

## What Can You Do to Support High SAT Scores?

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While we know that the SAT is not a perfect measure, the public tends to judge high schools and local school districts by their SAT scores. Support for high SAT scores must be a shared responsibility among various groups. While there is some overlap among school community members, each group also has a unique and important role.

### Principals and School Administrators

- Insist that your high school *offer* a Kaplan-like SAT prep course and widely publicize the course. Offer tuition assistance to students who need it.
- Set up other SAT preparation opportunities within the school such as NovaNET software, practice tests, and SAT study books or guides for students to use. Disseminate information about these opportunities.
- Urge students to take more Advanced Placement and other rigorous, higher level courses; e.g., advanced foreign language or mathematics.
- Identify students who do well on PSAT and contact them individually to advise them to enroll in A.P. courses.
- Encourage students to take academic electives; e.g., creative writing, debate, science courses.
- Support teachers in use of instructional approaches tied to SAT performance; e.g., questioning strategies, test item formats.
- Encourage use of PSAT results to target deficiencies in preparation for SAT.
- Encourage students to take the SAT in their junior year and, after examining their scores, take it again in their senior year, if appropriate.
- Help students understand the importance of the SAT in their future plans.

### Teachers

- Use instructional approaches tied to SAT performance; e.g., questioning strategies, test item formats. Use sample items from practice tests in classroom discussions about problem-solving skills.
- Urge students to take more Advanced Placement and other rigorous, higher level courses; e.g., advanced foreign language or mathematics. If you teach these classes, recruit students to join them.
- Encourage students to take academic electives; e.g., creative writing, debate, science courses.
- Encourage use of PSAT results to target deficiencies in preparation for SAT.
- Encourage students to take the SAT in their junior year and, after examining their scores, take it again in their senior year, if appropriate.
- Urge students to take an SAT prep course and to make use of other preparation materials that are available to them.

### Students

- Take more Advanced Placement and other rigorous, higher level courses; e.g. advanced foreign language or mathematics.

- Take academic electives; e.g., creative writing, debate, science.
- Study your PSAT results to determine where to focus your studying for SAT.
- Take an SAT prep course.
- Use a variety of tools to help you prepare, including software such as NovaNET to study, SAT practice tests (look online), and books such as Barron's to take practice tests.
- Take the test as a junior and, based on results, consider taking it again in your senior year.

#### Parents

- Set high expectations for your student throughout their school career. Emphasize academic rigor as a shared value for your family.
- Attend parent information sessions about preparing for college, taking the SAT, and course selection.
- Review PSAT results with your student and note areas for improvement. Use this information when assisting in course selection.
- Ask your student what SAT preparation their school offers, or contact the school and find out for yourself.
- Ensure your student takes an SAT prep course, either through the school or an outside provider.
- Urge your student to take more Advanced Placement and other rigorous, higher level courses; e.g. advanced foreign language or mathematics.
- Encourage your student to take academic electives; e.g., creative writing, debate, science courses.
- Study SAT results from your student's junior year SAT administration. The College Board provides an estimate of the probability of each student earning a higher score on a retest. Based on this, you may want to encourage your student to take the SAT again in their senior year.
- Ensure that other resources such as books with practice tests are available to your student.