

SmartFocus on the SAT Suite of Assessments

WINTER 2023 | A **SmartBrief** UPDATE

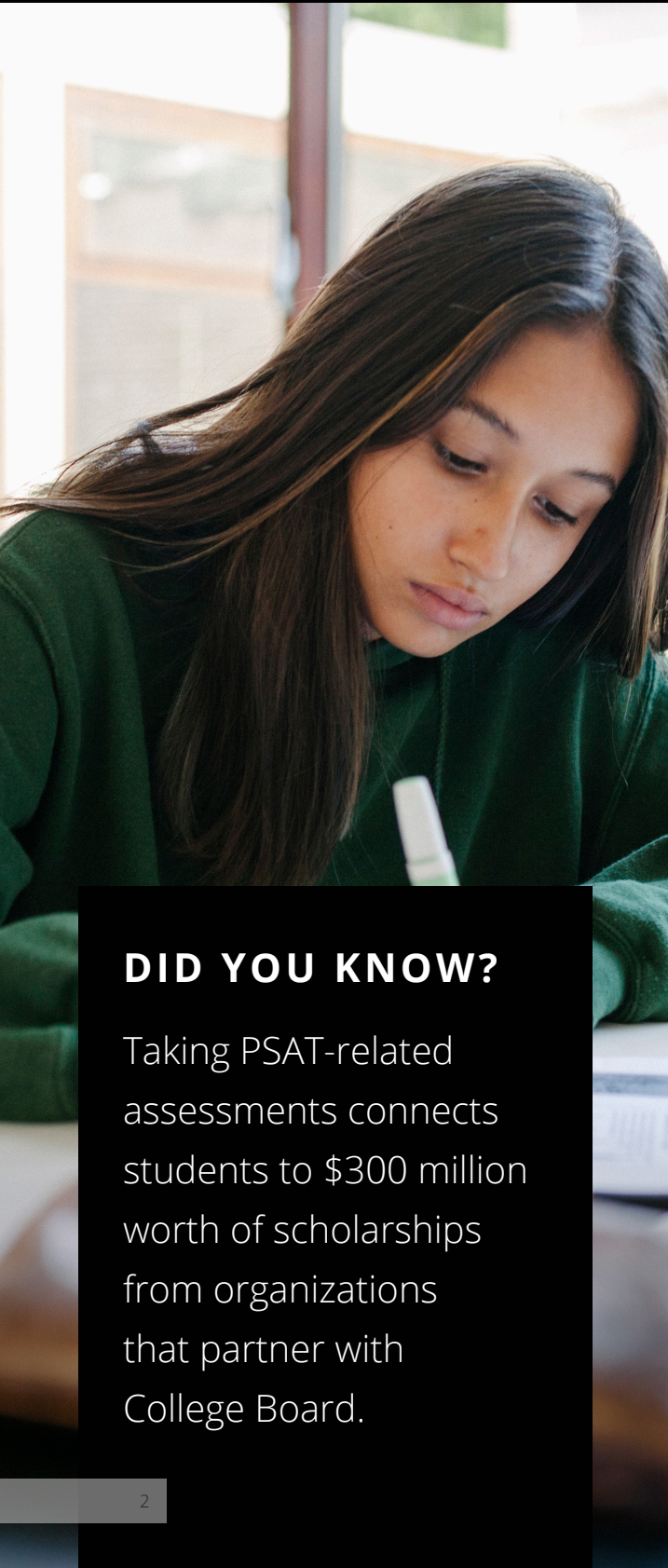
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More Options, More Access

**STUDENTS HAVE AN EDGE FOR ADMISSIONS
AND BEYOND WHEN THEY PARTICIPATE
IN THE SAT SUITE OF ASSESSMENTS**

Many factors, including academic performance, extracurricular activities and volunteerism are considered in college admissions, but with so many students having so much to offer in these areas, it can be difficult for individuals to stand out.



DID YOU KNOW?

Taking PSAT-related assessments connects students to \$300 million worth of scholarships from organizations that partner with College Board.

So, what can today's high school students do to enhance their college applications?

The SAT®, administered by College Board, gives students a way to stand out. SAT scores point to a student's college-level potential and can demonstrate their strengths beyond what grades and other factors may show. Students can use their scores to research which campuses might be the best fit and help guide decisions about the colleges or careers where they will most likely find success.

"The SAT is a great tool that opens up doors for students," says Greg Walker, senior vice president, state and district partnerships, at College Board. "Taking the test is the most powerful way for high-school students to raise their hands and be seen."

The SAT is part of the SAT Suite of Assessments, an integrated system of tests which also includes:

- **Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®)**
- **[PSAT™ 10](#)**
- **[PSAT™ 8/9](#)**

The Suite provides powerful insights that can be used to track students' college and career readiness and inform instruction.

4 Reasons to Offer the SAT

1 TO KEEP OPTIONS OPEN:

Regardless of recent changes in some [admissions policies](#), most colleges still accept and encourage test scores. In addition, more than 80% of students and parents want test scores to have a role in college admissions, either as optional or required.

