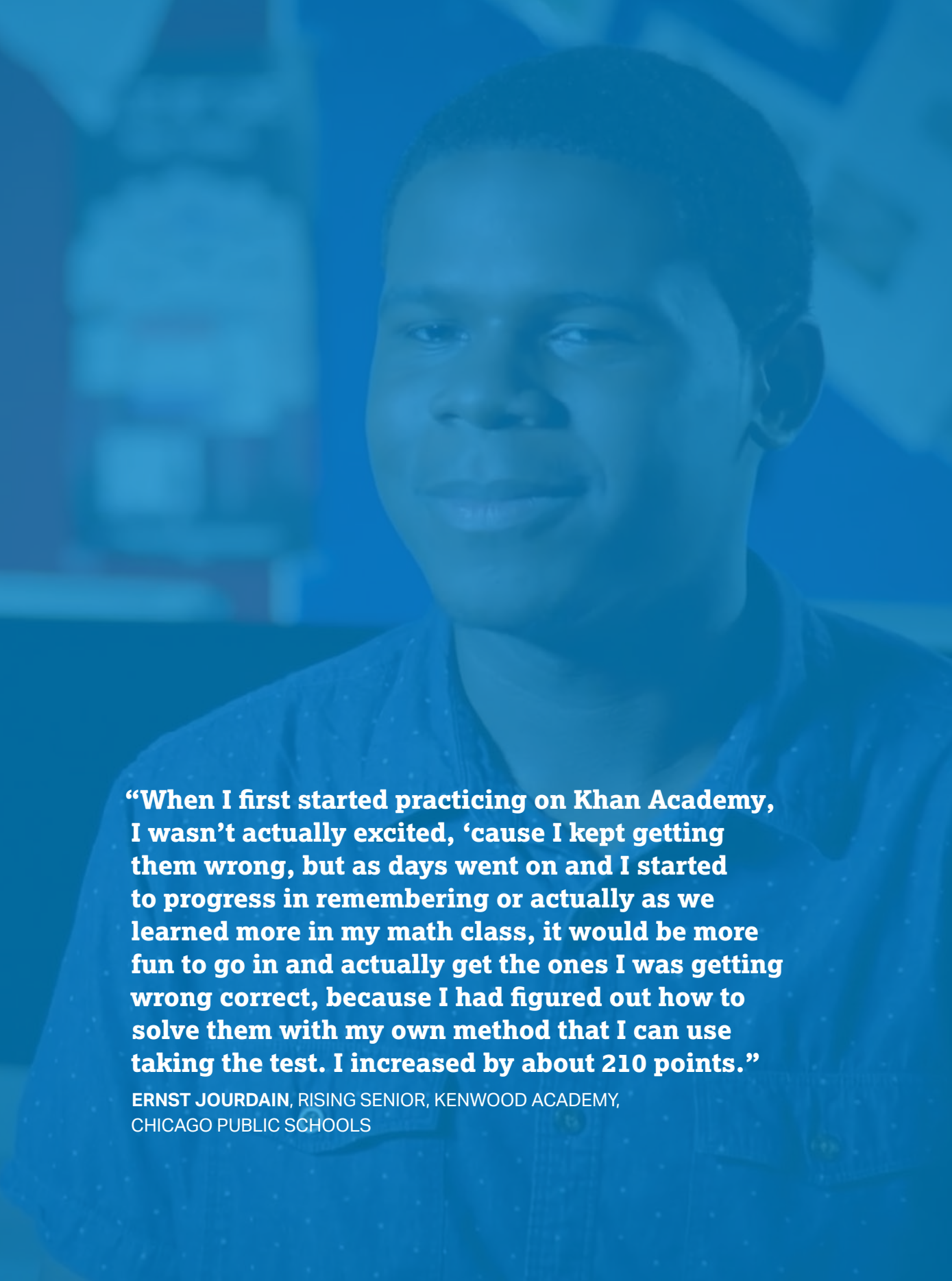

Official SAT® Practice Strategies

FROM CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS, FRESNO
AND LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICTS,
AND DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS





“When I first started practicing on Khan Academy, I wasn’t actually excited, ‘cause I kept getting them wrong, but as days went on and I started to progress in remembering or actually as we learned more in my math class, it would be more fun to go in and actually get the ones I was getting wrong correct, because I had figured out how to solve them with my own method that I can use taking the test. I increased by about 210 points.”

