

Levittown Public Schools

SAT/PSAT Changes
for the
2015-16 School Year



Presentation to the Board of Education
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COMPARISON OF THE MAJOR FEATURES OF THE CURRENT SAT AND REDESIGNED SAT

Category	Current SAT	Redesigned SAT
Total Testing Time (Subject to research)	3 hours and 45 minutes	3 hours (plus 50 minutes for the Essay (optional))
Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Critical Reading b) Writing c) Mathematics d) Essay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Evidence-Based Reading and Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Test • Writing and Language Test b) Math c) Essay (optional)
Important Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Emphasis on general reasoning skills ➤ Emphasis on vocabulary, often in limited contexts ➤ Complex scoring (a point for a correct answer and a deduction for an incorrect answer; blank responses have no impact on scores) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continued emphasis on reasoning, clearer, stronger focus on the knowledge, skills, and understandings most important for college and career success ➤ Greater emphasis on the meaning of words in extended contexts and on how word choice shapes meaning, tone, and impact ➤ Rights-only scoring
Essay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Required and given at the beginning of the SAT ➤ 25 minutes to write the essay ➤ Tests writing skill; students take a position on a presented issue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Optional and given at the end of the SAT ➤ 50 minutes to write the essay ➤ Tests reading, analysis, and writing skills
Score Reporting (Subject to research)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Scale ranging from 600 to 2400 ➤ Scale ranging from 200 to 800 for Critical Reading; 200 to 800 for Mathematics; 200 to 800 for Writing ➤ Essay results scaled to multiple-choice Writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Scale ranging from 400 – 1600 ➤ Scale ranging from 200 to 800 for Evidence-Based Reading and Writing; 200 to 800 for Math; 2 to 8 on each of three traits for Essay ➤ Essay results reported separately

PSAT Changes

- Aligned with the re-designed SAT
- Only administered on Wednesdays during the 2015-16 school year

Current PSAT Test Takers

- Grade 10
 - 49%
 - 289 students
- Grade 11
 - 56%
 - 320 students

Benefits of PSAT

- Same format as the SAT's
- Feedback on strengths and weaknesses
- Students who take the PSAT's twice score, on average, 189 points higher on the SAT than students who do not
- Indicator of AP potential
- National Merit Scholarships (11th grade)

Recommendation

- District pays for 10th and 11th grade students to take the PSAT in October 2015
- Cost
 - \$14 per student
 - Approximately \$15,400