

# The SAT is Changing

## Here Is What You Need to Know

THE COLLEGE BOARD HAS REDESIGNED THE PSAT AND SAT in an effort to better align the tests with high school curricula and the skills necessary for college and career readiness. The revised PSAT/NMSQT will launch in October 2015 and the SAT in March 2016. The redesign affects the way the test is structured, administered, timed, and scored.

### Features of the Redesigned SAT

- An optional essay
- Fewer multiple choice questions
- No penalty for incorrect answers
- A 1600-point scale

There will be an increased emphasis on critical thinking, problem solving, and data analysis. The test is aligned to the Common Core State Standards and is based on what students are already learning in class.

MCPS has been working closely with the College Board, principals, school staff, and other partners to ensure that schools are prepared for these changes.

While the SAT is a globally recognized college entrance exam, students do have other options, including the ACT and the ACCUPLACER. Students are encouraged to speak to their school counselor for help deciding which exams they should take.

For more information about the redesign, the Khan Academy partnership, and resources for students and parents, visit <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat>

### Free Personalized SAT Practice

THE COLLEGE BOARD has launched a partnership with the Khan Academy to provide free, personalized SAT practice for all students. Students can set up free accounts on Khan Academy's website where they will have access to—

- four official full-length practice tests, plus study and test-taking tips;
- thousands of practice questions, video lessons, and hints;
- diagnostic quizzes to pinpoint areas for practice; and
- feedback from instructors.

Schools will begin helping students register for the Khan Academy and these new tests in fall 2015.