



NORTH

HIGH SCHOOL

Breaking Down the SAT & ACT

Parents' Club Presentation
January 12, 2022

Tonight's Objectives



- Putting the Test in Context
- Breaking Down the Test
- Comparing the SAT & ACT
- Preparing for the SAT
- Q & A

There Is No One Path



One Test Does Not Define Your Student



“Test scores are only a small part of what we look at in the admissions review process, and we will consider the context of all of these factors in our holistic review of a student’s application.”

One Test Does Not Define Your Student



“Northwestern’s review process will remain grounded in a holistic approach coupled with a commitment to college access. The admissions committee will continue to weigh each applicant’s academic and intellectual fit for Northwestern through a comprehensive assessment of grades, course rigor, recommendations, academic honors or awards, personal essays and other information specific to applicants’ individual experiences and high school settings.”

One Test Does Not Define Your Student



“Some applicants may feel that an SAT or ACT score does not fully reflect their academic preparedness or potential. If this is the case for you, you may select UChicago’s test-optional method of application and not supply SAT or ACT scores with your application. We welcome any student regardless of testing plan to submit additional materials (detailed in the Supplements section) that they feel best highlights their skills, talents, and potential contributions to UChicago.”

One Test Does Not Define Your Student



“For students applying during the 2021-22 academic year, we understand recent developments are adding stress. We want to reassure you that you will not be at a disadvantage in the review of your application. We are in this together. We hope to navigate these difficult times with you and to serve as a resource as you begin your college application journey. We encourage you to read ["What We Care About in This Time of Crisis,"](#) a collective statement from college admission deans, including Stanford’s Dean Richard H. Shaw. One of our core values is to practice holistic admission. We will continue to review the pieces of the application as an integrated whole, and in the context of the unprecedented events we are living through now.”

Why do I need to take the SAT?



- It's a state required assessment for 11th grade students;
 - **The School Day SAT is the only test that meets the graduation requirement.**
- It is a college entrance exam accepted by colleges and universities;
- It assesses the skills that have been developed in high school.

SAVE THE DATE



Testing Date for the School Day SAT

Please Note: In order to be promoted to 12th grade, all junior students **MUST** sit for this administration of the test.

(Make Up Testing Date is April 26th)

Changes Since We Took the SAT



- Not just for West and East Coast schools anymore
- 400–1600 score scale
- 3 hours and 50 minutes with the SAT Essay
- Vocabulary Section Eliminated
- No Penalty for Guessing

Eight key changes to the SAT®

 Words in Context	 Command of Evidence	 Essay Analyzing a Source	 Math that Matters Most
 Problems Grounded in Real-World Contexts	 Analysis in Science and in History/Social Studies	 U.S. Founding Documents and the Great Global Conversation	 No Penalty for Guessing

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The Structure of the SAT



- Reading Test (65 minutes)
- Language & Writing Test (35 minutes)
- Math Test - No Calculator (25 minutes)
- Math Test - Calculator (55 minutes)
- Essay (50 minutes)

The Structure of the SAT



Reading Section--65 minutes

(52 Questions: Making Inferences, Evaluating Relationships, and Synthesizing Information)

Language & Writing Section--35 Minutes

(44 Questions: Punctuation, Sentence Structure and Incorporating Information)

Math Section without Calculator--25 Minutes

(20 Questions: the Heart of Algebra, Geometry, Statistics, and Trigonometry)

