

## Questions and Answers from the May 4<sup>th</sup> CDSE Fall Testing Options Webinar

In this document, questions are divided into five sections:

- General Questions
- SAT Weekend-Specific Questions
- SAT School Day-Specific Questions
- Testing Accommodations Questions
- EL Supports Questions

### **General Questions**

#### **Q: Who is eligible to take the CSDE-sponsored fall SAT?**

A: All current grade 11 students who were supposed to take the CT SAT School Day in spring 2020 are eligible to take the CSDE-sponsored fall 2020 SAT.

#### **Q: Are students required to participate in fall testing (either SAT School Day or SAT Weekend)?**

A: Participation in fall testing is optional for students.

#### **Q: What happens if a student joins our school in the fall?**

A: New grade 12 students may take a weekend or school day SAT at no cost to them.

#### **Q: When can districts expect to receive the survey?**

A: The survey was emailed on Friday, May 8, 2020. Here is the link:

[https://sdect.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0I9COGmr91IXO8I](https://sdect.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0I9COGmr91IXO8I)

#### **Q: Who received the survey?**

A: The email with the survey was sent to CT SAT School Day Test Coordinators and District Administrators.

#### **Q: There are a number of unknowns going into the fall. If we choose to offer one testing option now but things change for our district over the summer, are we able to make a change to our testing options?**

A: Yes. We understand that things may change for districts throughout the summer and we are prepared to be flexible to support educators and students. Later this month, we will publish dates by which schools must make their final decisions regarding fall testing options.

#### **Q: How will fall testing work for alternative settings/approved private special education schools?**

A: All schools that were supposed to give the CT SAT School Day in the spring will be able to offer the SAT to their grade 12 students in the fall. Alternative settings, such as approved special education schools, etc. will be able to order tests for the fall SAT School Day dates and can administer the test at their school. They will also be able to receive electronic codes for SAT Weekend testing in they choose to provide that option.

#### **Q. Are Approved Private Special Education Facilities able to host the SAT at our school, or would our juniors have to take it at their respective districts?**

A: All schools that were supposed to test as part of the CT spring School Day testing will be able to order/give the SAT School Day fall test at their school (on Sept. 23 or Oct. 14). If your school wants to have students participate in SAT weekend testing and you want to become a test center for Saturday testing, you will need to apply to become a test center.

**Q: Where can we get information on how private schools can participate?**

A: The Connecticut-sponsored fall SAT testing program is only available to public school students. Private school students, except for those students in Approved Private Special Education facilities or in similar situations, are not eligible to participate.

**Q: If a school chooses to offer SAT School Day on October 14<sup>th</sup> to their student body but has a few students that need their test scores earlier, are those students able to take the SAT Weekend in August or September.**

A: Yes. If you plan to have most students test at your school on SAT School Day but need to have a few students take SAT Weekend for this reason, please contact Michelle Rosado at CSDE and she will be able to provide you with electronic codes for those students.

**Q: Can a student take the SAT School Day in October and also take the SAT Weekend test in December?**

A: CSDE will only cover the cost of one test for each student. If a student takes the SAT School Day in October and wishes to test again in December, that student will need to pay for the December test themselves. If the student is eligible for fee waiver benefits, they can use those benefits to cover the cost of the second test.

**Q: Is offering a makeup on October 28<sup>th</sup> optional? Can students who miss the primary SAT School Day administration take their test on one of the subsequent Saturday administrations?**

A: If a school is not able to offer the October 28<sup>th</sup> makeup to their students, they can provide those students with electronic codes to register for an SAT Weekend administration. Please contact Michelle Rosado at CSDE for codes for students that require this option.

**Q: Are there going to be guidelines shared by College Board about the district between students testing for both SAT School Day and SAT Weekend?**

A: College Board is reviewing a number of testing policies in light of the current situation. More information will be provided to schools over the coming weeks.

**Q: Will you provide schools with an email template that can be used to inform students and parents about their fall testing options.**

A: Yes. CSDE will provide an email template that schools can use. Schools that choose to offer SAT Weekend testing will also receive registration directions to provide to students.

**Q: Can we use the answer sheets we received in April for the SAT School Day in the fall?**

A: No. Please shred and dispose of any answer sheets you received for spring testing. You will receive new answer sheets for fall testing.

**Q: Do we have to return the labels and answer sheets we received for spring 2020 testing?**

A: No. Please shred and discard the answer sheets and labels you received for spring testing.

**Q: Is College Board working with higher education organizations in the event scores are delayed due to the pandemic?**

A: College Board has been in close contact with our Higher Education partners. We will be able to provide more information about this in the coming weeks.

