2026**
Record Locator: **S004561264**

SAT Scores

1

TOTAL SCORE
1120 | 400–1600 | 75th*
Score Range: 1080-1160
3 Year Average Score (all testers): 1100

2

SECTION SCORES
Reading and Writing
620 | 200–800 | 60th*
Your Score Range: 590-650
3 Year Average Score (all testers): 600

Math
500 | 200–800 | 70th*
Your Score Range: 470-530
3 Year Average Score (all testers): 530

* Percentiles represent the percent of 12th grade test takers from the past 3 years who scored the same as or below you.
Score range: This is the range of scores you could possibly get if you took the SAT multiple times on different days.

3

Knowledge and Skills

View your performance across the 8 content domains measured on the SAT. For more information on performance score bands, visit satsuite.collegeboard.org/skills-insight.

Reading and Writing

Information and Ideas
(26% of test section, 12-14 questions)
Performance: 680-800

Craft and Structure
(28% of test section, 13-15 questions)
Performance: 550-600

Expression of Ideas
(20% of test section, 8-12 questions)
Performance: 550-600

Standard English Conventions
(26% of test section, 11-15 questions)
Performance: 420-460

Math

Algebra
(35% of test section, 13-15 questions)
Performance: 610-670

Advanced Math
(35% of test section, 13-15 questions)
Performance: 420-460

Problem Solving & Data Analysis
(15% of test section, 5-7 questions)
Performance: 420-460

Geometry & Trigonometry
(15% of test section, 5-7 questions)
Performance: 420-460

Career Insights Snapshot

Your skills are in demand! Consider exploring these growing careers in your state that need skills like yours. **These are examples, not recommendations**, to help jump-start your career exploration.

INTEREST AREA*	CAREER EXAMPLES	MEDIAN YEARLY INCOME IN MI	NUMBER OF JOBS | JOB GROWTH IN MI**	MOST COMMON EDUCATION LEVEL
Doers	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	$59,000	25,600 | +10%	Certificate
Persuaders	Wind Energy Operations Managers	$63,000	24,300 | +10%	Associate degree
Creators	Graphic Designers	$46,000	8,900 | +9%	Bachelor's degree
Helpers	Critical Care Nurses	$77,000	107,000 | +3%	Bachelor's degree
Thinkers	Mechanical Engineers	$92,000	33,900 | +3%	Bachelor's degree
Organizers	Treasurers and Financial Controllers	$124,000	21,100 | +12%	Bachelor's degree

* For more information about career insights, including interest areas, visit **satsuite.org/whatsnext**.
**Number reflects the expected number of new job openings in 2030. Percentage reflects the expected growth in new job openings between 2025 and 2030.
Data source: Lightcast.io

Don't see a career you're interested in? Learn more about almost 1,000 careers for free.

satsuite.org/whatsnext

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Score Report

4 What can Camila learn from this career snapshot?

Since she is based in the U.S., Camila's score report includes a Career Insights Snapshot—helpful information about growing careers in her state that connect to her scores. Whether Camila sees a career she's curious about or not, the examples can spark her interest in learning more about what careers are out there and key information like median yearly income, expected growth rate for new job openings in her state over the next five years, and the most common education level for people in that career. While these might be careers worth watching in Camila's state, she can learn more about careers that reflect her interests at **satsuite.org/whatsnext**.