**ERNST JOURDAIN, RISING SENIOR, KENWOOD ACADEMY,
CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

OFFICIAL SAT PRACTICE STRATEGIES:

Highlights of Success

The College Board and Khan Academy® have teamed up to revolutionize the way millions of students get ready for the SAT®. To help motivate even more students to get free world-class test practice and a personalized study plan, the **College Board, Khan Academy, and the Council of Great City Schools** launched the **Official SAT Practice All In Challenge** for large urban districts in fall 2016.

Over a six-month period, the 28 participating districts encouraged 279,000 students to use Official SAT Practice. Of those students, 168,000 created new accounts. And students used the tool—61,000 practiced at least 10 hours.

These districts were honored for their exemplary engagement:

- California's **Long Beach Unified School District**: "MVP" for the highest overall percentage of students (93%) linking their College Board and Khan Academy accounts.
- California's **Fresno Unified School District**: "Growth" for the highest overall percent increase (36%) in students linking accounts.
- Florida's **Orange County Public Schools** in Orlando: "Proof of Practice: Students" for the highest average weekly percentage of students with active Official SAT Practice accounts. During the most active week, over 16,000 students used the tools. As of this summer, 91% of district students linked their accounts." See their 2015 best practice guide at satpractice.org/k12.
- Colorado's **Denver Public Schools**: "Proof of Practice: Time" for logging the most minutes—an average of 52 per student per week.
- Illinois's **Chicago Public Schools**: "Proof of Practice: Problems Completed" for completing the most problems—an average of 29 per student per week.

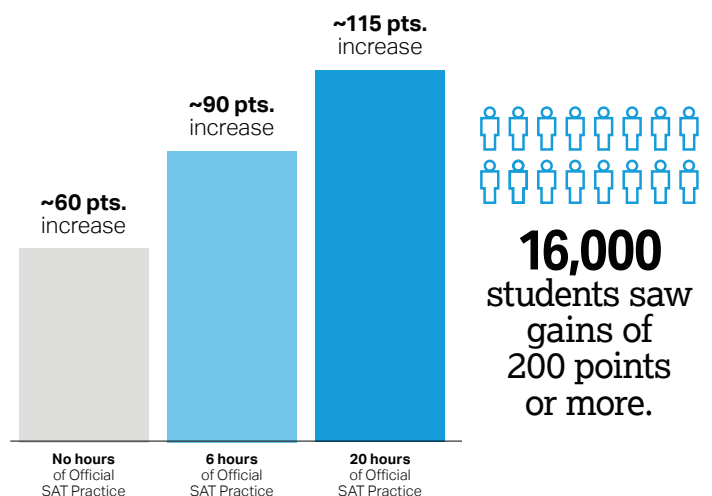
Getting Started

Official SAT Practice reinforces what students learn in school by letting them focus on the knowledge and skills essential for college. Data link time spent on Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy to substantial score gains on the new SAT.

Of course, behind every success story is a teacher, counselor, adviser, coach, parent, or other caring adult.

Now, we'll share profiles of these educators in four of the winning districts. Join us to propel students to college. Start taking steps to bring this campaign to your school or district.

See the next page for how to begin.



Get started at satpractice.org/k12.