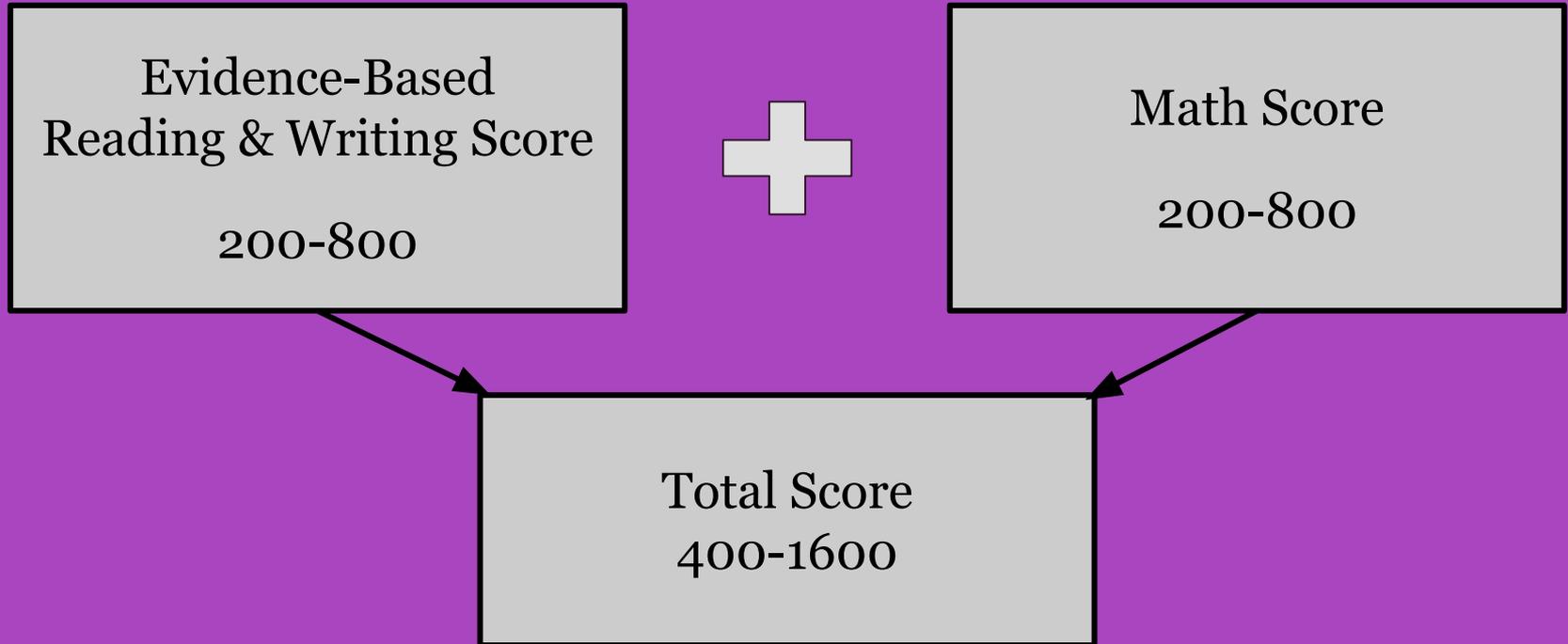
Math Section with Calculator--55 Minutes

(38 Questions: the Heart of Algebra, Geometry, Statistics, and Trigonometry)

Essay--50 Minutes **Optional**

(An Argument That Examines How An Author Conveys His/Her Message)

Scoring on the SAT



SAT Student Score Report



CollegeBoard **SAT**

SAT Score Report

Imagood Student
100 Main Street
Apt 2
Anytown, MI 00000-0000

Your Total Score
1010 | 400–1600

50th Nationally Representative Sample Percentile
41st SAT User Percentile

Essay Scores

4 2–8 Reading	4 2–8 Analysis	4 2–8 Writing
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Section Scores

490 200–800 Your Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Score	44th Nationally Representative Sample Percentile 35th SAT User Percentile	 You've met the benchmark.
520 200–800 Your Math Score	57th Nationally Representative Sample Percentile 49th SAT User Percentile	 You've scored below the benchmark.

Test Scores

22 10–40 Reading	27 10–40 Writing and Language	26.0 10–40 Math
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Cross-Test Scores | 10–40

24 Analysis in History/Social Studies	23 Analysis in Science
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Subscores | 1–15

6 Command of Evidence	9 Words in Context	8 Expression of Ideas	9 Standard English Conventions
8 Heart of Algebra	9 Problem Solving and Data Analysis	7 Passport to Advanced Math	

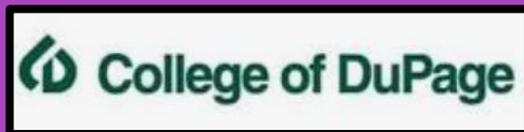
Do I need to take the ACT?



