



College Board Revises SAT for Spring of 2016

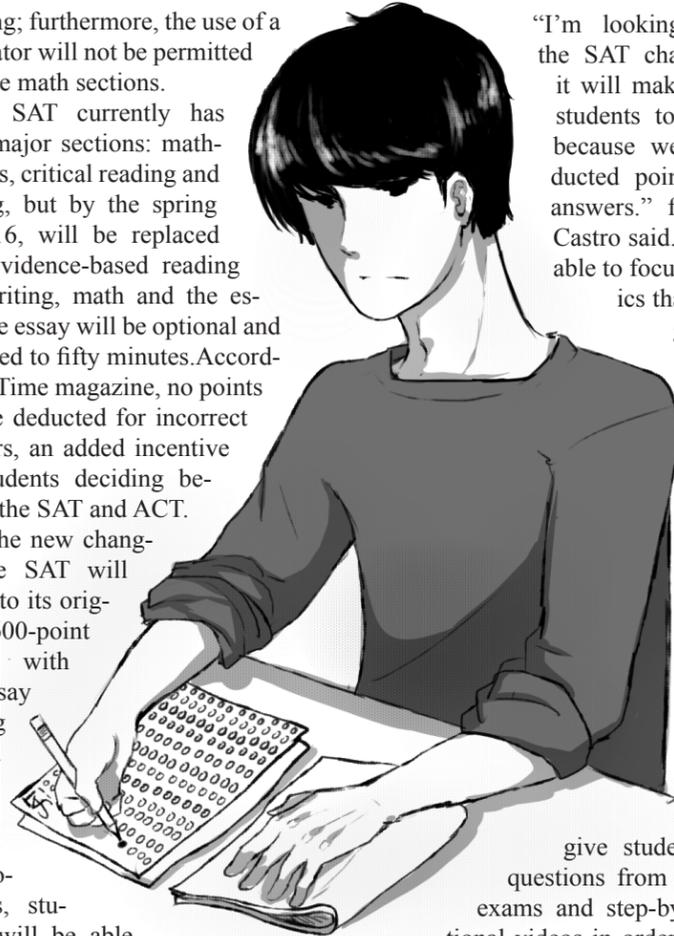
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During their high school careers, many students take either the SAT or the American College Testing (ACT) to give colleges another deciding factor on their admissions. The SAT is currently scored out of 2400 and is composed of an essay and 9 other sections that test math, critical reading and writing skills. According to the College Board website, SAT changes will be implemented in the spring of 2016. "I feel that the SAT is lowering their standards due to low test scores. There is a reason why we have SAT classes, to prepare ourselves for what [is] to come," sophomore Toni Shy said.

Under the new format, the SAT's vocabulary portions will be replaced with vocabulary frequently used in college courses, such as the words "empirical" and "synthesis," while the reading and writing section will include science, social studies and historical documents. The newly formatted SAT will be more aligned to Common Core teaching standards, according to the Los Angeles Times. In addition, math questions will now focus on linear equations, functions and proportional

thinking; furthermore, the use of a calculator will not be permitted in some math sections.

The SAT currently has three major sections: mathematics, critical reading and writing, but by the spring of 2016, will be replaced with evidence-based reading and writing, math and the essay; the essay will be optional and extended to fifty minutes. According to Time magazine, no points will be deducted for incorrect answers, an added incentive for students deciding between the SAT and ACT. With the new changes, the SAT will return to its original 1600-point scale, with the essay being scored separately. At select locations, students will be able to take the SAT online.



"I'm looking forward to the SAT changes. I think it will make it easier for students to score higher because we are not deducted points for wrong answers," freshman Sara Castro said. "We're [also] able to focus more on topics that we're struggling with."

The president of College Board, David Coleman, also announced that College Board will partner up with Khan Academy, a nonprofit learning website, to give students access to questions from previous SAT exams and step-by-step instructional videos in order to accommodate students who cannot afford SAT pre-

paratory classes. The free test preparation will be offered in the spring of 2015. To further ensure that students will have access to the Khan Academy website, College Board will partner up with schools, public libraries and after school programs.