2 TO STRENGTHEN THEIR APPLICATION:

More than 1.3 million students in the class of 2022 had SAT scores that confirmed or exceeded their high school GPA. That means the SAT is another point of strength on their college application. Among those students, more than 400,000 were African American or Latino, nearly 350,000 were first-generation college goers, and nearly 250,000 were from small towns or rural communities.

3 TO EARN MORE THAN JUST ADMISSION:

In some cases, a minimum SAT/ACT score and GPA are required to be eligible for certain scholarships. Without scores to submit for consideration, applicants could lose access to hundreds of thousands of dollars in college funding.

4 TO DETERMINE COLLEGE COURSE PLACEMENT:

SAT test scores are leveraged by many colleges to determine first-year college course placement. Higher SAT scores [could result in higher course placement](#), saving students time and money. ■





SAT SCHOOL DAY

In the class of 2022, 63% of the 1.7 million students who took the SAT took it on a school day. In total, over 6 million students in nearly 5,000 districts and 14,000 schools have participated in SAT School Day.

GREATER ACCESS EQUALS GREATER OPPORTUNITY

Schools and districts that offer the SAT Suite of Assessments to their students receive valuable information to support their college and career readiness goals. This data can help schools refine their curriculum to support students that need it most. And, when students take any of the PSAT-related assessments, insights are also provided on their [AP Potential™](#) – or likelihood to succeed in certain AP courses. This information helps schools design - and expand access to – their AP Programs.

In addition, the Suite connects students with scholarships and recognition opportunities and college and career planning guidance.

MAKING ACCESS EASIER

To make it easier for more students to access the SAT, in addition to other assessments in the Suite, College Board instituted [SAT School Day](#). This administration model meets students where they are – in school. It removes barriers students may face during weekend testing such as work obligations, athletic or other extra-curricular activities, care-taking obligations and lack of adequate transportation. Independent research shows that universal school day testing leads to higher college-going rates for low-income and rural students.

THE SUITE IN ACTION: LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

To support a wider universe of students, schools and districts across the country have added SAT School Day to their SAT Suite offerings.

Long Beach Unified School district is among those that have adopted the SAT Suite of Assessments. They offer their students the opportunity to take the SAT, PSAT/NMSQT and the PSAT 8/9.

“The true access to opportunity is in having students take the SAT for free, since we fund it, which has greatly increased the numbers of students taking the exam,” says Christopher Brown Ed.D., assistant superintendent of research and school improvement for the Long Beach Unified School District.

Brown says that acceptance to college programs, such as Cal State Long Beach, was often contingent on students meeting a certain “index,” and the SAT helped facilitate reaching those benchmarks.

“More students may have been given opportunities in postsecondary settings than would have without the district-wide use of the exam,” Brown explains.

Brown’s district encourages students to take the PSAT/NMSQT as practice for the SAT and for entry to the National Merit® Scholarship Program. “The SAT Suite of Assessments also provides some much-needed data about students in grades 9 and 10, as (California has) no state testing in those years,” Brown says.

THE SHIFT TO DIGITAL ASSESSMENT TOOLS

The SAT Suite of Assessments will move to a digital format starting in the U.S. in the fall of 2023. The [digital SAT and PSAT-related assessments](#) will be easier to take, easier to give, more secure and more relevant, all while continuing to measure the core skills and knowledge that matter most for college and career readiness.

“It’s encouraging to see the positive feedback from students and educators who participated in the pilots for the digital SAT. The changes to the test are timely and clearly centered around improving the student experience,” says Ronné Turner, vice provost for admissions and financial aid at Washington University in St. Louis. Turner says digital flexibility will also expand access for limited-income students.

THE DIGITAL TESTS

will be shorter — around 2 hours and 14 minutes — and feature:

- More time to answer each question.
- Shorter reading passages with one question tied to each.
- A built-in Desmos graphing calculator permitted for the entire math section.



“The digital SAT will be a more student-centered test. The fact that it’s shorter to take and that scores will come back more quickly will reduce stress. I’m looking forward to being able to tell students it will be a better experience for them,” explains John Barnhill, associate vice president for enrollment management at Florida State University.

The change to digital is good news for educators, too. Shorter tests means shorter test days, and no more packing, sorting or shipping test materials. In addition, going digital means much more flexibility for where, when and how often the assessments can be administered, particularly for SAT School Day, an important driver of access and equity.

CONNECTING KNOWLEDGE WITH OPPORTUNITY

The SAT Suite of Assessments provides valuable information to help districts and schools achieve their college and career readiness goals. Offering the assessments helps advance student success and open new opportunities.

To learn more about the value of the SAT Suite of Assessments, visit sat.org/suitebenefits. ■



ABOUT College Board

College Board is a mission-driven not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, 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, 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®, the Advanced Placement® Program, and BigFuture®. The organization also serves the education community through research and advocacy on behalf of students, educators, and schools.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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— John Barnhill,

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT,
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

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