“You are not required to submit a standardized test score as part of your application for admission.”



“We accept either the ACT or SAT, and we don't prefer one over the other.”



“Students with a qualifying ACT or SAT score may not have to take some placement tests.”



“If students choose to take an SAT or ACT, there is no preference for either exam.”

The Structure of the ACT



English Section--45 minutes
(75 Questions Covering Grammar)

Math--60 Minutes
(60 Questions Covering Algebra, Geometry and Trigonometry)

Reading--35 Minutes
(10 Questions on each of 4 Passages)

Science Reasoning--35 Minutes
(40 Questions Covering Analysis, Interpretation, and Evaluation)

Writing--40 Minutes **Optional**
(1 Argumentative Essay)

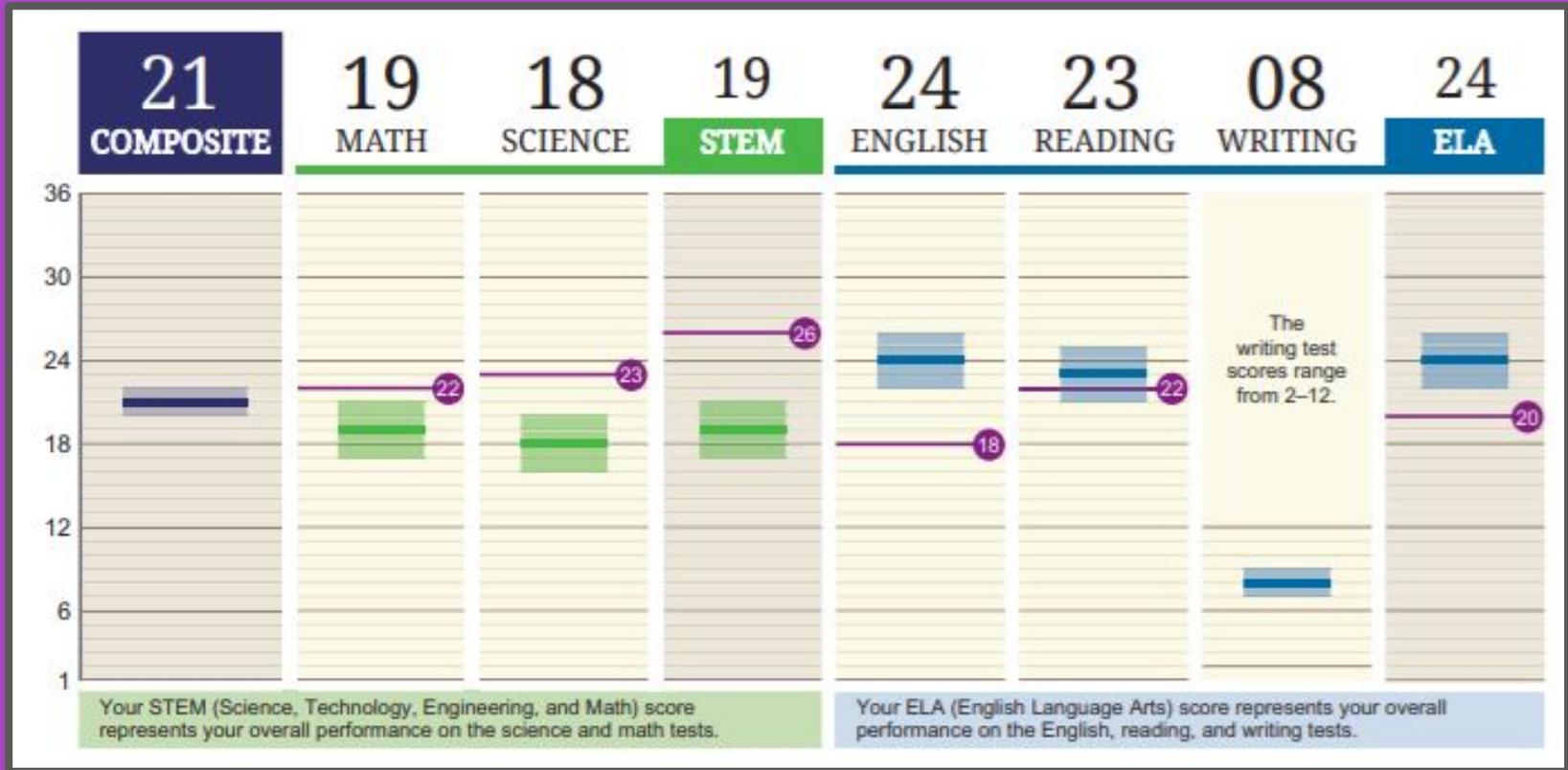
The ACT Composite Score

- Students receive a score between 1-36 on each content test and the content scores are averaged to develop a composite score.