**Q: Will there be an online SAT option for the fall if schools are not able to resume in-person instruction?**

A: College Board is exploring options to provide students with testing opportunities, and we will be able to provide more information in the coming weeks.

**Q: What do I do with the fee waiver codes for low income students that I received from the College Board in the March?**

A: Schools received electronic fee waiver codes for eligible students via the K-12 Score Reporting Portal in March, and College Board will also be sending additional fee waiver codes to schools later this summer. These codes are different from the codes that schools using the fall SAT Weekend option will receive. Schools can distribute the fee waiver code to students who are eligible for fee waiver benefits. Those students can use the fee waiver codes to register for additional SAT Weekend administrations if they are interested in doing so.

### **SAT Weekend-Specific Questions**

**Q: When will the fall Weekend SAT test dates be open for student registration?**

A: Students can begin registering for the fall SAT Weekend test administrations on May 28. Deadlines for registration for each test administration date can be found on [this page](#).

**Q: How do the codes for Weekend SAT testing work? Will the codes be unique to each student?**

A: College Board will distribute electronic codes to schools that will be participating in Weekend SAT testing. Schools will receive a file with electronic codes along with directions for distributing them to students and directions for students to use while registering. The codes are not student specific and schools will not need to provide specific student information to College Board before receiving codes. The codes will only work for one registration; a student cannot register for more than one administration using the same code.

**Q: For schools that choose SAT Weekend, when will electronic codes be available?**

A: Electronic codes will be delivered to schools the week of June 1.

**Q: Who will be sending the electronic codes to schools that choose to participate in SAT Weekend testing?**

A: College Board will be sending electronic codes to schools that have chosen weekend testing.

**Q: Can students take the SAT Weekend test at their own school if their school is a weekend test center?**

A: Students choose their test center during the registration process. If a student's school is a test center for the SAT Weekend administration they would like to take and has available seats, they can choose their school as their test center.

**Q: For schools that choose the SAT Weekend option, must all students take the test on the same administration date? For example, can some students take the test on August 29<sup>th</sup> and other students take the test on September 26<sup>th</sup>?**

A: The electronic codes that student use for registration will allow students to register once for any of the fall tests administration dates (August 29<sup>th</sup>, September 26<sup>th</sup>, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, November 7<sup>th</sup>, or December

5<sup>th</sup>). Students can choose the administration date that works best for them, and students from the same school are not limited to the same test administration date.

**Q: If taking the SAT Weekend, do students have to add the essay or can students take the test without the essay?**

A: Students are not required to add the essay for weekend testing, and CSDE is only covering the cost of the SAT (without Essay). If a student would like to take the essay they are able to do so, but they must pay for the cost of the essay themselves.

**Q: How much does it cost for a student/school to add the essay?**

A: The essay costs \$16. If a student is eligible for fee waiver benefits, they can use one of their fee waiver registrations to pay for the essay.

**Q: If taking the SAT school day, can schools add the essay?**

A: Schools are not required to add the essay for school day testing, and CSDE is only covering the cost of the SAT (without Essay). If schools would like to add the essay they are able to do so, but they must pay for the cost of the essays themselves.

**Q: If my school is choosing the SAT Weekend option and would like to become a test center, what should we do?**

A: Schools that would like to become test centers for SAT weekend can complete an application. Schools can find more information about becoming a test center and access the application [here](#).

**Q: My school is already a test center for the new SAT Weekend administration on September 26<sup>th</sup>. Are we still able to take advantage of the SAT School Day?**

A: Yes. A school can be a weekend test center and also offer SAT School Day. However, a student may only take the SAT once as part of the CSDE-sponsored fall testing.

**Q: We are not a weekend test center. If our school chooses the SAT Weekend option, can our students go to another school to take the test?**

A: Yes. During registration, students will see a listing of area test centers for the administration for which they are registering. They can choose to test at any of those test centers that have seats available.

**Q: Can a school apply to be a test center for SAT Weekend that is only open to their students?**

A: A school can request to be open only for their students, but this request is not often granted.

**Q: If a student is absent for an SAT Weekend administration, can they be provided with a second electronic code from CSDE to register for a different weekend test?**

A: Schools should contact the CSDE for guidance in this situation.

**Q: For SAT Weekend, what do we do if a student cannot test on a Saturday because of their religious beliefs?**

A: College Board provides a Sunday testing option for students who cannot test on Saturday because of their religious beliefs. The processes to register for a Sunday test administration will be available [here](#) once test registration has opened for 2020-21.