Strategies by Audiences

NEXT STEPS

- Read the profiles from Chicago, Denver, Fresno, and Long Beach.
 - ♦ Read through the Keys to Success and details of each strategy for all of the districts, or choose a district that you'd like to focus on.
 - ♦ Review the key questions to consider if you're a teacher or counselor, a school leader, or a district leader.
- Set goals and decide how you will measure your success.
- Make time for your students to practice—in the school day, in after school programs, or as homework.
- Contact your regional office so a College Board partner can provide professional development and implementation advice.
collegeboard.org/about/region-offices
- If you're a teacher, check out these tools for your classroom. khan.co/2yZGPh4
- If you're a superintendent, check out this overview information. satpractice.org/flyer
- If you're a school leader, check out these tips to engage parents. satpractice.org/parent-flyer

CONSIDER THESE KEY QUESTIONS



TEACHERS GUIDANCE COUNSELORS

- What goals will you set for Official SAT Practice in your school/classroom?
- How can you get students to set individual goals and progress toward their goals?



SCHOOL LEADER

- Who on your campus can lead these efforts?
- Would you incorporate training into school day classes (core classes or advisory/college prep classes) or after-school/weekend sessions?



DISTRICT LEADER

- Which support will you provide and what will you ask from your school leaders?
- Who on each campus can lead these efforts?
- How you will set goals and measure success?

OFFICIAL SAT PRACTICE STRATEGIES:

Tips for Success from Chicago Public Schools

The College Board and Khan Academy® teamed up to revolutionize the way millions of students are getting ready for the SAT®. To help motivate even more students to take advantage of free, world-class test practice and equip them with their own personalized study plan, the College Board, Khan Academy, and the Council of Great City Schools launched the [Official SAT Practice All In Challenge](#) for large urban districts in the fall of 2016.

Over a six-month period, the 28 participating districts encouraged 279,000 students to use Official SAT Practice. Of those students, 168,000 created new accounts. Students also used the tool: 61,000 practiced for at least 10 hours. One of the districts, Chicago Public Schools, received the “Problems Completed: Proof of Practice” award when its students completed the most Official SAT Practice problems—an average of 29—per week.

CPS by the Numbers

- Over 24,000 students linked their College Board and Khan Academy accounts.
- Juniors completed 1.4 million practice problems and 32,000 hours of practice.
- 6,634 students practiced for 20 hours or more!

What Made CPS a Winning District?

Dedicated district leaders provided training, support, and follow-through to each campus, while still allowing on-the-ground flexibility. Educators at all levels implemented four key strategies:

1. Goal Setting

Chicago Public Schools set districtwide goals for freshmen, sophomores, and juniors to guide priorities and motivate schools. As their Official SAT Practice program kicked off, teachers and leaders at some schools developed their own goals to proactively measure progress.




At Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory Academy:

- They set a schoolwide goal for an average SAT score of 1200.
- Teachers set goals around how much class time they’d spend using Official SAT Practice and how much students’ scores would improve.
- Students set goals around the number of hours that they’d use Official SAT Practice and their individual SAT score growth goals.
- They organized 5 practice tests to monitor progress toward their goals.

KEYS TO SUCCESS

- ✓ **Goal Setting**
District set overall goals; schools could tailor their approach to success.
- ✓ **Professional Development**
District oversaw robust training at all levels within the district and schools.
- ✓ **Communications**
District provided timely status updates and support from all levels of the district to all campuses.
- ✓ **Student Engagement**
School-based incentives encouraged and awarded student practice.
- ✓ **Implementation Approach**
Schools implemented practice in instructional classes, as well as advisory periods and after school.

STRATEGIES BY AUDIENCE

-  Teachers
-  School leaders
-  District leaders

2. Robust Professional Development and Districtwide Communications

To train and support teachers and leaders systemwide, Chicago Public School teams at all levels utilized preexisting PD and communication routines.