The ACT Writing Score

- Writing scores range from 6-12
 - Taking the writing test affects neither the content scores nor the composite score. However, without a writing test score, no English Language Arts (ELA) score will be reported.

ACT Student Score Report



What Is A Superscore?



Superscoring is the process by which colleges consider your highest section scores across all the dates you took the SAT or ACT.

Rather than confining your scores to one particular date, these schools will take your highest section scores, forming the highest possible composite score.

Which Schools Superscore?



The University of Illinois

“If you took either test more than once, we’ll use your highest subscores in our evaluation. However, we don’t use your highest sub-scores from different test sittings to create a superscore.”

Northwestern University

“We will review a “superscore” for both tests. For students who take the SAT or ACT more than once, this means that our system will combine the highest section scores across multiple test dates and calculate a “superscore” that will override the high score from a single sitting in our database. Applicants are not obligated to report scores from all test dates, though are welcome to do so.”

Stanford University

“For the ACT, we will review all subscores and focus on the highest Composite from all sittings; for the SAT, we will focus on the highest individual EBRW and Math scores from all test sittings; for the SAT, you may have taken a sitting with the essay and a separate sitting without the essay. We will superscore your Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Math scores across these two versions of the exam.”

Which One Should I Take?



- More similar than different
 - The ACT has 4 sections with an essay; the SAT has 3 sections and an essay since Science is covered in the reading section.
 - ACT allows a calculator for all math sections, but the questions are more broad and includes more algebra and trigonometry.
 - The reading/writing sections are very similar, but the ACT has more grammatical questions and the SAT favors questions about writing style and vocabulary.
- The School Day SAT is funded by the state and every junior must take it in April.
- The ACT costs \$60.00 to register, with fee waivers available for those that qualify, and students must register for a Saturday test on act.org.
- Students can choose to register for an additional SAT on a Saturday at collegeboard.org; the cost is \$55.00.
- Many students take both and use the higher score.

How Do I Prepare?



From  --Creators of the SAT:

If you think the key to a high score is memorizing words and facts you'll never use in the real world, think again. You don't have to discover secret tricks or cram the night before.

The same habits and choices that lead to success in school will help you get ready for the SAT. The best way to prepare for the test is to:

- Take challenging courses.
- Do your homework.
- Prepare for tests and quizzes.
- Ask and answer lots of questions.

In short, take charge of your education and learn as much as you can.

SAT[®]

 **CollegeBoard**

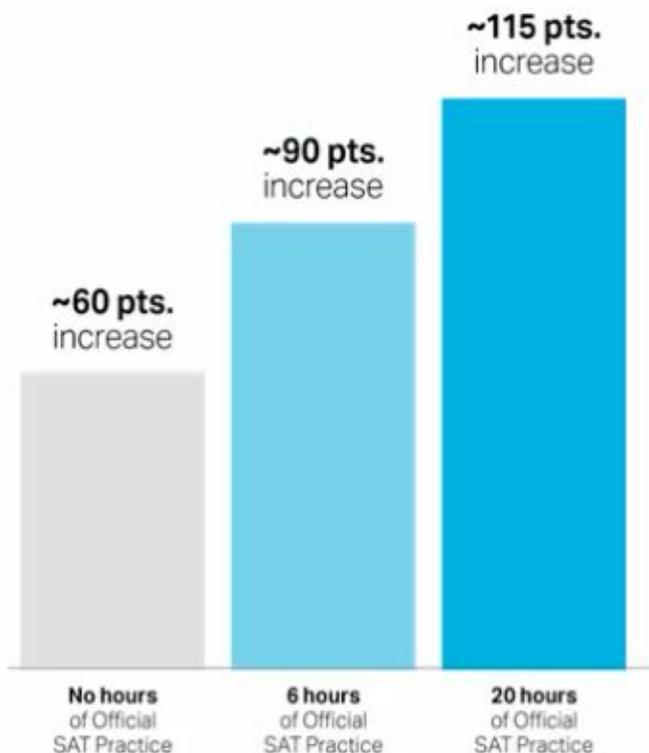
Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy