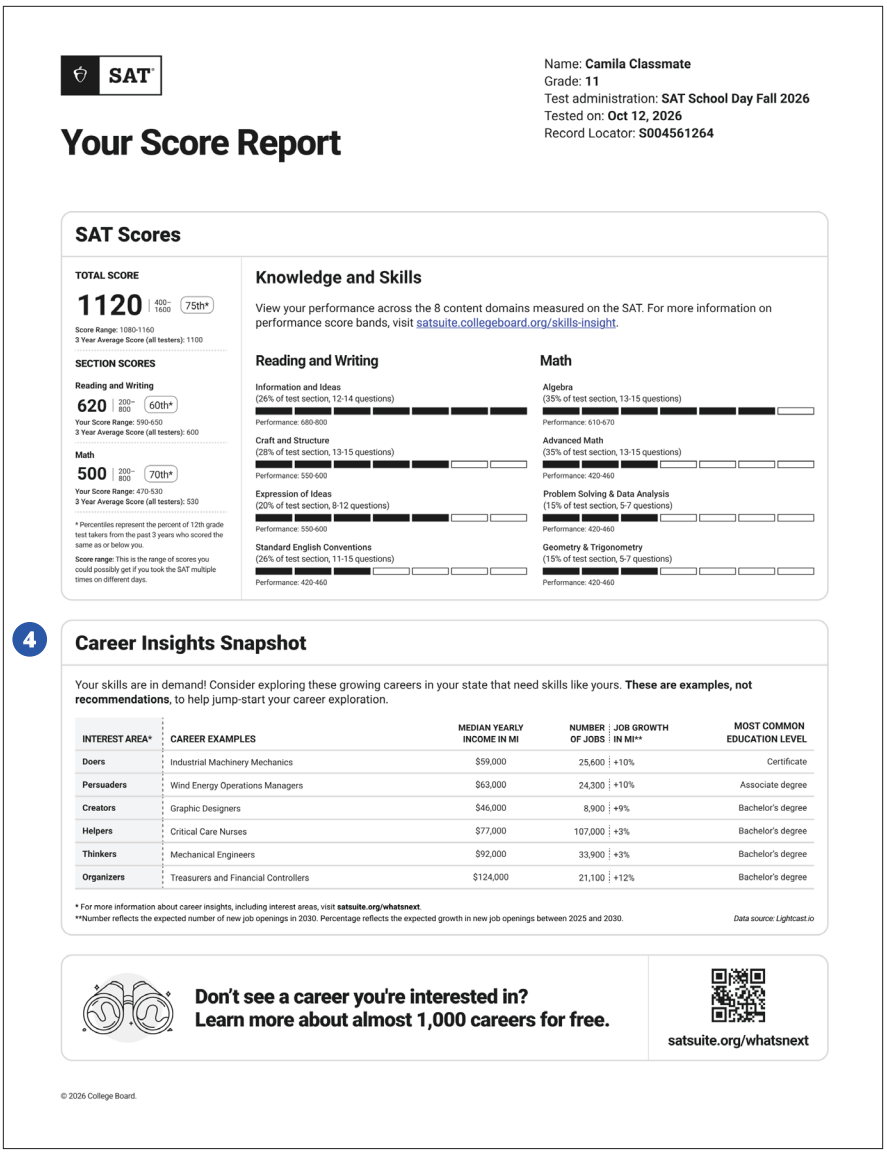
How can Camila learn more about her scores?

If she's under age 13, Camila can talk to her school counselor to see her full score report and learn how to prepare for future assessments in the SAT Suite. If Camila is age 13 or older, she can also choose to visit **sat.org/scores** to personally find out this information.

How can Camila measure her progress?

As a student in 11th grade, Camila may take the SAT again at her school or on a weekend test date if she wants to improve her score.

Camila can continue to take advantage of practice resources by visiting **sat.org/practice**.



