

PSAT, SAT, and ACT Information

Questions? Need more info? Please direct all questions to our Post-Secondary Success Coordinator, Jennifer Pacheco Mimms.

817-815-1029

Jennifer.Pacheco@fwisd.org

PSAT Test - what is it and WHY do I have to take it?

The PSAT test, or "Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test" is a standardized test administered by the College Board and co-sponsored by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

At AHHS, we will test all ___ graders on TBD. (Check back for 2023-2024 dates)

Your scores on the PSAT are not only a good indicator of how you'll do on the SAT test, but you can also qualify for National Merit Scholarships! Students may also earn "Commended Scholar" designation, which means the student did very well on the test, but are not selected to advance to become a National Merit Semifinalist. Although these students are not eligible for scholarship money from the National Merit Scholarship Program, their scores still look impressive to college admissions staff. Reaching the status of Commended Student or Semifinalist is a **strong indicator of academic excellence** to include in your application and may enable you to apply for Special Scholarships.

The PSAT consists of two sections - Reading and Math. The test is scored on a range of 160–760 for each section, adding up to a maximum score of 1520. The test is timed, and takes about 2 hours and 45 minutes.

Don't stress about it, but take this testing opportunity seriously and do your best! The PSAT can give you confidence when you are ready to take the SAT!

Interested in seeing some sample questions or taking a practice PSAT? Click [HERE](#) for more information. [Khan Academy](#) also offers some great individualized study tools.

SAT or ACT - what's the difference? Which should I take?

Many colleges base admissions decisions in part on the results of standardized tests called the ACT and the SAT tests. Juniors and seniors in high school usually take these tests to demonstrate their readiness for college level work. However, note that in recent years (since the pandemic), colleges are reporting that these tests are optional in the admissions decision process.

In general, the ACT and the SAT tests attempt to measure college readiness and predict future academic success. But they do so in very different ways:

- The ACT test measures what a student already knows. It covers material that the student should have learned during high school.
- The SAT test is used more as a predictor of what a student is capable of learning. It deals with material that the student may NOT have learned in high school.

For this reason, some students do better on the ACT test—especially if they tend to struggle with standardized tests—and other students do better on the SAT test. Most colleges accept either test score, so many students take both exams and compare scores using a conversion chart like [THIS](#) one.

[THIS](#) page show a great comparison of ACT vs SAT tests, how long they take, what type of questions are on each, and has links to practice tests!

[When and where can I take the SAT or ACT?](#)

FWISD participates in the SAT School Day. Check back later for the 2023-2024 date.

Link to see dates/locations for the tests and to register for the ACT can be found [HERE](#); the SAT [HERE](#).

[What is the TSI?](#)

The TSI Assessment (TSI-A) is part of the Texas Success Initiative enacted by the Texas State Legislature and designed to determine a student's readiness for college-level coursework in the general areas of reading, writing, and mathematics. This test is not required for College admittance purposes but rather another assessment used to show a university that the student is ready for on level coursework.

It is a FWISD goal that all students are considered "College Ready" upon graduation.

The TSI-A is an untimed, online exam in 3 parts, administered through the College Board's Accuplacer digital platform. (i.e. it's online).

[Can I study for the TSI?](#)

There are many study guides available online to prepare for this test. Studying is not required, but not a bad idea so you know what to expect on your test day! Note that the TSI may be taken multiple times to get the score you need!

Here are some study guides for your reference:

[READING](#)

[WRITING](#)

[MATH](#)

[Do you have additional questions about the TSI-A?](#)

Contact Mrs. Jennifer Pacheco-Mimms for more information. Jennifer.Pacheco@fwisd.org