- Personalized plan tailored to your strengths and weaknesses
- 1000s of practice questions, hints, and step-by-step video lessons
- 8 official full-length practice tests
- Receive instant feedback & recommendations
- Set a personalized practice schedule
- Review expert tips and strategies for the test
- Practice on a cellphone: questions per day via the app

Score Improvements with Official SAT[®] Practice

Average number of points gained from PSAT/NMSQT[®] to SAT correlated to hours spent practicing on Khan Academy



16,000
students saw gains of 200 points or more.

Based on 250,000 students from the Class of 2017

The Launch Point of Practice

Students can link their College Board and Khan Academy accounts and share their PSAT/NMSQT results.



Your Scores: Next Steps

Additional skills and improvement suggestions can be found in your online score report.

Your score indicates that you are already likely able to:

- Revise text as needed to improve the exactness or content appropriateness of word choices within somewhat challenging texts
- Retain or add information or ideas to a piece of a text to support claims or points in somewhat challenging text
- Revise somewhat challenging text to ensure that information is presented in the most logical order

Reading Test

Improve your skills by focusing on the following suggestions:



- Retain or add information or ideas to a piece of text to support claims or points in challenging text
- Use a variety of sentence structures to accomplish a rhetorical purpose such as persuading an audience
- Revise text as needed to improve the exactness or content appropriateness of word choice within challenging texts

Writing and Language Test

- Draw reasonable conclusions from somewhat challenging texts
- Describe the overall structure of a somewhat challenging text
- Identify claims and counterclaims explicitly stated in a somewhat challenging passage



- Draw reasonable inferences and logical conclusions from challenging texts
- Analyze information presented quantitatively in such forms as graphs, tables, and charts and relate that information to information presented in somewhat challenging text
- Determine how the selection of specific words shapes meaning and tone in a challenging passage

Math Test

- Interpret a linear inequality in one variable with rational coefficients that represents a context. Select the equation of a line in the context of the situation (when a linear model is appropriate)
- Interpret sample statistics understanding and using margin of error
- Solve and interpret a quadratic function or equation that represents a context and requires multiple steps
- Calculate and interpret frequency distributions using tables and other representational methods



- Determine how a graph may be affected by a change to its equation
- Determine the value of a constant or coefficient for an equation with no solution or infinitely many solutions
- Using a specified model, make a prediction and compare the predicted values with the actual values in the data set
- Within a context, compare the center of two separate data sets with different spreads
- Determine whether two events are independent given their probabilities

Get more next steps online

studentscores.collegeboard.org

 **SAT Practice**
Connect to Khan Academy for FREE, world-class SAT practice on satpractice.org.

 **AP[®] and Course Work**
See which AP courses may be good matches for you.

 **Register for the SAT**
Select an SAT test date and register for it now.

Ina B. Student | 2016, Grade: 11th-Grade

Steps to link your College Board and Khan Academy Accounts

Step 1

Log in to or create your Khan Academy account at satpractice.org

Step 2

When prompted, agree to link your Khan Academy and College Board accounts

Step 3

Sign in or create your College Board Account and hit "Send" to send your scores

**Sign up. Link up.
Get practicing.**



Step 1: Create a Khan Academy Account



Start learning on Khan Academy

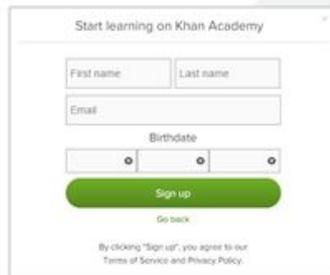
Sign in with Google

Sign in with Facebook

Sign up with email

By clicking "Sign up", you agree to our Terms of Service and Privacy Policy.