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Organizers	Treasurers and Financial Controllers	$124,000	21,100	+12%	Bachelor's degree

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Don't see a career you're interested in? Learn more about almost 1,000 careers for free.

satsuite.org/whatsnext

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Score Report

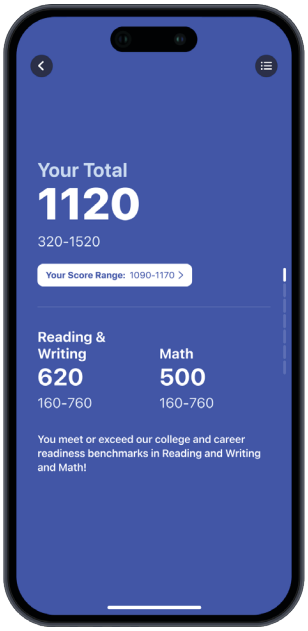
Doing More with Your Score: BigFuture School and Connections

BigFuture School is a free mobile app for students age 13 and older who take the PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, PSAT/NMSQT, or SAT School Day in the United States. It's designed for students to use to get their test scores easily, explore customized guidance on college and career planning, and learn about financial aid and scholarships.

Students may also have the opportunity to opt in to Connections™—a program that lets students discover nonprofit colleges, scholarship providers, and government agencies offering educational programs that may be a good fit and are looking for students like them. Connections puts privacy first. No personal information is shared with institutions unless a student directly chooses to do so. Please know that your school, district, or state may choose to not provide access to Connections for its students or students who test at their schools.

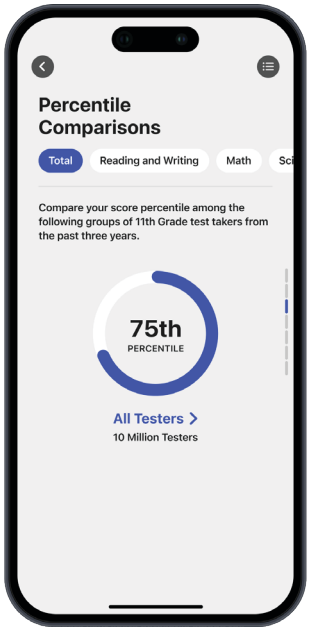
If your student provided a mobile phone number when they took the SAT, they can download the BigFuture School mobile app, which will alert them via text notification when their scores are available in the app.

Students who choose not to download the BigFuture School app or who don't have a mobile phone can still access their scores and guidance for future planning. Schools will continue to receive PDF score reports for all assessments they administer, which can be shared with students. And, as always, students can log in to their personal College Board accounts at **studentscores.collegeboard.org** to get additional insights about their scores and explore **bigfuture.org**.



Total and Section Scores

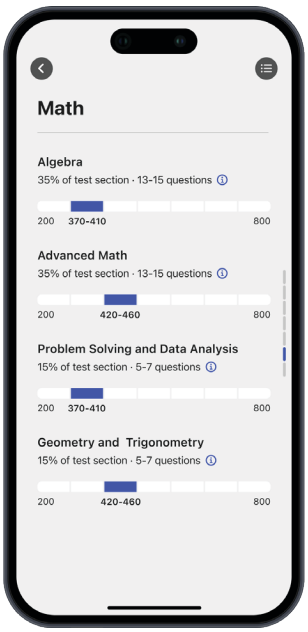
The first thing students will see in BigFuture School is their total score, which is a combination of their scores on the Reading and Writing and Math sections.



Percentile Comparisons

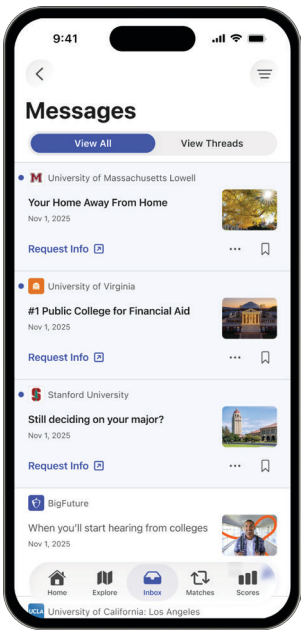
Students will be able to see percentile comparisons that help them understand the percentage of students scoring the same as or better than they did.

For example, 75th percentile means that their score was the same as or higher than 75% of other students.