### **SAT School Day-Specific Questions**

**Q: If we offer SAT School Day, when will student scores be available to send to colleges?**

A: For the September 23<sup>rd</sup> School Day administration, scores will be available October 15. For the October 14<sup>th</sup> School Day administration, scores will be available November 11.

**Q: If our school chooses to offer the September 23<sup>rd</sup> SAT School Day administration, must we also offer the October 14<sup>th</sup> School Day administration?**

A: No. Your school can choose to offer one of the primary administration dates. You are not required to offer both.

**Q: Does a school have to choose one test date for the SAT School Day option, or can they choose to offer both dates?**

A: Schools can choose one date, but if a school needs to offer the test on both dates they are able to do that. Schools offering the test on both dates will need to order materials for each date. Each student may only test once at no cost, however.

**Q: Can SAT School Day testing take place in the afternoon?**

A: No. All SAT School Day testing must take place in the morning. Guidance for the start time for testing will be available in your Testing Coordinator Manual.

**Q: Is the PSAT/NMSQT administered on the same day as the SAT School Day?**

The PSAT/NMSQT primary administration date is October 14<sup>th</sup>, which is also one of the SAT School Day primary administration date options. The alternate date for PSAT/NMSQT is October 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Q: Can we administer both SAT School Day and PSAT/NMSQT on October 14<sup>th</sup>?**

A: Yes, you can administer both of those assessments on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Q: Is there a PSAT 10 available on October 14<sup>th</sup>?**

A: PSAT 10 is only offered in the spring. That assessment is called PSAT/NMSQT in the fall because the fall administration can be used for students to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship.

**Q: Is it recommended to administer the PSAT/NMSQT and SAT on the same day? Could it be useful?**

A: This depends on the school and their space and staffing availability. Some schools prefer to administer both assessments on the same day so that they limit how often they have to prepare for testing. Other schools that are limited with space and staff availability prefer to administer the tests on different days.

**Q: If we choose the SAT School Day administration in September, can we offer the PSAT/NMSQT on the same September date?**

A: No. The PSAT/NMSQT is only available on October 14<sup>th</sup> or on the alternate administration date of October 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Q: Will there be pre-ID labels with for the SAT School Day option?**

A: Pre-ID labels are available for SAT School Day. More information will be available in the coming weeks.

**Q: Our district was already planning to offer the SAT School Day on October 14<sup>th</sup> prior to COVID-19. Can we move forward with the district plan to administer the SAT School Day on October 14<sup>th</sup> and**

**participate in the SAT Weekend option from CSDE so our students have the opportunity to take the test twice if they'd like?**

A: Yes. CSDE is covering the cost of the test once for each student. In this scenario, you could offer these two testing options as long as the district is going to pay for the SAT School Day administration.

### **Testing Accommodations Questions**

**Q: Can I still enter accommodation requests into the SSD Online system for students in the fall if I have students that have accommodation changes or who became newly eligible for services?**

A: Yes. Please be mindful of the SSD accommodation request deadlines for each administration, though. To make sure students receive the correct testing materials for their approved accommodations, it is important to have accommodation requests entered in SSD Online by that administration's deadline.

**Q: Does the SAT Weekend option allow for MP3 and 100% extended time test?**

A: All accommodations for students with disabilities are supported in the SAT Weekend option. Some accommodations can be administered at weekend test centers, but other accommodations that require special equipment or require more than one day for testing (such as MP3 audio accommodation or 100% extended time testing) will actually be administered by staff at the student's school during an accommodated testing window that begins on the Saturday administration date and ends on the following Friday.

### **EL Supports Questions**

**Q: How do EL students get the translated test directions or word-to-word bilingual glossary?**

A: Schools can access the translated test directions and a list of approved word-to-word bilingual glossaries [here](#). These documents will be updated for fall 2020 administration by DATE. Schools print out translated test directions and distribute them to the students that need them. For glossaries, students can use school-provided glossaries that appear on the approved glossary list.

**Q: Do students who take the SAT with EL supports receive college-reportable scores?**

A: Yes, students who take the SAT with EL supports do receive college-reportable scores. If a student takes the SAT with 50% extended time for EL, the request for this support must be entered into SSD Online in order for the score to be college-reportable.

**Q: Can a school choose to test students that need EL supports on an SAT School Day administration date and have all other students participate in SAT Weekend testing?**

A: Yes. A school can split testing in this way. In this case, a school will need to support students to register for weekend testing with electronic codes as well as order testing materials for EL students in the Test Ordering System.