

Comal Independent School District

NEWS RELEASE

TEA announces free SAT testing for high school juniors

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) announced last week that high school juniors who are enrolled in a Texas public school district or charter school have a one-time opportunity to take one free college admissions test this year.

During the 81st Session, the Texas Legislature appropriated funds for the TEA to make free tests available this spring and early summer. This is part of a larger effort to increase college preparation efforts in the state. The first part of the initiative begins immediately with the college admissions testing.

High school juniors may register for the May 1 or June 5 administration of the SAT or the April 10 or June 12 ACT, and the state will pay the cost of their regular registration fee, TEA said. *Please contact your child's high school counselor for further details.*

The registration period has already closed for the April ACT and SAT. However, students may still register for the May 1 test by calling the SAT Customer Service at (866)-756-7346 with their Texas student voucher number. The vouchers will not be accepted online during the late registration period. Students who did not receive the online voucher communication can pick up a paper voucher from their high school counselor. **Students have until April 15 to register for the May 1 test.**

Students who register after April 15 for the May 1 SAT test or May 5 for the June 5 SAT test will still get a free SAT but will pay the late registration fee of \$23. The registration deadline for the June 5 SAT test is May 5. The deadline for the June 12 ACT is May 7.

However, if a student has already registered for an exam and has already paid for it, the vendor will reimburse the registration fee.

Officials with the SAT and ACT testing programs are contacting students, parents and counselors directly to provide information about how to access this program.

The standard fee to register for the ACT plus its writing exam is \$47. The standard fee for the SAT is \$45.

In addition to the state-funded admissions testing, Texas's new college preparation program allows a school district to work with the vendors to offer an eighth-grade test this year and eighth and tenth grade tests next year. Each vendor will also provide professional development to districts in the use of this data to improve instruction and raise student achievement.

The ACT's eighth grade test is called EXPLORE and covers English, reading, mathematics and science. ACT's tenth grade test called PLAN covers the same core subjects, which are also the subjects tested on its college admissions exam.

The SAT's eighth grade test, called ReadStep, covers reading, mathematics and writing. SAT's tenth grade test is called the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). This test measures reading, mathematics and writing skills.

Students who take these exams tend to score substantially higher when they take the college admissions exams.

Please contact your child's high school counselor for more information.

[Registration information for the SAT](#)

<http://sat.collegeboard.com/home>

[Information about the ACT](#)

<http://www.act.org/aap/texas/>

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