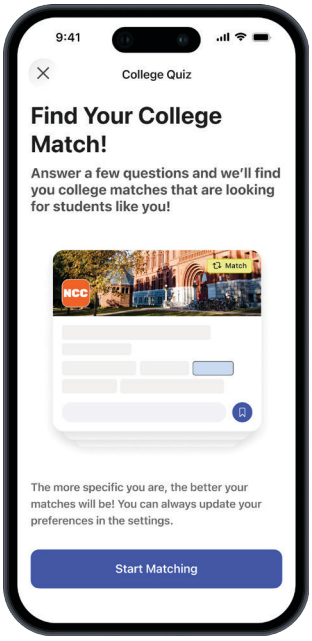
Performance Score Bands

This information corresponds with the Knowledge and Skills section on the score report PDF. It shows students their performance on each content domain measured on the test. Students can use our **Skills Insight™ tool** to see examples of the kinds of questions students in any score band, including their own, are able to answer correctly.



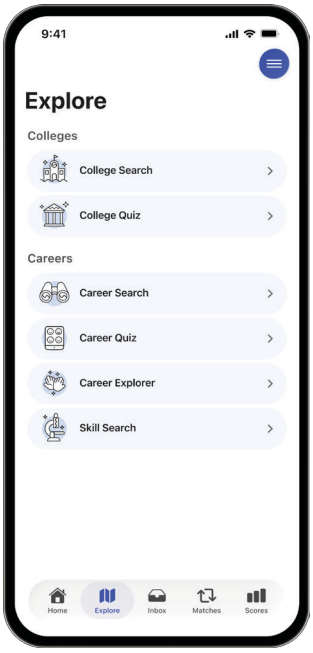
Customized College and Career Messages

While students are in the BigFuture School app, they can explore messages about financial aid, scholarships, and guidance to help them plan for college and explore careers.



Connections

Eligible students may also have the option to discover nonprofit colleges, scholarship providers, and government agencies offering education programs by opting in to a program called Connections.



Interactive College and Career Tools

Students can personalize their college and career exploration by using interactive tools like Career Search, College Quiz, Career Explorer, and more.

Additional SAT Insights

Students age 13 or older who already have a personal College Board student account can get additional insights into their performance on the SAT in the online student scores portal at **studentscores.collegeboard.org**.

Putting Scores in Context

Score Comparisons

Students can gain additional insights into their scores by meeting with their school counselor to review their score report. They can also see more contextual comparisons of their scores in the student scores portal. Students can compare their total and section scores to the average scores of all testers across the last three years in their:

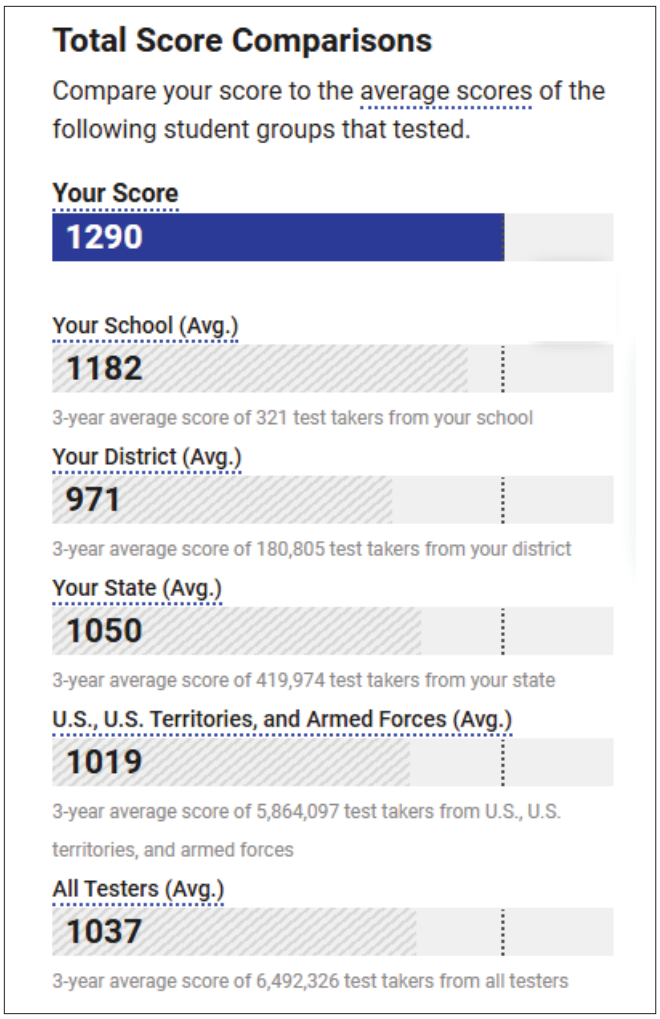
- School (as applicable)
- District (public schools, as applicable)
- State (U.S.-based and territories)
- All Testers (domestic and international)

