



# Illinois State Board of Education

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## Spring 2021 Frequently Asked Questions for SAT with Essay, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9 Updated March 26, 2021

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

### **PSAT 10 and PSAT 8/9**

- 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 and will not be administered in spring 2021.
- Question:** May schools still offer PSAT 8/9 or PSAT 10 in spring 2021?  
**Answer:** No. Based on College Board ordering deadlines for school- or district-funded April testing have passed and therefore spring testing is not available. However, schools may place orders for the fall administration of the PSAT 8/9 and PSAT/NMSQT beginning in June. Districts will need to purchase the assessment if they choose a Fall PSAT testing date. The College Board team is happy to support any schools that have questions about district funded ordering for fall and can be contacted at [ILSAT@collegeboard.org](mailto:ILSAT@collegeboard.org). **Updated March 26, 2021**
- Question:** Will ISBE provide a **fall 2021** administration of PSAT 8/9 or PSAT 10?  
**Answer:** No, but districts that want to provide any College Board assessments in the fall may do so at their own expense.
- 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 and will not be administered in spring 2021.
- Question:** What materials will schools receive regarding the SAT?  
**Answer:** All schools will still receive SAT with Essay materials because it is, unfortunately, too late to stop those materials from being shipped. Some documents posted on the [ISBE website](#) as well as the hard copy testing manuals used for testing will include information about the essay.
- Question:** May schools still administer the essay?  
**Answer:** No. ISBE eliminated the essay from its spring 2021 administration, which means that school staff are to keep essay books securely stored and return unused essay books along with other secure test materials after testing following the guidance in the SAT manual.

4. **Question:** What should proctors be aware of for preadministration sessions or on test day when instructing students to complete their answer sheets for SAT as opposed to SAT with Essay?  
**Answer:** On test day, proctors should post "SAT" on the board in the front of the room so that students are reminded of the Test Type. Students should place no marks on their answer sheet on pages 6-10. When completing the SAT School Day answer sheet, all students should grid "SAT" in [field 9](#) (Test Type) to indicate the essay will not be administered.
5. **Question:** Will the essay be required in the ISBE-provided SAT in spring 2022?  
**Answer:** Yes.
6. **Question:** What training is required for test coordinators?  
**Answer:** All test coordinators are required to participate in training for the spring 2021 SAT. Information about how to access the training was sent to test coordinators from College Board on March 2, 2021. The required training makes references to SAT with Essay and also to PSAT 10 and PSAT 8/9. Test coordinators are reminded to disregard references to the essay and also to PSAT 10 and PSAT 8/9, as they are now eliminated.
7. **Question:** How must proctors adjust scripts in the manuals for standard testing now that the essay is eliminated?  
**Answer:** Detailed directions proctors must use to adjust scripts are posted at [www.isbe.net/Documents/spring-2021-SAT-scripts.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/Documents/spring-2021-SAT-scripts.pdf).
8. **Question:** How must proctors adjust scripts in the manuals for accommodated testing now that the essay is eliminated (i.e., will the Nonstandard Administration Report (NAR) be adjusted)?  
**Answer:** Detailed directions proctors must use to adjust scripts are posted at [www.isbe.net/Documents/spring-2021-SAT-scripts.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/Documents/spring-2021-SAT-scripts.pdf).
9. **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" in [field 9](#) on the answer sheet.
10. **Question:** May grade 12 students who participated in the fall 2020 ISBE-provided SAT with Essay have the option to participate in the spring 2021 ISBE-provided SAT?  
**Answer:** No, since ISBE has paid for that administration already.  
**Additional Answer (Added March 26, 2021):** If an irregularity that was not the fault of the student occurred during the fall 2020 ISBE-provided administration, that student may participate in the spring 2021 or fall 2021 ISBE-provided administration if the student is still enrolled during the administration. Note that the student may need to test on a makeup test date if sufficient materials are not available for primary testing.
11. **Question:** With the elimination of the essay, 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 5, 2021.

### **Diploma Requirement and Grade 12 Students**

1. **Question:** Must grade 12 students still participate in the SAT in spring 2021 to receive a regular high school diploma?  
**Answer:** No. Public Act [101-643](#) makes all current grade 12 students eligible for graduation regardless of whether they took the SAT in grade 11. Grade 12 students may receive a regular high school diploma without participating in the SAT in spring 2021 as long as all other requirements are met.
2. **Question:** Is exemption paperwork required to be submitted for any student who has not yet tested and plans to graduate in spring 2021 or summer 2021?  
**Answer:** No.