- The Department of Student Assessment provided multiple training sessions across the city for regional offices that oversee groups of schools and all school administrators and teaching staff. Training covered foundational information about Official SAT Practice and strategies to support students in school.
- College Board staff trained additional groups of school administrators and teaching staff.
- Department of Student Assessment closely monitored and sent regular updates on progress in linking accounts and how much students were practicing. They provided follow-up support and helped celebrate achievements.

3. Incentives/Student Engagement

A combination of incentives increased students' ongoing use of Official SAT Practice at the school level.

At Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory Academy, they awarded student practice and growth with:

- Tickets to Broadway shows in Chicago.
- An SAT Honors Assembly for students and parents to recognize those who gained 100 points or more, those who had the highest overall scores, and those who practiced the most. Assistant Principal Melissa Resh challenged students to beat her SAT score, promising to shave her head if she lost (and she did have to shave her head!).

DeVry University Advantage Academy (DUAA) held a “prep rally” nine weeks before the spring SAT to get students excited about college, focused on their goals, and informed about what to expect.

4. A Flexible Implementation Structure

While Chicago Public Schools provided support, school-based staff could decide how to implement Official SAT Practice on campus. Schools with the deepest usage, such as Brooks and DUAA, incorporated practice into:

- English, STEM, and history classes, as well as advisory periods, and periodically offered additional time during the school day.
- After-school sessions were offered 2 days per week for 1 hour. Teachers monitored student progress on Khan Academy and provided instructional support.
- Teachers also assigned Official SAT Practice as homework.

For more information about Official SAT Practice for educators, go to satpractice.org/k12.

“We are excited that this content was built for learning—by the test provider who creates the actual assessment—and is free for all of our kids.”

PETER LEONARD, DIRECTOR
OF STUDENT ASSESSMENT,
CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“Having that ongoing PD and support was powerful for us as educators.... And from there, we were able to easily decide what structures we needed to put in place.”

SHANNAE JACKSON, PRINCIPAL,
GWENDOLYN BROOKS COLLEGE
PREPARATORY ACADEMY

“Students come from a wide variety of backgrounds, and in years past we had to create differentiated materials on our own. Now, we have it basically on a website.... And you don't have to worry about, “Well, is this SAT-like?” Because that has already been aligned, and you know you're getting it from a source that has done, basically, the ‘dirty work’ for you.”

MATT MISKOWICZ, TEACHER,
KENWOOD ACADEMY

OFFICIAL SAT PRACTICE STRATEGIES:

Tips for Success from Fresno and Long Beach Unified School Districts

The College Board and Khan Academy® teamed up to revolutionize the way millions of students are getting ready for the SAT®. To help motivate even more students to take advantage of free, world-class test practice and equip them with their own personalized study plan, the College Board, Khan Academy, and the Council of Great City Schools launched the [Official SAT Practice All In Challenge](#) for large urban districts in the fall of 2016.

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Fresno and Long Beach by the Numbers

Fresno

- Over 4,400 juniors linked accounts.
- Juniors completed over 590,000 practice problems.
- Juniors logged 17,000 hours of practice.

Long Beach

- Over 3,300 juniors linked accounts.
- Juniors completed over 840,000 practice problems.
- Juniors logged 23,000 hours of practice.

What Made Long Beach and Fresno Unified School District Winning Districts?

District leaders identified teams across the two districts that could take ownership over the work. Strategies included sharing best practices and materials, using incentives to engage students and schools, and promoting the tool with parents.

1. Identify School Leaders




Both districts identified a team to build and own their initiative.

- Long Beach chose AP® coordinators, a small group reporting to the superintendent.
- Fresno chose head counselors, who trained school counselors, AP coordinators, and administrators.

KEYS TO SUCCESS

- Identify Leaders**
Districts gave ownership to school-based teams to drive implementation.
- Communication Network**
Districts built a communication network within the district to share best practices.
- Use Incentives**
Districts and schools provided participation and motivation incentives.
- Encourage Practice**
Schools created opportunities and structure for students to practice inside and outside of school.
- Engage Parents**
Districts and schools communicated with parents to support student practice at home.