Percentiles

The additional insights provided online include percentiles not provided in the downloadable score report PDF. The percentile ranks include:

- Country (all testers in the student's country)
- State (all testers in the student's state, available for U.S. and U.S. territories only)
- All Testers (domestic and international)

For the percentiles above, the student's score is ranked among SAT testers in the last three years, including all SAT Weekend and SAT School Day administrations.

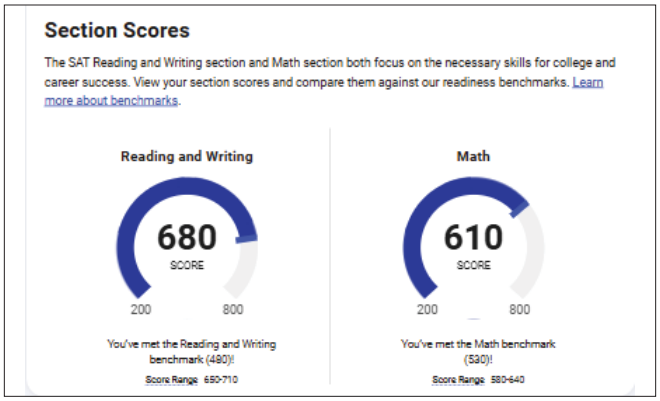


Online score insights

Section Benchmarks

Other insights students can view in the online scores portal are the section-level readiness benchmarks. We will indicate if the student has met the section benchmark or not, providing links to resources to help them analyze what skills to focus on for improvement.

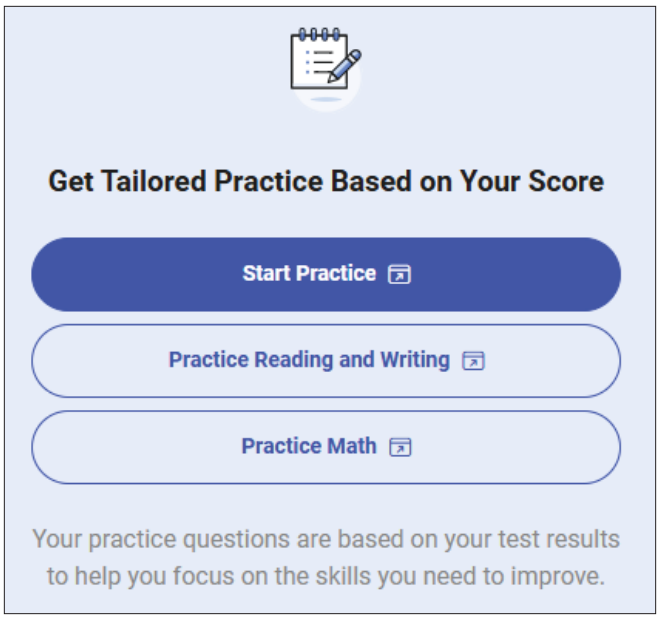
Additionally, we show students their score ranges and provide a link to information about how a score range more accurately reflects their level of knowledge and skills than a single score.



