



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

To: Indiana State Board of Education

From: Lynn Schemel, Director of Student Assessment

Date: August 10, 2022

Subject: Spring 2022 SAT Performance Level Descriptors and Recommended Cut Scores

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) requests review and approval of the SAT proficiency benchmarks, including performance level descriptors and recommended cut scores.

Background

As required by state legislation, Indiana transitioned from the ISTEP+ assessment for Indiana sophomores and instead administered the SAT to all juniors for the first time in spring 2022. Statewide, 76,549 students participated.

The SAT, provided by College Board, is a nationally-recognized assessment that allows students to meet graduation pathway requirements while simultaneously increasing access to college and career readiness tests. The assessment taken by all grade 11 students consisted of the SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Test and the SAT Math Test. Similar to the ISTEP+ test, the SAT was state funded for all students. The assessment was conducted digitally during a single school day, eliminating the multi-day administration of former Indiana assessments like the ISTEP+. Indiana is one of ten states who administers the SAT statewide as the high school accountability exam.

Process for establishing proficiency benchmarks

The proficiency benchmarks were established by the SAT Content Standard Setting Committee, which is composed of educators representing English and mathematics content, teachers, instructional coaches, administrators, special education, and English learners.

The benchmarks were then approved by the SAT Policy Committee, which is composed of school and district administrators, Indiana State Board of Education members, IDOE Technical Advisory Committee members, and a higher education representative. They were also approved by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, as established by IC 20-32-5.1-7(e):

Except as provided under subsection (f), for each school year beginning after June 30, 2021, a nationally recognized college entrance exam must be administered for the high school subjects required under subsection (c). The proficiency benchmark must be



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approved by the commission for higher education, in consultation with the state educational institutions, and may not be lower than the national college ready benchmark established for that particular exam.

The SAT Policy Committee met in early April to establish Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs).

The SAT Policy Committee established three PLDs:

Level 1: Below College-Ready Benchmark

Students meeting the level one benchmark demonstrate limited knowledge, application, and analytical skills that may require significant support for college readiness.

Level 2: Approaching College-Ready Benchmark

Students meeting the level two benchmark nearly demonstrate essential knowledge, application, and analytical skills and may require additional support for college readiness.

Level 3: At College-Ready Benchmark

Students meeting the level three benchmark demonstrate the essential knowledge, application, and analytical skills for college readiness.

In mid-July, the SAT Content Standard Setting Committee met to review the PLDs, test content, and impact data.

The recommended *At College-Ready Benchmark* defined by College Board was confirmed for both the Mathematics and Evidence Based Reading and Writing assessments. A new *Approaching College-Ready Benchmark* was established for both the Mathematics and Evidence Based Reading and Writing assessments.

The Content Standard Setting Committee determined proficiency cut scores for each content-area assessment:

Content Area	Below College-Ready Benchmark	Approaching College-Ready Benchmark	At College-Ready Benchmark
Mathematics	200 - 450	460 - 520	530* - 800
Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing	200 - 440	450 - 470	480* - 800



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*College Board's established national college ready benchmark.

The SAT Policy Committee reviewed and approved the cut score recommendations submitted from the content committee.

Proficiency rates by proposed cut score

Throughout the process, the SAT Content Standard Setting Committee reviewed impact data based on cut score discussions. The table below illustrates the percent of students scoring within each of the established benchmarks and corresponding cut scores. These results reflect the first year of SAT administration for all grade 11 students in Indiana. In previous years, Indiana students opted into the SAT on a voluntary basis. For example, in spring 2021, 22,886 students participated, compared to nearly 77,000 in spring 2022. Due to the differences in sample size, this year's results should not be compared to SAT data in previous years, as these 2022 results present a new Indiana baseline.

Data	Below College-Ready Benchmark	Approaching College-Ready Benchmark	At College-Ready Benchmark
Mathematics	43.03%	24.09%	32.88%
Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing	36.25%	11.28%	52.48%

In late July, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education reviewed and approved the proficiency benchmarks as presented.

The results are now publicly available, and can be shared with educators, families and other stakeholders statewide.