One of the reasons for the SAT's changes lies in its dwindling popularity. In recent years, the ACT has gained more popularity as a majority of four-year colleges have shifted to test-optional policies and several states have begun to adopt the ACT as a segment of their standardized testing program, according to CNN. According to the New York Times, College Board decided to redesign the SAT because of rising competition between the ACT and SAT. In 2013, more students took the ACT than the SAT, with 1.8 million students taking the ACT and 1.7 million taking the SAT.

The announcement of the SAT changes have generated mixed responses.

"The change [...] was going to happen eventually because of the lost of interest toward the test," junior Sara Hernandez said. "It's unfortunate for my graduating class because we won't have the chance to see if the new format would have helped us more in being admitted into a college."

MOOR graphic by GEN THIPATIMA

LCFF Grants AUSD Thousands of Dollars

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California budget cuts are an ongoing issue that have resulted in increased class sizes and cut

courses. "I believe that it will provide quality education and give additional services for the student who may need it."

- Denise Jaramillo

District (AUSD) is qualified to obtain thousands of dollars per student in the 2013-2014 school year.

Governor Jerry Brown's Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) will distribute \$7,341 per student in the school district. The goal of the LCFF is to change California's current way of funding schools into a simpler education funding formula for students. According to the Alhambra Source, these funds will continue to grow,

eventually reaching \$11,602 per student by the 2020-2021 school year. The grant will include additional funding for serving high-need students. It is also intended to restore the California Department of Education, requires districts to list, in order of importance, eight priorities set by the state. The priorities include student achievement, engagement,

outside test scores, parental involvement, course access, school climate, use of technology and implementation of the new Common Core standards.

"The funding is going to be used for general income to pay teachers, custodians and administration. [...] A different amount will be given to each grade level. [...] I believe that the funding will provide quality education and give additional services for the student who may need it," Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Denise Jaramillo said.

In order to receive full funding, the school district must meet liability requirements. This includes following the Local Control Accountability Plan which, according to

California Senator Introduces SB 1174 to Advocate for Multilingual Education

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On Feb. 20, California Senator Ricardo Lara introduced the Multilingual Education for a 21st Century Economy Act (SB 1174) that will repeal the Bilingual Education Act (Proposition 227), which requires English learners to be taught in mainly English language-dominated classes.

"In an increasingly interconnected global economy, we have to prepare our students for a future in which their success depends on an ability to understand diverse perspectives and cultures [and] communicate in different languages," Lara said, according to the 33rd Senate District's website.

In addition, if SB 1174 passes, it would allow parents to decide whether their children receive bilingual instruction.

"Bilingual teaching would assist current students who [...] can only speak a foreign language. It lessens the hardships faced by those students because it does not force stress like Prop. 227," sophomore Jessica Mo said.

According to the Edweek website, SB 1174 opposers claim that Prop. 227 benefits a diversity of students. As stated by the website Onenation, the academic test scores of California's English learner students increased with Prop. 227. School districts who kept their bilingual programs did not excel as much as school districts who adhered to the terms set by Prop. 227.

On the other hand, groups such as the California Association for Bilingual Education and Californians Together support the bill's passage. These groups, composed of parents, teachers, education advocates and civil rights groups, found that being bilingual is an important skill that runs through our society. In addition, they find that SB 1174 connects the many differentialities between races and cultures.

"Becoming biliterate will give students a valuable 21st century skill [and] celebrate diversity and multiculturalism and recognize that languages are an asset," executive director of Californians Together Shelly Spiegel-Coleman said, according to the LA Times.

MOOR graphic by SIMON ZHAO

In Other News

Family flees after deadly spiders found in bananas

Man in Florida steals wallet from girlfriend and eats cash on way to jail

Spokane couple sleeping in dumpster gets tossed in garbage truck

Woman gets slapped in the face by a whale

