

The SAT[®] College and Career Readiness Benchmark

User Guidelines

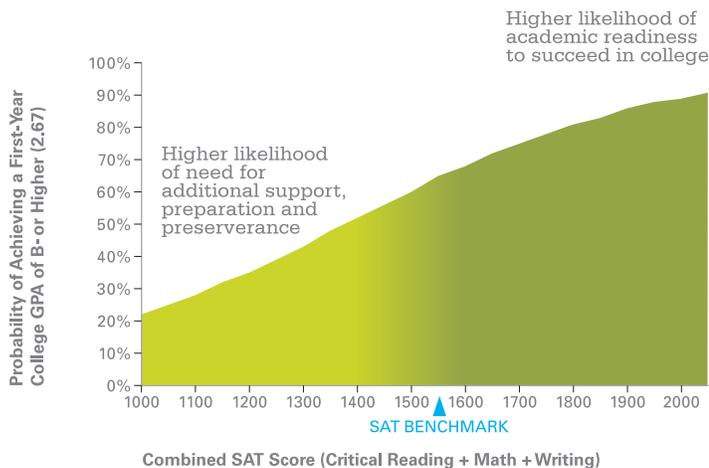
The new **SAT[®] Benchmark** offers states a rigorous, meaningful and actionable tool for measuring the college and career readiness of groups of students. The SAT Benchmark is a simple, powerful way to evaluate and help improve academic programs that prepare students for success after high school. This document provides guidelines for the appropriate use of the SAT Benchmark.

1. What is the SAT Benchmark?

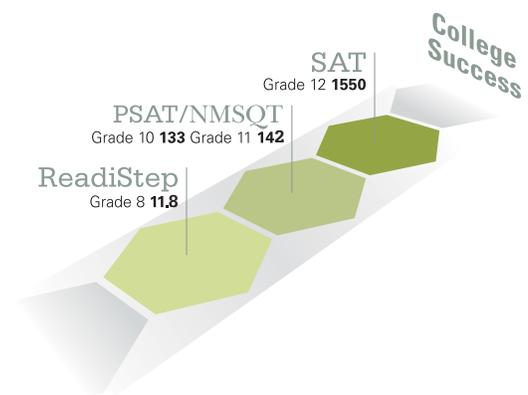
States can use the SAT Benchmark to measure the college and career readiness of groups of students. The College Board conducted extensive research to develop a fair and appropriate indicator of expected college performance. The SAT Benchmark score of 1550 (critical reading, mathematics and writing sections combined) indicates a 65 percent likelihood of achieving a B- average or higher during the first year of college.

The SAT, a significant link between high school and college success, is an essential component of the College Board's College and Career Readiness Pathway. A system of three Pathway Benchmarks (ReadiStep™, PSAT/ NMSQT® and SAT) helps secondary school educators monitor academic progress and better prepare students to achieve their college and career goals.

Continuum of College Readiness



Pathway Benchmarks for College and Career Readiness



The SAT Benchmark research report can be found here: www.collegeboard.org/SATBenchmark

2. Why did the College Board develop this new tool?

In keeping with the College Board's mission of improving access and opportunity to quality education for all students, the SAT Benchmark was created to support states at a critical time. Current college remediation rates demonstrate that too many students leave high school unprepared for college. As a committed partner in advancing education, the College Board is responding to an urgent need for a rigorous, meaningful and actionable tool that helps secondary school educators improve the college readiness of students.

3. Who should use the SAT Benchmark?

Building on the strengths of the SAT, best known as the nation’s leading college admission test, the new SAT Benchmark is designed *exclusively* for secondary school educators, administrators and policymakers working to prepare students for future learning and career opportunities.

Recommended Users	SAT	SAT Benchmark
State Department of Education (e.g., Chief State School Officers, State Assessment Directors)	●	●
Secondary School Superintendents and Principals	●	●
Secondary School Curriculum Directors	●	●
Legislators/Policymakers	●	●
State Higher Education Officers	●	
Higher Education Institutions	●	
School/College Counselors	●	
Parents, Students	●	

4. How does the College Board plan to share this data?

The College Board recognizes the importance of protecting the confidentiality of all data related to student performance. As such, this data will be treated with the utmost sensitivity and care. To avoid misinterpretations or improper distribution of data, the College Board will ensure that SAT Benchmark data are clearly understood and carefully managed by all authorized users.

5. How do I use the SAT Benchmark?

States can now use the SAT to evaluate the college readiness of their students. The SAT Benchmark allows secondary school educators, administrators and policymakers to:

- Gauge the level of college readiness among groups of students**
 Assess the effectiveness of academic preparation over time
 Identify achievement gaps across demographic groups based on college readiness findings
- Inform instructional and curricular enhancements**
 Use SATlinked resources such as SAT® Skills Insight™ and other available College Board resources to focus on the academic skills that students need to improve their college performance
- Strengthen academic programs and share best practices**
 Benefit from the SAT Benchmark as a catalyst for identifying and replicating effective instructional approaches and curriculum plans

6. How should the SAT Benchmark NOT be used?

The following guidelines will ensure that the SAT Benchmark is used appropriately as an indicator of college and career readiness:

- **The SAT Benchmark should not discourage any students from going to college.**

The College Board remains committed to helping all students graduate from high school ready for any postsecondary path they may choose. SAT Benchmark data should not be used to dissuade students from pursuing higher education or to prevent them from taking rigorous high school courses. It is important to note that college readiness is a continuum and that students scoring below the SAT benchmark may still be successful in college, especially with additional preparation and perseverance.

- **The SAT Benchmark should not be used to assess the college readiness of individual students.**

College success requires a range of knowledge and skills, including noncognitive factors like discipline and perseverance. As such, the SAT Benchmark should not be used for high-stakes decisions about the readiness of any individual student. For individual high-stakes decisions (such as college admission), SAT full scale and section scores should always be used with high school grades and other evaluative factors.

- **The SAT Benchmark should not be used to assess academic readiness for a specific college or university.**

The SAT Benchmark is based on a diverse, nationally representative sample of colleges. As such, it is an indication of college readiness at a typical college. This is why the SAT Benchmark should not be used to assess readiness for a specific college. For colleges and universities interested in understanding how SAT scores predict student performance at their institutions, the College Board encourages institutions to use the free ACES™ service to commission a custom validity study. For more information, go to: <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/higher-ed/validity/aces>

- **SAT Benchmark data are not appropriate for comparing state-to-state outcomes.**

SAT Benchmark data should not be used alone for state comparisons because of differences in the makeup of the SAT taker population and the participation rates across states. In addition, SAT Benchmark users must be mindful of extenuating local circumstances (e.g., availability of resources) when comparing results.

- **Results are not applicable to students who have not taken the SAT.**

The SAT Benchmark shows the college and career readiness of groups of students who have taken the SAT. States should be aware that Benchmark findings do not reflect college readiness levels beyond the SAT test-taking population. The SAT Benchmark was developed by analyzing the connection between SAT scores achieved by secondary school students and their subsequent first-year college results. Therefore, it would be inappropriate to convert or compare findings with data collected via another measure.

For more information, the SAT Benchmark research report can be found at www.collegeboard.org/SATBenchmark, or contact your regional account services representative.

Western
San Jose, Calif.
408-367-1515

Southwestern
Austin, Texas
512-721-1800

Midwestern
Rosemont, Ill.
847-653-4500

Middle States
Bala Cynwyd, Pa.
610-227-2550

New England
Waltham, Mass.
781-663-2700

Southern
Duluth, Ga.
770-225-4000