



Illinois State Board of Education

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Spring 2021 Frequently Asked Questions for SAT with Essay, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9 for schools administering under the Invest in Kids Act Posted March 26, 2021

*If you have a question not addressed in this FAQ, please write to assessment@isbe.net.
Thank you for your patience and flexibility as ISBE works to provide additional answers.*

PSAT 10 and PSAT 8/9

- 1. Question:** What is the status of the PSAT 8/9 and PSAT 10 administration for spring 2021?
Answer: The PSAT 10 and PSAT 8/9 have been eliminated from the state testing program for spring 2021. Therefore, Invest in Kids Act entities may opt to provide the PSAT 10 and/or PSAT 8/9 in spring 2021.
- 2. Question:** How do schools participating under the Invest in Kids Act return PSAT 8/9 or PSAT 10 materials?
Answer: Schools may refuse the UPS shipment of the test materials. If materials are received at the school, the test booklets for PSAT 8/9 and PSAT 10 must be returned. The test coordinator will receive loose test book UPS return labels with the test materials shipment. Apply the test book UPS return labels to the box. Cover or remove any existing labels on the exterior of the shipping cartons. Schedule a pickup at ups.com, or call 800-PICK-UPS (800-742-5877). For more instructions, view pages 46-47 of the [PSAT 10 Test Coordinator Manual](#) and page 42 of the [PSAT 8/9 Test Coordinator Manual](#). Test coordinators should follow the instructions in the PSAT 8/9 and PSAT 10 coordinator manuals for handling unused test materials.
- 3. Question:** Will schools participating under the Invest in Kids Act be charged for PSAT 8/9 and PSAT 10 materials?
Answer: Schools won't be charged test fees if PSAT 8/9 and PSAT 10 are not administered. Test coordinators should follow the instructions in the PSAT 8/9 and PSAT 10 coordinator manuals for handling unused test materials.
- 4. Question:** May schools participating under the Invest in Kids Act still offer PSAT 8/9 or PSAT 10 in spring 2021?
Answer: Yes.
- 5. Question:** Are schools participating under the Invest in Kids Act required to administer PSAT 8/9 or PSAT 10 in fall 2021?
Answer: No, but schools that want to provide any PSAT-related assessments in the fall may do so.
- 6. Question:** Will ISBE require a spring 2022 administration of PSAT 8/9 and PSAT 10?
Answer: Yes.

SAT with Essay

- Question:** What is the status of the SAT with Essay administration for spring 2021?
Answer: The essay portion of the SAT with Essay has been eliminated from the state testing program for spring 2021. Therefore, Invest in Kids Act entities may opt to provide the essay portion of the SAT in spring 2021.
- Question:** What materials will schools receive regarding the SAT?
Answer: All schools will receive SAT with Essay or SAT materials, whichever the school ordered. Some documents posted on the [ISBE Invest in Kids Act website](#), as well as the hard copy testing manuals used for testing, will include information about the essay.
- Question:** May schools participating under the Invest in Kids Act still administer the essay?
Answer: Yes.
- Question:** Will the essay be required in the ISBE-provided spring 2022?
Answer: Yes.
- Question:** What SAT training is required for test coordinators?
Answer: All test coordinators are required to participate in training for the spring 2021 SAT administration. Test coordinators may access the required training for SAT within their College Board account.
- Question:** How must the translated test directions for English Learners be adjusted for students who will use those supports?
Answer: The intent of providing translated test directions is to assist students who are following along with the proctor who is providing instructions in English. Proctors should ensure students using translated test directions are bubbling "SAT" or "SAT with Essay" in [field 9](#) on the answer sheet, as applicable.
- Question:** What is the expected timeline for students and districts to receive score results after spring 2021 testing?
Answer: Reporting timelines will not change. Scores for students who test on April 13, 2021, will begin to release in the College Board Reporting Portal on May 8, 2021.

Invest in Kids Act Data Collection

- Question:** If a student is unable to test due to COVID-19 concerns, how do I communicate this?
Answer: District staff must document students who do not test utilizing the applicable Reason for No Valid Test Attempt ([RNVTA](#)) and provide this information to a third party independent research organization at a later date. Review the description for each reason carefully, and select [RNVTA 10](#) if no other reason is applicable.

Spring 2021 and Fall 2021 Administrations

- Question:** Is there an option to administer an ISBE-provided SAT in the fall 2021?
Answer: Yes. Superintendents received an email on March 5, 2021, from ISBE leadership requesting their decision, through a survey, to choose to administer SAT in spring 2021 or fall 2021. Districts will administer the SAT in spring 2021 or fall 2021 based on this survey response and must communicate their decision to stakeholders.
- Question:** How will I know if my district has chosen the spring 2021 or fall 2021 administration?
Answer: ISBE leadership does not collect this information. Please confirm with your school administrator.
- Question:** Will the fall 2021 administration of SAT include the essay?
Answer: No.

4. **Question:** If a school decides to shift testing to fall 2021, what are the fall 2021 SAT test dates?
Answer: October 13, 2021 (primary), October 28, 2021 (makeup), and October 13-26, 2021 (accommodations testing window).
5. **Question:** May schools choose to test some students in spring 2021 and some students in fall 2021?
Answer: For Invest in Kids Act organizations, this is an option. However, tests must be completed during the appropriate assessment window.
6. **Question:** What should I do with test materials I receive for spring 2021 if my school participating under the Invest in Kids Act has chosen the fall 2021 administration?
Answer: Schools testing under the Invest in Kids Act that ordered SAT with Essay, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9 materials will receive secure test materials for spring 2021. These secure test materials for spring 2021 should be returned to College Board unused for schools that choose to test in fall 2021. Manuals and blank answer sheets may be destroyed/recycled locally. Refer to the "How to Handle Test Materials After Testing is Complete" chart on page 50 and other instructions on pages 51-52 of the [SAT School Day Coordinator Manual](#); pages 46-47 of the [PSAT 10 Test Coordinator Manual](#) and page 42 of the [PSAT 8/9 Test Coordinator Manual](#). Test books must be returned no later than the next school day after testing is completed. Test coordinators should follow the instructions in the SAT School Day, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9 test coordinator manuals for handling unused test materials.
7. **Question:** May schools that choose to administer SAT in spring 2021 postpone IAR until fall 2021 or vice versa?
Answer: Yes.