Preparing Maine’s Students for College and Careers: A Readiness Pathway

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Connecting Students to College Success and Opportunity

The College Board promotes excellence and equity in education through programs for K-12 and higher education institutions, serving more than seven million students and parents and 3,800 colleges and universities.

The College Board’s mission supports Maine’s education vision to “prepare Maine public school graduates with the skills and knowledge needed, to be college, career, and citizenship ready.”
How does the College Board define and measure “College Readiness”?

Longitudinal research demonstrates the relationship between academic preparedness, as measured by SAT® scores, and the likelihood of college success.

Dr. David Conley’s Model of College Readiness

While students need to learn an array of knowledge, skills and behaviors to be successful in college, academic preparedness is at the core of college readiness.

Continuum of College Readiness

Higher likelihood of need for additional support, preparation and perseverance

Higher likelihood of academic readiness to succeed in college

Measured by the SAT

Combined SAT Score (Critical Reading + Math + Writing)
It is important to note that college readiness is a continuum, and students who score below the Benchmark may still be successful in college, especially with additional preparation and perseverance.

The College Board's College Readiness Pathway, a series of integrated assessment – ReadiStep™, PSAT/NMSQT® and SAT® – gives educators and administrators an effective solution to measure, monitor and help direct student progress from middle school through high school.

**The Benchmark**

**RIGOROUS**
- Provides a fair and valid snapshot of college readiness for groups of students
- Developed by a trusted leader in college readiness and quality education assessment

**MEANINGFUL**
- Designed specifically for secondary school administrators, educators and policymakers
- Reduces the need for costly college-level remediation programs
- A tool that can be customized to address specific educational reform needs and challenges

**ACTIONABLE**
- Provides essential information for secondary school educators to evaluate the effectiveness of academic programs
- Informs and supports curriculum enhancements over time
The SAT College and Career Readiness Benchmark

- The Pathway Benchmarks help educators guide students on the path toward college and career readiness and facilitate timely intervention for students in need of extra support.
- The SAT Benchmark of 1550 indicates a 65% likelihood of students achieving a B grade point average or higher during their first year of college.
State of College and Career Readiness in Maine
As measured by the SAT Benchmark

- 13,701 graduating students in your public schools took the SAT; these college-bound seniors accounted for 100% of the total 2012 graduating class.
- Of the 13,701 graduating students in your public schools who took the SAT:
  - 30% achieved the SAT Benchmark and have a high likelihood of succeeding in college and the workforce.
  - 70% have taken a crucial step toward college opportunities by taking the SAT, but did not meet the SAT Benchmark and therefore may require additional support and preparation in order to succeed in college.

Figure 1: % SAT Takers Achieving SAT College and Career Readiness Benchmark

30% of Maine SAT takers in public schools achieved the SAT College and Career Readiness Benchmark, indicating a high likelihood of succeeding in college.
College and Career Readiness by Subject Area

- While the SAT Benchmark provides information on overall preparedness for college and career success, SAT Subject-Level Readiness Indicators were developed to help educators measure students’ preparedness in each subject area.
- The SAT Subject-Level Readiness Indicator score is 500 for each of the SAT sections*: critical reading, mathematics and writing.
- College Board research shows that students who achieve the SAT Subject-Level Readiness Indicators are also highly likely to achieve strong scores on AP® Exams.
- In most cases, the proportion of students attaining an individual SAT Subject-Level Readiness Indicator will be higher than the proportion of those attaining the overall SAT College and Career Readiness Benchmark.