Online score insights

Tailored Practice

After finishing a test, students can head straight from their score report to **mypractice.collegeboard.org** for tailored practice based on their test results. They can dive into general practice or choose to start practicing either Reading and Writing or Math. Every question set is built around the areas that their scores show they need to practice most—so practice time goes where it actually helps. Our practice hub also contains study activities and confidence-boosting exercises, as well as connections to other resources for continued practice and preparation.



Online score insights

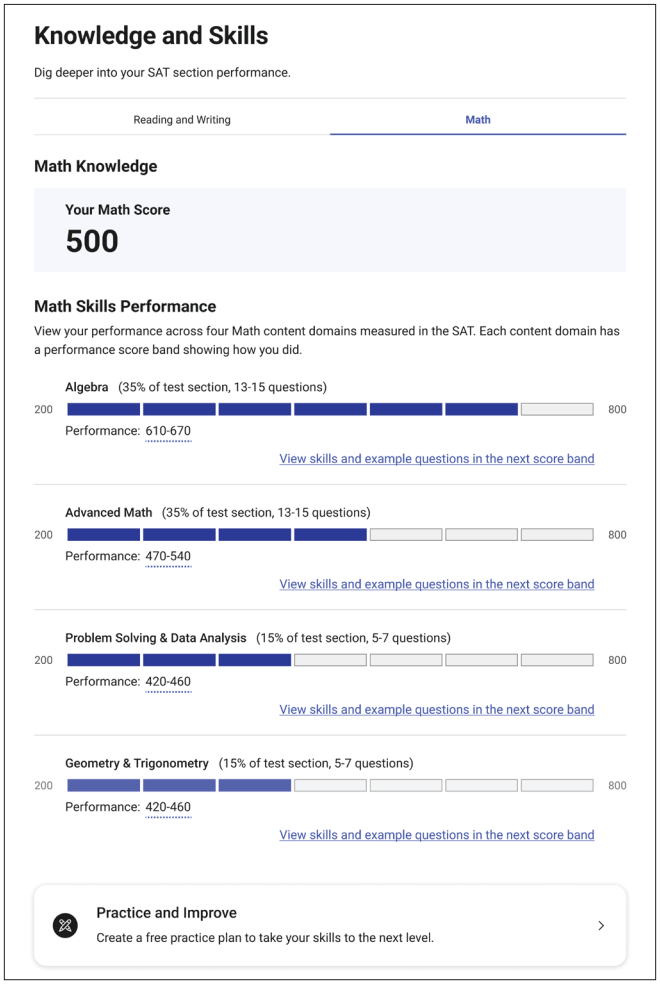
More About Knowledge and Skills

Based on our Skills Insight™ tool, we provide students with a deeper dive into the knowledge and skills measured by the SAT. Students may view a breakdown of their knowledge and skills across four content domains in Reading and Writing and four content domains in Math.

