



# Redesigned SAT and ACT Test Information

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[www.YourFutureStartsNowWCPS.com](http://www.YourFutureStartsNowWCPS.com)

# Agenda

- Why the changes?
- What are the key changes?
- How does this impact the students' path to college?
- How should students prepare?
  - SAT
  - ACT
- What does WCPS offer?

# Why?

“The new test will be more focused on the skills and knowledge at the heart of education.” CollegeBoard

It will measure:

- What you learn in high school
- What you need to succeed in college

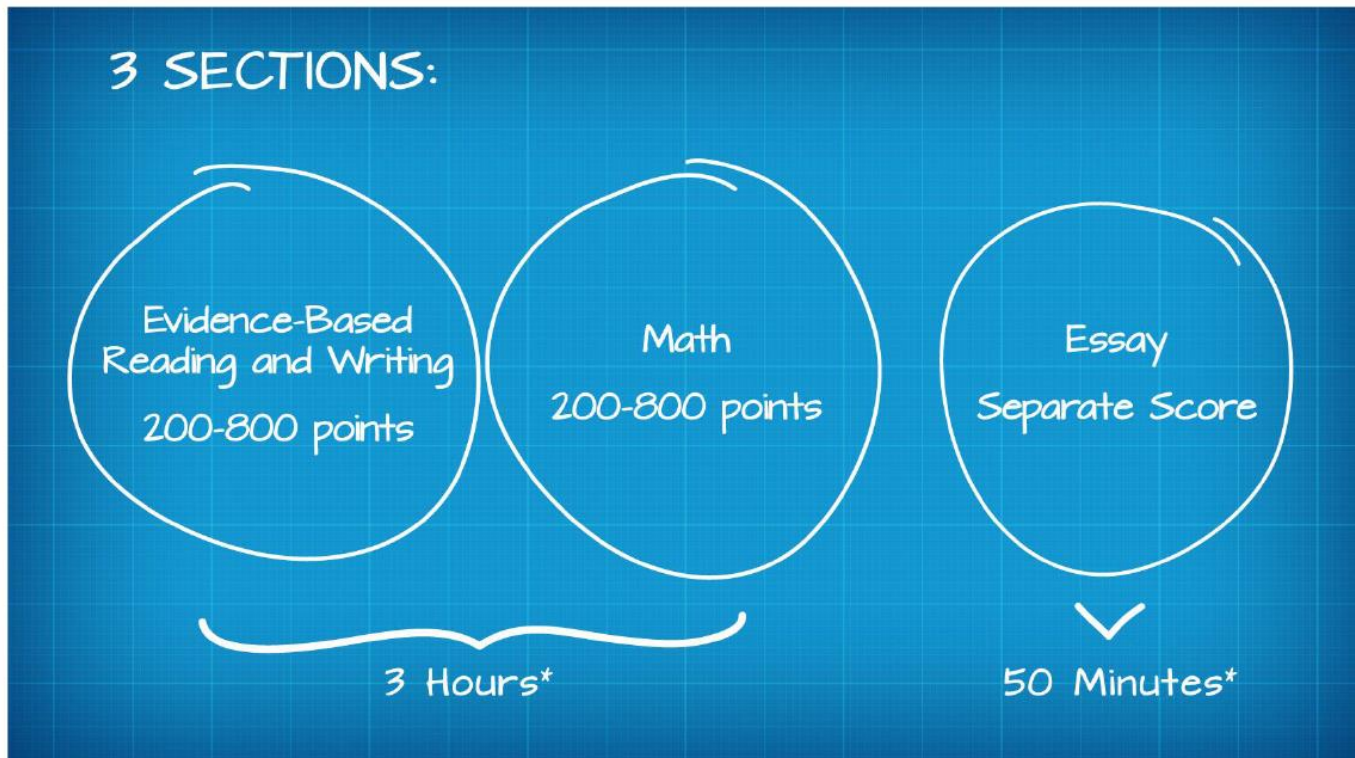
Aligned with

- Skills to be successful in college
- Common Core Instruction
- PARCC



# Key Changes

## About the Redesigned SAT



*\*Please note: All time limits are tentative and subject to research.*

SAT<sup>®</sup>

# 8 Key Changes to the SAT



**Relevant words  
in context**



**Command of  
evidence**



**Essay analyzing a  
source**



**Math focused on  
three key areas**



**Problems grounded in  
real-world contexts**



**Analysis in science  
and social studies**



**Founding documents  
and great global  
conversation**



**No penalty for  
wrong answers**

# How does this impact the students' path to college?

For admissions and scholarships, colleges look at:

- Academics / Rigor
- Grade point average (GPA)
- Class rank
- SAT / ACT scores
- Extra-curricular activities
- Recommendations
- SAT Subject Tests

# How should students prepare for college entrance exams?

- Take challenging courses.
- Read – fiction and non-fiction!
- 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 or ACT?

Test Snapshot		
Features	New SAT	ACT
Widely accepted	Almost all U.S. colleges	Almost all U.S. colleges
Major redesign	2016 SAT is based on the latest research on the skills colleges value most.	No recent significant revisions.
Tests the vocabulary you'll use	Yes	Yes
Everyday math formulas provided	Yes	No
Essay is optional	Yes	Yes
Penalty for guessing	No	No
Cost	\$54.50 (\$43 without essay)	\$56.50 (\$39.50 without essay)

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# How should students prepare for the SAT ?



The College Board and Khan Academy are committed to leveling the playing field by providing world-class SAT practice, entirely for free.

Practice Now

- Know your college's requirements
- Access and utilize your PSAT score reports

## **PSAT Score Release Schedule:**

1. December – online reports to schools  
(access code emailed to students)
2. January – paper reports sent to schools

# How should students prepare for the ACT?

- Know your college's requirements
- Access the ACT Prep site for sample tests
- Utilize the free SAT prep resources



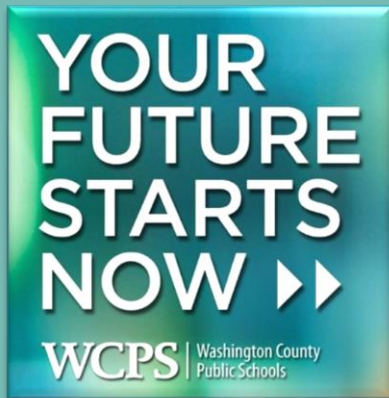
# What does WCPS offer?

## Equal access for all students

- Quality classroom instruction
- Individualized College and Career Coaching
- Free PSAT administration and score feedback
- College Prep Elective
- After school / Saturday SAT Prep
- College Visits

NOTE: See your counselor for a fee waiver if eligible.

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# Contacts

## Your WCPS School Counselor

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