

# Teachers Encourage Students to Retake the SATs

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Contrary to the popular belief that there is only one make-up exam for the SAT, there is actually no limit to the number of times a student can retake the SAT. The only problem is that only a small number of students are aware of this opportunity and therefore, the majority cannot take advantage of it. If teachers were to tell their students about this advantage, they could improve the academic performance of their pupils

According to the New York Times, researchers have found that encouraging students to retake the SAT multiple times will achieve an average increase of 90 points out of 1,600 from the students' previous score. The study also found that students who got a score lower than a multiple of 100 - such as 800 - would have high motivation to retake the SAT and score higher.

The College Board, the association responsible for producing the SAT, also gives free SAT tests to students who qualify for the reduced meal program and other methods of financial aid, allowing eligible students



to take the SAT twice and send their scores to colleges an unlimited number of times at no cost. This waiver can be acquired from the school counselor and will save at least \$129.

Besides the waivers, teachers can also prompt students to take the test earlier in their junior year, rather than

waiting for the last year of school. Only 20 percent of Asian-American and Caucasian students took the SAT in their senior year, and when compared to the 40 percent of senior minority students taking the SAT for the first time, the difference is significant. A few states and school districts, including the Long Beach Unified District in California, partnered with the College Board to offer the SAT or ACT during school hours for free and require juniors who do not qualify for a fee waiver to take it. These benefits are unavailable to the majority of students unless teachers take the steps to tell them about the opportunities we have.

Teachers have the ability to increase their students' chances of being successful in and outside of school. Telling students about this option to retake an important exam will dramatically improve students' chances of enrolling in college and entering the adult world.



# More Love for LGBTQ+ Community

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Staff Writer

Even though California has many pro-LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer) laws, there are still many in the LGBTQ community that go through bullying and discrimination. Students that come out are often subject to discrimination and bullying because of their sexuality. They have been ostracized by society, especially in school and work environments for far too long. Schools should not let this go on any longer.

Students, gay and straight alike, should join clubs that welcome everyone like the Gay Straight Alliance. Clubs like GSA act as a safe haven for children experiencing unfair treatment because of their sexual preferences. In addition, clubs can provide students with a place to meet others that share similar experiences and make friends that will accept them for who they are.

Another way that could be helpful is if a friend of someone in the LGBTQ community talks to young people who are struggling with coming out about the bullying and help them cope. Talking to someone about events that are happen-

ing in their lives can make a big difference. There have been cases where LGBTQ people were avoided by or otherwise judged by their peers. LGBTQ members are still people.

Some teenagers are known to harm themselves, but this is especially true for LG-

BTQ students. The main reason is because they came out, and then they were harassed and picked on by other students. The other students becomes bullies and start going after the student that is new in the LGBTQ community. The student could start feeling the pressure and realization of being

different from the others around them and then start feeling depressed. People who are depressed are known to do things they would not normally do, like cut themselves. In the past and present, there are people who end up taking their lives by cutting themselves or even taking their own lives. There are, however, many inspirational stories about how a person was able to get over their bullies and the cruelty that life threw them. Those people come out stronger and spread the message to inspire more people to stay strong and to get through the struggles together, as one whole strong community.

LGBTQ members should not be ostracized from other people just because they are different. Although there are laws protecting them, they do not always work.

Anyone who is being bullied should seek help, but that is not the only solution to this problem. Everyone should be educated about bullying and get the facts about people in the LGBTQ community in order to prevent future instances of bullying before they even happen.



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**UNBIASED ELIAS**

## A New Perspective

Upon entering my senior year of high school, I was well aware that I would be facing a plethora of lasts. However, it was the larger "lasts" that I began to realize I would miss the most: my last year of free public education, my last year of not having to claim taxes and my last year of childhood.

Over the past month, senior year has offered so much more than just "lasts." Growing up, I was oblivious to the process of college applications. By the fifth grade, I had convinced myself that my success was a three-step process. Step One: be born. That was easy. Step Two: graduate high school. This process would be long, but it was achievable. Step Three: begin working. I never thought to question this process. Now that I am less than eight months away from completing the second step of my patented plan, my focus has been solely on getting into the college of my choice.

Exposing myself to a world I never knew existed has been one of the most difficult firsts. Although I have no clue what the near future will bring me, I plan to make the most of my last year in high school. Looking forward, senior year will offer my first Prom, my first college acceptances- and rejections- but most importantly, my first graduation.

## The Perfect Remedy

**KENNY SITU**  
Staff Writer

With the rising prices of schooling, many people find themselves leaving college with more debt than ever. However, recently, New York University has decided to raise \$600 million from private donors to allow students to attend medical school for free. Although free tuition may sound appealing, there are still many that oppose it. Those that oppose argue that people who go through medical school will eventually make more than six figures, making debt not much of a problem since they can pay it off later.

While this is usually true, the usual high tuition of medical school prompts many people, especially those from low income backgrounds, to not attend. However with the free tuition, many people will be encouraged to attend medical school and not let the high cost stop them. Money should not keep people from their dreams.