

Deerfield-Windsor School position on college admission testing, revised SAT

The College Counseling Office at Deerfield-Windsor School recommends that junior and seniors take each of the primary college admission tests, the ACT and the SAT, once. Different students perform differently on these tests, some scoring higher on the SAT and others the ACT. Based on their performance on those and other related tests (ex. PSAT), most students should take the test on which they score better a second time, for a total of three test scores to present to colleges.

The College Board, publisher of the SAT, has announced their plans to release a revised SAT beginning in January 2016. The current SAT will be administered through the end of 2015.

The new SAT will revert to the old 1600 (800 Verbal, 800 Math) scale and will drop Writing as a third 800 point section. Elements of the writing test will be incorporated in the Verbal section.

There have been many questions about the new SAT, and some test preparation professionals have advised against taking the new SAT at any of the first administrations (March, May, or June of 2016) because they claim that the norms for the test will not be established by then.

The administration at DWS has discussed this matter, and although we are always wary of any new test, we are **not** in agreement that **no one** should take the new SAT in 2016.

All 9th, 10th, and 11th graders at DWS will take the new PSAT in October, 2016. This test will be modeled after the new SAT and will give students, parents, and the counselors a look at the test. Scores for that test will be back in December of 2016. In addition, the College Board will be doing beta testing of the SAT before rolling out the test in 2016.

Our position

- We will administer the new PSAT in October of 2016 and analyze the results as soon as they come back.
- Juniors should take the ACT first in the spring of 2016.
- Juniors should also take the new SAT in the spring, but take it at the latest administration that fits into their schedule.
- Juniors will be meeting with Mrs. Willcox starting January 2016 for college meetings and at that time design the needed test strategy and calendar