

## **School Day College Entrance Assessment**

South Carolina will be offering students options for one free college entrance assessment during the school day. Options include taking the ACT on February 27th, taking the SAT on March 5th, or not testing at all during the school day this year. Students who opt not to test as Juniors may opt to participate in one of the tests during their Senior year. In order to plan for the correct number of students testing on these dates, we need each Junior to make the most appropriate selection for his or her college plans.

### **Qualifications for testing:**

- ☐ Planning to enroll after graduation directly into a 4-year college or university
- ☐ Successful completion of the following math courses:
  - ☐ Algebra I
    - ☐ 80% or higher on EOC
  - ☐ Algebra II
  - ☐ Geometry
  - ☐ Pre-Calculus (or currently enrolled)
- ☐ Successful completion of the following English courses:
  - ☐ English I
    - ☐ 80% or higher on EOC
  - ☐ English II
  - ☐ English III (or currently enrolled)
- ☐ For ACT: Successful completion of the following Science courses:
  - ☐ Biology I
    - ☐ 80% or higher on EOC
  - ☐ 1 additional science course
- ☐ Testing Indicators
  - ☐ Accuplacer
    - ☐ Math - 237 on AAF or higher
    - ☐ Reading - 250 or higher
  - ☐ PSAT College Readiness
    - ☐ Math - 60% percentile or higher
    - ☐ Reading - 60% percentile or higher
  - ☐ iReady data
    - ☐ Math - 60% percentile or higher
    - ☐ Reading - 60% percentile or higher

- If your student meets the testing qualifications, use the Test Comparison Guide to help you select the best college entrance assessment for your student.

If you feel your student is not currently prepared to take a college entrance exam as a Junior, a wait list will be offered next year for Senior students to test based on available funds. Saturday ACT and SAT testing will still be available for a fee at local high schools during the fall and spring semesters each year. Many free preparation options are available for students. Check with your guidance counselor for more information.

If you believe taking a college entrance exam is not applicable for your student, our school will also be offering the WIN Ready to Work assessment, ASVAB, and career credentialing each school year.

**Once you determine the best option for your student, indicate your selection on the College Entrance Assessment Selection form.**

## Test Comparison Guide

	SAT	ACT
Test Structure	*Digital* Reading, Writing & Language, Math	*Paper/Pencil* English, Math, Reading, Science
Length	3 hours Avg. time/question: 1 min., 10 sec.	2 hours, 55 minutes Avg. time/question: 50 sec.
Reading	5 reading passages	4 reading passages
Science	None	1 science section testing your critical thinking skills (not your specific science knowledge)
Math	Arithmetic, Algebra I & II, Geometry, Pre-Calculus, and Data Analysis	Arithmetic, Algebra I & II, Geometry, and Pre-Calculus
Calculator Policy	Some math questions don't allow you to use a calculator.	You can use a calculator on all math questions.
Scoring	Scored on a scale of 400–1600	Scored on a scale of 1–36

### **The ACT might be easier for you than the SAT if:**

- You are really fast at your work. You generally don't have trouble running out of time on tests at school and you are a fast reader.
- Reading: You can answer questions based on text evidence, interpretation of graphics is not required. On the ACT, all of the questions are about the text.
- Science: You like science and are good at interpreting data and trends. Students who may not be a fan of science, but are really good at seeing the trends in graphs and tables and being able to deduce the next step in a process are also likely to be successful at ACT Science.
- Math: You are glued to your calculator in math class. The prospect of the no-calculator section and the grid-ins on the SAT might be a bit more intimidating for you.
- You prefer all multiple choice.
- Math Level: ACT includes more questions in the realm of Algebra II and Trigonometry.
- Reading Level: All of the passages on the ACT English section are at about a 9th-grade level.

### **The SAT might be easier for you than the ACT if:**

- You're not a fast reader, but you're a good reader. You can understand readings pretty well when you take your time. While you may not be able to take all the time you'd like on the SAT, you will encounter more complex, shorter passages on the SAT with a slightly longer time period.
- Reading: Readings make more sense to you when accompanied by a table or graph. On the SAT, you'll see a couple of questions on tables and graphs connected to the text.
- Math: You're good at mental math, you can do the no-calculator section with confidence.
- You are comfortable answering grid-in math computation: SAT Math test is 80% multiple choice and 20% grid-ins.
- Math Level: You'll see some questions on advanced math and trigonometry/pre-calculus.
- Reading Level: The passages on the SAT Writing & Language section can vary in difficulty from early high school to early college.