

Fall College and Career Readiness Assessment

Ensuring high school sophomores, juniors and seniors have access to assessments that demonstrate their readiness for college or career

WHY IS THIS INITIATIVE NEEDED?

Many Oklahoma high school graduates have taken a college and career readiness assessment only once, to fulfill federal and state accountability requirements. [This scenario is often most pronounced among disadvantaged students.](#) However, the majority of students who retake college entrance exams [score better the second time.](#) COVID-19 disruptions have also [hampered student access to these important assessments.](#)

The Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) is offering high school students in grades 10-12 the opportunity to take the ACT, SAT and/or PSAT/NMSQT this fall during the school day at no cost. These extra testing opportunities may enable students to avoid remedial courses, strengthen college applications and improve scholarship applications.

HOW WILL THIS INITIATIVE WORK?

The OSDE will pay all costs for public school students during [fall 2021 administrations](#) of the following tests:

- PSAT: 10th and 11th graders
- SAT: 11th and 12th graders
- ACT: 10th, 11th and 12th graders

The administration of this optional assessment is not a state or federal accountability requirement and **will not** impact the Oklahoma School Report Card.

WHAT IS THE RESEARCH BASE FOR THIS INITIATIVE?

- A [Chronicle of Higher Education article](#) argues that expanding access for disadvantaged students to take nationally recognized college entrance exams may also expand their mindset about possibilities for their own futures.
- [“ACT for All: The Effect of Mandatory College Entrance Exams on Postsecondary Attainment and Choice”](#) notes that offering students free school-day ACT or SAT tests increases the number of disadvantaged students attending postsecondary schools.
- [A research study](#) suggests students from low socio-economic backgrounds who take a college entrance exam may have an increased likelihood of enrolling in college courses.

WHAT IS THE OSDE'S TOTAL INVESTMENT IN THIS INITIATIVE?

The OSDE is investing approximately \$2.5 million for an additional no-cost college and career assessment opportunity in fall 2021.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is eligible to register?

The fall 2021 testing opportunities are for sophomores, juniors and seniors in Oklahoma public schools. Students in grades 10-12 may take the ACT, those in grades 10 and 11 may take the PSAT and those in grades 11 and 12 may take the SAT.

Are students required to participate?

No. However, the OSDE encourages districts to give all grade 10-12 students universal access to these fall 2021 assessments to enhance their opportunities for access to college and career.

How can schools order these assessments?

The OSDE has sent [information](#) to all District Testing Coordinators on how to order the fall tests in time for October testing.

When will the no-cost college and career readiness assessments be administered?

All tests will be administered during the school day in October on the following dates:

Districts are responsible for choosing between the primary and makeup test dates and arranging testing sessions that meet the needs of their district schedule.

Test	Primary Test Date	Makeup Test Date
ACT	October 5, 2021	October 19, 2021
SAT	October 13, 2021	October 28, 2021
PSAT/NMSQT	October 13, 2021	October 26, 2021

How will this initiative impact students?

The pandemic has disrupted many students' opportunities to take or re-take the ACT, SAT or PSAT/NMSQT. This initiative ensures students will have access to an additional convenient, no-cost opportunity to take these exams.

Are there limits to how many fall 2021 assessments a student can take?

Students can take more than one assessment but cannot re-take the same exam. For example, students may take the ACT and the PSAT, but they cannot take the ACT twice – once on Oct. 5 and again on the makeup date of Oct. 19 – during the free fall test administrations.

How can students best prepare for the fall college and career readiness assessments?

Students can utilize free online test prep resources such as [March2Success](#), [Khan Academy](#), the [ACT Test Prep Guide](#) and [free SAT practice tests](#).

For questions, contact Catherine Boomer, Director of College and Career Readiness Assessments, at Catherine.Boomer@sde.ok.gov.

For information about federal relief funding, please see the [American Rescue Plan FAQs](#).