3. **Question:** May grade 12 students for whom the diploma requirement was but is no longer applicable who did not participate in the fall 2020 ISBE-provided SAT with Essay (i.e., grade 12 students who appear on the SAT Pre-ID report in SIS) still have the option to participate in the ISBE-provided SAT administration?  
**Answer:** Yes, provided the student is still enrolled at the time of testing.
4. **Question:** Will SAT test materials for grade 12 students for whom the diploma requirement is no longer applicable still be provided automatically for spring 2021?  
**Answer:** Yes.
5. **Question:** Must grade 12 students for whom the diploma requirement was but is no longer applicable who did not participate in the fall 2020 ISBE-provided SAT with Essay (i.e., grade 12 students who appear on the SAT Pre-ID report in SIS) be allowed to participate in the ISBE-provided SAT administration?  
**Answer:** Yes, provided the student is still enrolled at the time of testing.
6. **Question:** Must grade 11 students who do not participate in the spring 2021 administration participate in a subsequent ISBE-provided administration when they are in grade 12 to meet the diploma requirement?  
**Answer:** Yes.
7. **Question:** May grade 12 students who were not enrolled in Illinois while in grade 11 be allowed to participate in the spring 2021 or fall 2021 ISBE-provided SAT administration if they want to do so?  
**Answer:** Yes, if they are still enrolled in the district during the time of testing, the district must provide the student the opportunity to take the assessment if the student has not already taken the assessment. **Updated March 26, 2021**
8. **Question:** May grade 12 students who were home schooled or attended a private school student while in grade 11 be allowed to participate in the spring 2021 or fall 2021 ISBE-provided SAT administration if they want to do so?  
**Answer:** Testing is for students enrolled in Illinois public schools. Yes, if they are enrolled in an Illinois public school during the time of testing, the district must provide the student the opportunity to take the assessment if the student has not already taken the assessment. **Updated March 26, 2021**
9. **Question:** May grade 12 students who were previously designated as being exempt from SAT with Essay while in grade 11 (e.g., [RNVTA 01](#)) be allowed to participate in the spring 2021 or fall 2021 ISBE-provided SAT administration if they want to do so?  
**Answer:** Yes, if they are still enrolled in the district during the time of testing the district must provide the student the opportunity to take the assessment if the student has not already taken the assessment. **Updated March 26, 2021**

### **ISBE's Student Information System (SIS)**

1. **Question:** How will the Pre-ID report in ISBE's SIS be affected?  
**Answer:** All records for students in grades 9 and 10 have been removed from the Pre-ID report in SIS.
2. **Question:** If a student is unable to test due to COVID-19 concerns, how do I communicate this?  
**Answer:** District staff must enter the applicable Reason for No Valid Test Attempt ([RNVTA](#)) in SIS after spring 2021 testing. Review the description for each reason carefully, and use [RNVTA 10](#) if no other reason is applicable.

### **Spring 2021 and Fall 2021 SAT Administrations**

1. **Question:** Is there an option to administer an ISBE-provided SAT in 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.

2. **Question:** How will I know if my district has chosen the spring 2021 or fall 2021 SAT administration?  
**Answer:** District staff have the responsibility of communicating to their stakeholders whether testing is shifting to fall 2021.
3. **Question:** Will the fall 2021 ISBE-provided administration of SAT include the essay?  
**Answer:** No.
4. **Question:** If a district 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 districts choose to test some students in spring 2021 and some students in fall 2021?  
**Answer:** No. Districts must choose to test in spring 2021 or fall 2021, not both.
6. **Question:** What should I do with test materials I receive for spring 2021 if my district has chosen the fall 2021 administration?  
**Answer:** All schools will receive secure SAT test materials for spring 2021. These secure test materials for spring 2021 should be returned to College Board unused by districts that choose to test in fall 2021. Manuals and blank answer sheets may be destroyed/recycled locally, and Pre-ID labels may be securely destroyed locally. Refer to the "How to Handle Test Materials After Testing is Complete" chart on page 52 of the [Coordinator Manual](#).
7. **Question:** May districts that choose to administer SAT in spring 2021 postpone all other state assessments (i.e., IAR, ISA, ACCESS, and DLM-AA)?  
**Answer:** Yes.

### **General**

1. **Question:** Will ISBE provide a template for a letter schools may use to communicate these changes to parents?  
**Answer:** Yes. A template on ISBE letterhead will be linked from [www.isbe.net/Pages/sat-psat.aspx](http://www.isbe.net/Pages/sat-psat.aspx) as soon as possible.