

OFFICIAL SAT PRACTICE

Spotlight on Strategies

In partnership with the Council of Great City Schools (CGCS), the College Board hosted an **Official SAT® Practice Challenge** to connect students from the nation's largest urban public school systems to free Official SAT Practice. **Official SAT Practice** provides students with a customized practice plan based on their PSAT/NMSQT® or SAT. Here are some promising practices that you can use to bring this tool to your students.

Practice During the School Day.

In an analysis of districts participating in the CGCS Official SAT Practice Challenge, school districts that had students practice during the school day were able to narrow the gap in total practice time.

TRY IT!

Integrate SAT skills into a Core Class like at Sandusky Junior/Senior High School in Michigan.

- Select a time: English Class.
- Identify content: 1–2 skills per week from January to the April SAT.
- Teachers review concepts in class that are aligned with school curriculum, assign videos as homework, give weekly quizzes using questions from the **SAT Lesson Plans**, use the data in the Coach Tools to set up study groups and peer tutoring.

Ease into it by starting a Rotational Model like at the Osceola County School for the Arts in Florida.

- Select a time: Start in English classes and grow to include math after a year.
- Year 1: Students take turns rotating to laptops to do personalized practice on Official SAT Practice while other student receive regular classroom instruction.
- Year 2: Students practice on Official SAT Practice for 30 minutes per week in both math and ELA.
- Classroom teachers can partner with other educators such as the literacy coach or counselor and meet biweekly to discuss data, incentives, challenges, and solutions to help more students get ready for college.

Practice Tests Matter.

Class of 2018 students in CGCS who spent some of their time doing a practice test gained more points than students who practiced the same amount of time but didn't do a practice test.

TRY IT!

During the school day like at Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory Academy in Illinois:

- Identify a half day every six weeks to have students take practice exams.
- Reward students who see growth with tickets to a local theater, restaurant gift cards, or other incentives.

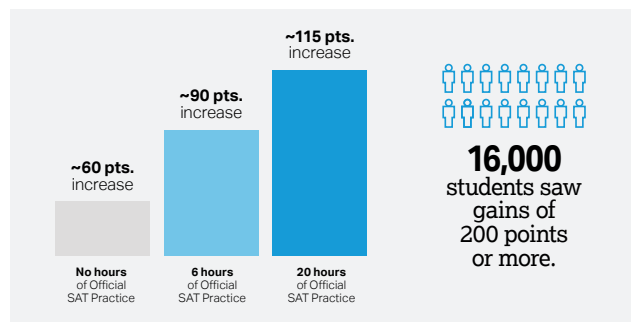
On a Saturday like at Pearland Independent School District in Texas:

- Administrators and **Student Ambassadors** organize a Saturday practice day.
- Provide food or other incentives (extra credit, front-of-the-line lunch passes, off-campus lunch passes, tickets to athletic events, etc.).
- Plan for scale: Over 300 students from across the district participated in the practice test.

Use These Other Research-Backed Strategies:

Practice for at least 20 hours.

An analysis of 750K students from the class of 2017 found that on average, students who practiced with Official SAT Practice gained 115 points from their PSAT/NMSQT to SAT, nearly double the gains for students who did not. See some of the gains from students at [Chicago Public Schools](#) and [Patterson High School in California](#).



Practice both Math and Evidence-Based Reading and Writing.

Keeping up on both SAT domains can be a good way to make sure you're doing all the recommended problems and keep students motivated.

Consider partnering with colleagues in the math and ELA departments. Encourage students to practice both areas, and use the [Coach Tools](#) to monitor use.

Make a Plan!

The College Board has created different resources that you can modify to plan your time with students. Check out the samples below and use the [SAT Lesson Plans](#) (possible [calendars](#) start on page 6), or the [Facilitator's Guide](#) for more detail.

Go to satpractice.org/k12 for all educator resources.

Calendar Views of Possible Programs

Each lesson is approximately 45 minutes. To see more options, check out the [SAT Lesson Plans: Introduction and User Guide](#).

SIX-WEEK PROGRAM

Week 1 Building a Foundation
Week 2 Practice, Practice, Practice
Week 3 Active Reading Strategies
Week 4 More Strategies Math Test, Writing and Language Test, The SAT Essay, and General Test Taking
Week 5 Preparing for the Real Thing
Week 6 Carrying Good Habits Forward

EIGHT-WEEK PROGRAM

Full 8-week Program for Math and Evidence-Based Reading and Writing	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	
Week 1	Math Lesson 1	Reading Lesson 1	Math Lesson 2	Reading Lesson 2	Practice Day	A Practice Test should be administered in the first week (especially if students have not linked accounts).
Week 2	Math Lesson 3	Reading Lesson 3	Math Lesson 4	Reading Lesson 4	Practice Day	
Week 3	Math Lesson 5	Writing and Language Lesson 5	Math Lesson 6	Writing and Language Lesson 6	Practice Day or Essay Lesson 9	
Week 4	Math Lesson 7	Writing and Language Lesson 7	Math Lesson 8	Writing and Language Lesson 8	Practice Day or Essay Lesson 10	A second Practice Test can be administered between weeks 4 and 5.
Week 5	Math Lesson 9	Reading Lesson 11	Math Lesson 10	Reading Lesson 12	Practice Day	
Week 6	Math Lesson 11	Reading Lesson 13	Math Lesson 12	Reading Lesson 14	Practice Day or Essay Lesson 19	
Week 7	Math Lesson 13	Writing and Language Lesson 15	Math Lesson 14	Writing and Language Lesson 16	Practice Day or Essay Lesson 20	
Week 8	Math Lesson 15	Writing and Language Lesson 17	Math Lesson 16	Writing and Language Lesson 18	Practice Day	A third Practice Test should be administered no closer than a few days before Test Day.