

# The SAT

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## **Part 1: Understanding what the SAT is and why juniors are taking it.**

The SAT is a standardized test widely used as a criteria for college admission in the United States. The test is produced by a company called the College Board. In Michigan, high school juniors are required to take the SAT as one part of the state required MME testing. This year the SAT will be given on April 11. ***Zeeland High School will register juniors for the April 10 school day test.*** For more information on the test, click [HERE](#).

### **Facts:**

The SAT is 3 hours and 50 minutes long

There are 154 total questions

There are 3 test sections plus an Essay

- 1) Reading Test (65 minutes)
- 2) Writing and Language Test (35 minutes)
- 3) Math Test with calculator (80 minutes)
- 4) Essay (50 Minutes)

Scoring is based on correct answers only. There is not a penalty for guessing.

Questions on social studies and science are infused into the other sections.

### **Scoring:**

Each student receives a composite score between 400-1600. This number is a combination of Evidence Based Reading and Writing (200-800) and Math (200-800)

The Essay is scored separately in 3 dimensions, each on a scale of 2-8

4 year college bound students should aim to score around a 1040 or better. This is not an exact number, as colleges will differ in what they are looking for.

## Part 2: Creating a College Board account

- 1) **(Important)** If you have already created a College Board Account, do not create another. This will cause lots of problems with score reporting.
  - 2) Creating a college board account will allow you to register for future SAT tests, view scores online, send scores to colleges, access practice material and utilize the “My Organizer” tool.
- Go to the following website: <https://www.collegeboard.org>
  - Under “Username” and “Password” select “Don’t have an account? Sign up.”
  - For those that already have an account, skip to step 3.
  - For those that need to sign-up for an account, follow these instructions.
    - Fill in all the boxes that have an asterisk (\*) by them.
    - Be sure to use your legal name. The same name you will be using when you register for the SAT test.
    - Use an e-mail address you use regularly.
    - Create a username and password that you will REMEMBER.
    - Decide whether you want to receive monthly newsletter.
    - Only put parent information in if you know it.
    - Agree to terms, then click next
    - Confirm your information.

## Part 3: How to Study and Practice for the SAT

- 1) The best way to practice for the SAT is to set up a Khan Academy account. Once you sign up for a Khan Academy account, you can link that account to your College Board account. This will allow Khan Academy to set up personalized practice recommendations. Khan Academy also allows students 8 opportunities to take full length practice tests. SAT recommends taking at least 2.
- Go to the following website: <https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>

- In the upper right hand corner, click “**sign up**”.
- Enter your date of birth, select “Sign Up With Email,” and follow the instructions. This will provide you the opportunity to link any PSAT or SAT results to Khan Academy and create a personalized training program for you.
- You should now be all set with a College Board account and a Khan Academy account.

## **Part 4: How to send SAT scores to colleges (and when)**

- 1) Sending SAT scores to colleges is easy. Each time a student registers and takes the SAT, they get 4 free score sends. Student will be able to identify where they want to send their scores on their SAT answer sheets. For the school day administration of the SAT in April, we will have students fill out this section of the answer sheet prior to the test. Students will also have the opportunity to send or modify score sends in their College Board account up to nine days after the test day. They can log into their College Board account on the following website. <https://www.collegeboard.org>.
- 2) Only four score sends per test are free. SAT will charge for additional score sends or any score send outside of the nine day window. (currently \$12)
- 3) Students are encouraged to send scores. Even if scores are lower than expected, it’s not a big deal because students can retake the test multiple times if needed. It’s important to start thinking about which colleges you want to send score reports to now.

## **Part 5: Retaking the SAT**

- 1) High school students planning on going to college, should plan ahead and consider taking the SAT more than once. As mentioned, Zeeland will give the SAT to students on April 10, 2018. Students may wish to take the test prior to April or during the beginning of their senior year. The SAT is offered during the following months. Students should sign up at least a month in advance to avoid late fees. We recommend retesting during the highlighted months.

**January**

**March**

**May**

**June**

**October**

**November**

**December**

2) To sign up, a student needs to log into their College Board account and register to take the test. They will be able to pick a date and a location.