STRATEGIES BY AUDIENCE:

-  Teachers
-  School Leaders
-  District Leaders

2. Communicate Best Practices and Build Community Spirit

Districts shared information and resources across teams, departments, and schools:

- Fresno used Skype training sessions so leaders could learn anywhere.
- Fresno personalized College Board and Khan Academy resources to make district-specific user and troubleshooting guides and distributed these materials to streamline the account-linking process.
- Long Beach AP coordinators held monthly meetings to discuss challenges and progress.

3. Implement Incentives

- **Long Beach USD** set an overall district goal to have 70% of students linked. They offered a monetary incentive to each school for each student who linked.
- **Robert A. Millikan High School** (LBUSD), a uniform school, awarded students a free dress day after seeing how many used Official SAT Practice.
- **McLane and Fresno High Schools** (FUSD) offered front-of-the-line lunch tickets for each student who linked and off-campus passes for juniors and seniors.

4. Encourage Practice Inside and Outside of School

Both districts' schools leveraged core classes, advisory, Saturday School, and "0" period to see students get connected. They also engaged parents.

- **Sunnyside High School** (FUSD) checked out tablets to students without technology at home.
- **Woodrow Wilson High School** (LBUSD), rather than mandating practice, challenged departments to use the tool in a meaningful way. The English Department did all grammar lessons on Official SAT Practice.
- **Woodrow Wilson High School** (LBUSD) counselors discussed college and Official SAT Practice with students.

5. Engage parents in at-home practice

- District and school representatives used websites, emails, phone calls, and letters to advise parents.
- Parents received overview videos and videos about how to get linked.
- Long Beach sent next-step letters to parents of students who were on the cusp of eligibility into the California State University system. The letters promoted how Official SAT Practice can help the students raise scores and become CSU eligible.

For more information about Official SAT Practice for educators, go to satpractice.org/k12.

“Practicing on Official SAT Practice is not just a separate SAT thing, but a more natural part of the learning process.”

DEBORAH HENELL,
COLLEGE LIAISON, DESIGN SCIENCE
HIGH SCHOOL, FRESNO

“Some of our high schools approach 4,000-plus students, so to take this on districtwide takes much organization and commitment. Getting someone to spearhead the effort is valuable.”

CHRIS LUND, ASSISTANT
SUPERINTENDENT, LBUSD

“My recommendation to central office leaders is to get feedback from the end user to personalize user guides, FAQs, and best practices to improve academic skills for SAT and overall student achievement.”

KATIE RUSSELL, INSTRUCTIONAL
SUPERINTENDENT, FUSD

“Students really liked the targeted practice. They were able to focus on skills they needed to work on rather than going into the exam blindly.”

ERIN HILL, AP COORDINATOR,
ROBERT A. MILLIKAN HIGH SCHOOL,
LBUSD

OFFICIAL SAT PRACTICE STRATEGIES:

Tips for Success from Denver Public Schools

The College Board and Khan Academy® teamed up to revolutionize the way millions of students are getting ready for the SAT®. To help motivate even more students to take advantage of free, world-class test practice and equip them with their own personalized study plan, the College Board, Khan Academy, and the Council of Great City Schools launched the [Official SAT Practice All In Challenge](#) for large urban districts in the fall of 2016.

Over a six-month period, the 28 participating districts encouraged 279,000 students to use Official SAT Practice. Of those students, 168,000 created new accounts. Students also used the tool: 61,000 practiced for at least 10 hours. Of those 28 districts, Colorado's Denver Public Schools (DPS) received the "Time: Proof of Practice" award. Students logged the most minutes—an average of 52—on Official SAT Practice per week.

Denver Public Schools by the Numbers

- Over 51,830 students linked College Board and Khan Academy accounts.
- Juniors completed 1.8 million practice problems.
- Juniors logged over 42,000 hours of practice.

What Made Denver Public Schools a Winning District?