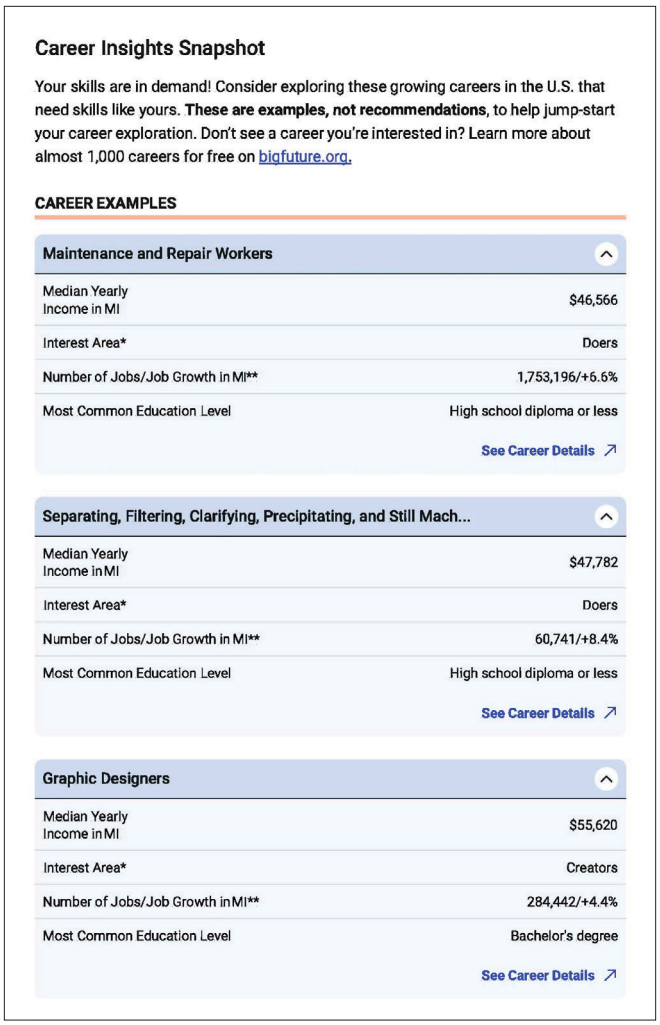
The online insights go further by helping students view their performance across seven defined performance score bands to get a sense of how they did in each domain.

Students can click **View skills and example questions in the next score band** to access the Skills Insight tool and see skills and example questions that students in the next performance score band are typically able to demonstrate, as well as examples of the kinds of questions these students are likely able to answer correctly.

Students can navigate to any other performance score band in the Skills Insight tool, including their current performance score band.



Online score insights

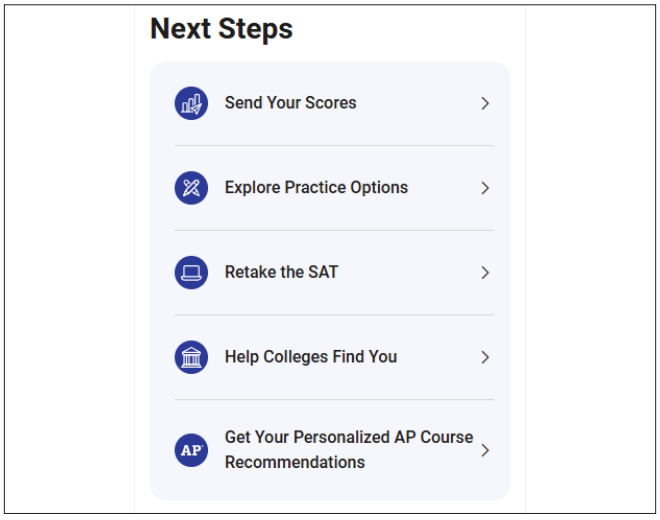


Online score insights

Career Exploration

To expand on the information in their downloadable score report PDF, students can:

- View even more potential careers online at **bigfuture.org**.
- Explore careers tailored to their interests with Career Quiz.
- Find free resources to help them take the next steps down their career path.



Online score insights

Further Guidance

Students can view next steps with linked resources to do more with their score, including:

- Sending their scores to colleges and scholarship programs.
- Exploring practice options to help prepare for future tests.
- Retaking the SAT if they'd like to test again.
- Connecting to colleges and scholarship programs.
- Discovering AP courses recommended based on their latest score.

Next Steps for Students and Families

Learn more about understanding and using scores: **sat.org/scores**

View a video walk-through of the score report: **satsuite.collegeboard.org/scores/online-score-reports-educators/understanding-scores**

Connect to scholarships: **collegeboard.org/sat-suite-scholarships**

Plan for college and career using BigFuture School (**bigfutureschool.org**) or by visiting **bigfuture.collegeboard.org**.

Practice for the SAT: **sat.org/practice**

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