I'm a teacher | I'm a parent | Already have an account? Log in



Start learning on Khan Academy

First name Last name

Email

Birthdate

Sign up

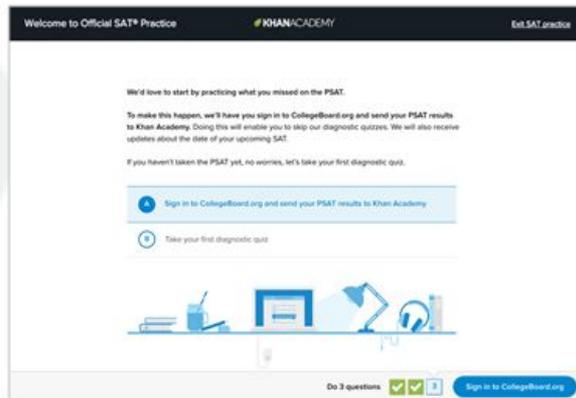
Go back

By clicking "Sign up", you agree to our Terms of Service and Privacy Policy.

- ▶ Log in to or create your Khan Academy account
 - ▶ Go to satpractice.org
 - ▶ Click green button labeled "Check it out now"
 - ▶ Sign in with Gmail, Facebook, or click "Sign up with email"
 - ▶ If you click Sign in with Gmail or Facebook, enter in your username and password for either these accounts and you are signed in
 - ▶ If you click "Sign up with email" Enter in First Name/Last name/Email/Birthdate and click "Sign Up"
 - ▶ An email will be sent to your account to verify; sign in to your email
 - ▶ Open email from Khan Academy accounts and click on the "Finish Signing Up" button
 - ▶ A welcome screen will appear where you will enter username and password and click "Sign Up"

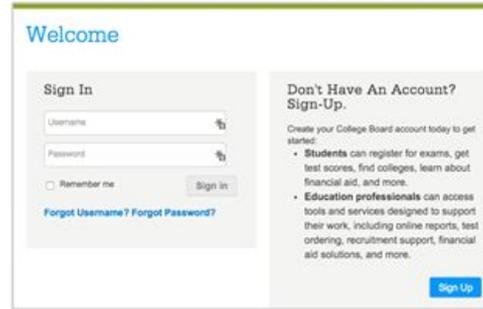
Step 2: Begin to link your Khan Academy Account to College Board

- ▶ You have logged into Khan Academy for the first time and will be asked if you would like to send PSAT results
- ▶ If you already have a Khan Academy account, a prompt will appear asking if you want to send your PSAT results to Khan Academy
- ▶ After choosing that option, you will be directed to collegeboard.org



Step 3: Create a College Board Account

- ▶ Sign in to your College Board account; if you do not have a College Board account, click 'Sign Up' to create one.
- ▶ The steps for creating a College Board account are:
 - ▶ Click on the "Sign up" blue box
 - ▶ Fill in the fields to create your student account ensuring all information is correct
 - ▶ Click "Next" at the bottom when all fields are completed
 - ▶ You are now Signed In



The screenshot shows the 'Welcome' page of the College Board account creation interface. On the left, there is a 'Sign In' section with input fields for 'Username' and 'Password', a 'Remember me' checkbox, and a 'Sign In' button. Below these fields are links for 'Forgot Username?' and 'Forgot Password?'. On the right, there is a 'Don't Have An Account? Sign-Up.' section. It includes a sub-header 'Create your College Board account today to get started:' followed by two bullet points: 'Students can register for exams, get test scores, find colleges, learn about financial aid, and more.' and 'Education professionals can access tools and services designed to support their work, including online reports, test ordering, recruitment support, financial aid solutions, and more.' A blue 'Sign Up' button is located at the bottom right of this section.

Please note that students under 13 cannot create a College Board Account.

Resources



- [Overview of using Official SAT Practice for parents](#)
- [Link your College Board and Khan Academy accounts](#)
- [Students talking about the importance of SAT practice](#)
- [College Entrance Exams in the Age of COVID](#)
- [Additional Test Prep Resources](#)
- [Test Optional Schools](#)