Schools could choose how to implement Official SAT Practice; but DPS provided training, materials, and data. Strategies included getting student buy-in and using instruction time.

1. Train Trainers

DPS and the College Board trained school administrators, counselors, and teachers and then:

- Shared all materials
- Organized school training sessions
- Provided case-by-case support




KEYS TO SUCCESS

- Create School-Based Plans**
Schools built implementation plans that were reinforced by districtwide training, materials, and regular status updates.
- Robust Communications**
District leaders maintained strong communication with schools and the community.
- Get Students On Board**
Schools presented the value to students to get their buy-in.
- Integrate with Classrooms**
Teachers made Official SAT Practice a part of the learning process.

"The idea, truly, is equity."

JOANNA LILLEY,
COLLEGE ACCESS INITIATIVES
COORDINATOR, DPS

STRATEGIES BY AUDIENCE:

-  Teachers
-  School Leaders
-  District Leaders

2. Emphasize Data and Communications

DPS provided progress updates to their schools and the larger community.

- The DPS Communications Team shared usage reports with the entire team, including instructional superintendents and administrators.
- Educators used Official SAT Practice, PSAT/NMSQT®, and SAT data to target and support schools and students.
- DPS used dual-language communications. Joanna Lilley, College Access Initiatives Coordinator at DPS, promoted practice and student and family resources on a Spanish radio program.

3. Get Students On Board

At the school level, educators highlighted the value of the new resource to students.

Educators at High Tech Early College and Kunsmiller High School presented to students about:

- The Khan Academy and College Board partnership
- The PSAT/NMSQT and SAT connection
- Setting SAT practice goals
- Growth mindset
- Fee waivers and free practice

4. Incorporate Practice in the Classroom

Kunsmiller held a weekly SAT Prep Class. High Tech Early College initiated 40-minute practice in 9th- and 10th-grade advisories.

Here's a look at High Tech Early College's rollout strategy:

- Modified College Board and Khan Academy resources and reviewed with advisory teachers (an overview video, linking process screenshots)
- Communicated important dates for teacher planning
- Provided sample lesson plan templates

For more information about Official SAT Practice for educators, go to satpractice.org/k12.

“I’m excited because for the first time, we can track a cohort of students. We can say ‘John Smith, you’re coming to our school. Here’s what your data says and we have four years to get you to this benchmark!’ It’s a game changer.”

DIANE ULMER, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, HIGH TECH EARLY COLLEGE

“The training at the beginning of the year was super helpful. Then, we turned it around and made sure staff could understand it.”

JENNIFER HOCHMILLER, SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER, ASST. PRINCIPAL INTERN, HIGH TECH EARLY COLLEGE

“Once the kids found out how important the SAT was, they started pushing for SAT practice too.”

“We did tons of practice, practice tests. Then students saw their scores going up! They would come to me saying, ‘I wish I had more time to practice because my scores would have been even higher!’”

MADIHA SHAHEEN, SCHOOL COUNSELOR, KUNSMILLER HIGH SCHOOL



LAST MISSED ON YOUR SAT
Reading: Science

Practice this skill



Reading: Science



Writing: Argument



Effective language
use: Precision and
conclusion



VISIT NEW SECTION
Reading

Do you have a *problem* or a *sweet idea*? Check out our [frequently asked questions](#) first.

Or choose from the full list of Reading & Writing practice and videos

Reading

These skills focus on analyzing and identifying the meaning, structure, and purpose of text passages.



Reading: Science

Practice



Reading: Literature

Practice



Reading: History

Practice



Reading: Social studies

Practice

HOW-TO EXAMPLES



How-to: Part 1



How-to: Part 2



How-to: Part 1



How-to: Part 2



How-to: Part 1



How-to: Part 2



How-to: Part 1



How-to: Part 2

Writing and language

These skills focus on revising argumentative, informative, and non-fiction passages.

satpractice.org

