

Assessments provide valuable information for students, parents and educators on whether students have mastered grade level and content standards and are on track to graduate prepared for the 21st century. Assessment results provide one measure in a body of evidence of your child's academic progress.



WHAT IS THE SAT?

The SAT is an important college entrance exam taken by all eleventh grade students in the state of Colorado. The SAT is used by most colleges and universities for admission and also to identify student for scholarship opportunities from universities or other organizations. The SAT is a critical piece in measuring a student's academic progress through 11th grade and assessing their level of preparedness for college and career.

In previous years, DPS students took the ACT in the eleventh grade and will now take the SAT. In May 2015, the state legislation passed a bill requiring all Colorado school districts to find a tenth- and eleventh-grade exam to measure college and career readiness. After a great deal of feedback from our community, Colorado adopted the PSAT 10 for tenth grade and the SAT for eleventh grade. Students in grades 3 - 9 will continue to take the CMAS: Math and CMAS: English Language Arts tests.

Grade 3 – 9

Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS)

Grade 10

PSAT 10

Grade 11

SAT

The SAT has been recently redesigned and is aligned to our Colorado Academic Standards. It measures student skill in reading, writing and math and is meant to measure college and workforce readiness. It puts an emphasis on critical thinking, including reading and evaluating texts. Teachers that have aligned their curriculum and instruction to the academic standards will prepare their students for success not only on CMAS but on the SAT and the PSAT, as well.



WHEN IS MY CHILD BEING TESTED?

The SAT will be given on April 11, 2017 and will be administered using a pencil/paper format. The test is approximately 3 hours long with an optional 50-minute essay portion.

The optional essay is not required by all college and universities, though some may choose to require it. Students and families are encouraged to research whether the optional essay portion is required by their preferred universities. Students may benefit from taking the essay portion as:

- It can strengthen student college applications.
- It can help a student understand their writing proficiency.



WHAT SCORE(S) WILL MY CHILD RECEIVE?

Students will receive scores between 400 and 1600. This score represents the combined score of student progress in the math section and the reading and writing section. A student's level of performance on the SAT test will be included in a student's high school transcript.



HOW WILL THESE SCORES BE USED?

These scores are often used by colleges and universities across the country for admission purposes as well as to award scholarships.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We encourage you to be involved in your child's education. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher for ways you can help your child at home. There are also free resources for the SAT, including through websites and downloadable apps:

Daily Practice for the New SAT | College Board

- Receive daily, sample questions and get immediate feedback.
- Allows students to practice on a regular basis.
- Students can complete PSAT or SAT practice tests using printed answer sheets, then take a picture and use the Scan and score function.

Official SAT Practice | Khan Academy

- Students sign up for an account and receive personalized recommendations for areas of improvement based on their PSAT and SAT scores.
- Full-length practice tests, diagnostic quizzes, daily practice questions and preparation resources targeted to specific areas of the test are also available for free via Khan Academy's website: <https://www.khanacademy.org/mission/sat>.

We have partnered with the Boys & Girls Club to connect low-income students with online SAT and PSAT resources.

We also encourage you to go to <http://standards.dpsk12.org/standards-resources/> to find helpful information, including:

- DPS Parent Guides to Student Learning
- A Parent's Guide to Technology
- Information for English Learners

For more information on assessments and testing accommodations, please visit the Accountability, Research, and Evaluation website: www.dpsare.com

If you have questions or concerns about assessments, please contact your child's school directly or call the Family & Community Engagement support line at (720) 423-3054.