*SAT Subject-Level Readiness Indicators are not intended to be summed but rather stand on their own as a measure of college readiness within a specific subject area. The SAT College and Career Readiness Benchmark is the composite score of 1550 across all three curriculum areas, which allows some variation in performance across subject areas and serves as a more fair and realistic measure of a student’s overall readiness.
SAT Skills Insight™: Linking SAT Scores and College Readiness Skills

- In each section of the SAT, over 30% of test-takers scored in the 400–490 range, which is 100 points or less away from reaching the SAT Subject-Level Readiness Indicator score of 500.
- SAT Skills Insight can help educators understand the academic skills a typical student needs to achieve the SAT Subject-Level Readiness Indicators and suggest ways in which students can advance from one score band (e.g. 400–490) to the next (e.g. 500–590).
- In addition to helping educators understand the strengths and weaknesses typical of students in a given SAT score band, SAT Skills Insight can also be used directly by students to prepare for the SAT and college-level work.
Additional Resources for Improving College Readiness

SAT® Benchmark can be used together with other College Board resources to help educators improve student preparedness for postsecondary success.
SAT Skills Insight

- **SAT Skills Insight** identifies the academic skills that typical students should focus on to improve their scores, depending on their target score range.

- **Free, online resource**, paired with My SAT Online Score Report to make SAT In Focus.

- Sample SAT questions and answers help students better understand the skill descriptions given.
PSAT/NMSQT Skills Insight

What is PSAT/NMSQT Skills Insight?

With hundreds of skill descriptions and practice questions, PSAT/NMSQT Skills Insight is a tool that demonstrates the link between your PSAT/NMSQT scores in Critical Reading, Mathematics, and Writing and your college readiness skills - the same skills measured on the SAT.

Get Started

How Will Skills Insight Help Me?

- Identify the skills you need to work on to improve your college readiness and SAT scores.
- Try the practice questions to review the skills that you need to strengthen. Print them out and share with your teacher.
- Find out what skills you need to master to score in the next score band. Explore the suggestions for improvement. Challenge yourself by practicing harder questions.
- Download and print PDF

Students:
If you have taken the PSAT/NMSQT, find personalized score, skill, and college planning information at My College QuickStart™.

Educators:
To find skill analysis for your school or district, visit Summary of Answers and Skills.

http://psatskills.collegeboard.org/overview

Summary of Answers and Skills – Sample Report
Big Future

https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/
There are several ways school counselors can assist students in their college selection process:

Counselors can:

- **Encourage students to “Opt-In” to the Student Search Process**
  - Encouraging students to “opt-in” will give them the benefit of connecting with a variety of well matched institutions and scholarship programs
  - FAME outreach
  - University of Maine System Outreach

- **Encourage students to complete the entire student profile at registration**
  - Completing the student profile gives students and colleges the best opportunity for a right match
  - Shows colleges you are serious about your college selection process
  - Provides greater information for scholarship opportunities

- **Remind students to take advantage of their free SAT score sends**
  - Students can send up to four free scores with each SAT registration
  - Students with fee waivers get an additional four free scores to send anytime
  - Students who send their SAT and SAT Subject Tests scores to a college or university (especially as juniors and sophomores) demonstrate a strong interest in that institution

- **Discuss the qualified interest each college presents**
  - Colleges are sending information to students because they believe the student may be the right fit for their institution. Students should be encouraged to explore this match
  - Research the colleges at bigfuture.org
Maine DOE feedback request

- Beginning in the 2014-15 school year, all facets of Maine’s federal accountability assessment system will be administered via the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC).

- Specifically, this means the state will no longer be using the New England Common Assessment Program in the elementary grades or the PSAT and SAT in the high school grades. While the SBAC is designed to provide a comprehensive measure of the Common Core State Standards for grades 3 - 11, the high school component has not been designed to serve as a college admissions test.

- In order to continue to support the post-secondary aspirations of Maine’s students, the MDOE is considering several admission-test options and would like to hear from you regarding which of the following would be the most beneficial (and why)—remembering that financial conditions may not allow the Department to provide any of these types of support and that this is only an informal discussion survey.

The MDOE should:

- A). Require and pay for all students to take a college admissions test such as the SAT, ACCUPLACER, ACT or other
- B). Pay for any student who wants to take a college admissions test such as the SAT, ACCUPLACER, ACT or other – but not as a requirement
- C). Require and pay for all Sophomores to take the PSAT
- D). Require and pay for all Freshmen to take ReadiStep
- E). Not provide or require any tests beyond the SBAC
Questions and Answers