

The background of the slide is a solid teal color. In the center, there is a faint, light-colored graphic of a mountain range with three peaks. Overlaid on this is a laurel wreath, which is a circular arrangement of stylized leaves. The text is centered over this graphic.

The NEW SAT:

Everything You Need to Know

TESTIVE

Table of Contents

What's Changing & Why It Matters	3
<i>Why is the SAT changing?</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>What exactly is changing?.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Who do the changes affect?.....</i>	<i>4</i>
Evidence-Based Reading & Math.....	5
<i>Evidence-Based Reading Overview</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Sample Reading Problems.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Math Overview</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Math with Calculator.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Math with No Calculator</i>	<i>8</i>
Evidence-Based Writing & Essay.....	10
<i>Evidence-Based Writing Overview</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Analytical Breakdown: Similar to ACT English</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Scoring for the Evidence-Based Writing Section</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>The Essay: Who Should Complete it?.....</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Scoring for the Essay</i>	<i>14</i>
NEW SAT or ACT: Which Test to Take	16
<i>What does each test measure?.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Does one test favor a certain type of student?</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Should I just take both tests?</i>	<i>18</i>
When and How to Prep	20

NEW SAT Content

What's Changing & Why It Matters



You've heard the news about the NEW SAT, but what's all the fuss about? [John LaPlante](#), [Head of Learning at Testive](#), breaks it down to clear up the confusion.

Why is the SAT changing?

According to the College Board, the SAT is changing to *“focus on the knowledge and skills that current research shows are most essential for college career readiness and success.”*

This is somewhat accurate, since the current SAT tests a number of skills and areas of knowledge that are not particularly relevant or useful for determining college readiness. For instance, knowing 500 obscure vocabulary words really has no correlation to being able to do well in college, nor does the ability to identify and correct grammar errors out of context. So in this respect, the NEW SAT is intended to provide a more realistic assessment of the skills needed to succeed in college.

On a more practical level, however, the NEW SAT is also a response to market forces; the ACT has gained considerable market share over the past decade (even surpassing the SAT in 2014 in terms of total test takers), and the NEW SAT is a response to that trend. It's no wonder, then, that the NEW SAT will resemble the ACT a little more closely in both form and content.

Finally, the Common Core is also a driving force; in fact, David Coleman, who is the head of the College Board, also helped to develop the Common Core

standards, and it therefore makes sense that the College Board will look to those standards when designing the NEW SAT.

What exactly is changing?

The content and scoring of the test are all changing. Without going into too much detail, here are the biggest changes:

- **Only two sections:** Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, and Math
- **Optional essay**, requiring analysis of a document, with 50 minutes allowed
- **No penalty** for incorrect answers
- **No more obscure vocabulary** sentence completion questions
- **Increased use of charts and graphs**, even in the reading section
- **Overall score will be 1600**, with scores of 200-800 in Reading and Math, and a separate essay score; there will also be subscores in Reading and Math

Who do the changes affect?

Students in the Class of 2017 and beyond will be required to take either the NEW SAT or the ACT.

Evidence-Based Reading & Math



Get a closer look at the Evidence-Based Reading and Math sections of the NEW SAT as [Testive Coach Ben Flores](#) provides commentary on some sample problems and tips on how you can prepare for them.

Evidence-Based Reading Overview

One of the biggest (and most welcome) changes to the NEW SAT Reading section is that there will no longer be sentence completion questions. That's right—no need to memorize obscure vocabulary!

The new Reading test will be made up of **four single passages**, each followed by 10-11 questions, and **1 dual-passage set**, also followed by 10-11 questions.

There will be three different types of passage:

- (1) U.S. or world literature
- (2) History or social studies
- (3) Science

Some of these passages will be primary sources pertaining to significant events and ideas in history. Other passages—especially in science and social studies—will contain charts or graphs that you will be expected to interpret and use in connection with the text.

And the questions themselves? You'll still need to identify the main point, the tone or attitude, and the meaning of certain words or phrases. You'll also

need to identify the evidence that supports an answer choice, which means that some questions will be connected.

Sample Reading Problems

We have high quality practice passages on [our adaptive prep platform](#) that include contemporary scientific topics and historical primary sources. Each passage will have a full set of associated questions that are specifically aligned to the specifications of the NEW SAT.

Each question has in-depth answer explanations written by Testive coaches. So if you get one wrong, there will be a clear explanation why you got it wrong and additional opportunities to get it right.

The screenshot displays two sample reading questions from the Testive adaptive prep platform. The interface is light blue with white content boxes. Each question box contains a passage excerpt, a question, and several answer choices. A pop-up window provides detailed feedback for each answer.

Question 1: In the context of the passage, the author's use of the phrase "by the same token" in line 26 indicates that

Answer Choices:

- Unjust laws and just laws are both symbols
- The majority group compels the minority group in both unjust and just laws
- The same reasoning applies when describing unjust laws and just laws
- Unjust laws and just laws are both symbols

Feedback for Choice A (Incorrect): INCORRECT! Choice A is not the best answer because while a "token" is a symbol, in this case the phrase "by the same token" refers to the reasoning used in describing unjust and just laws, not to the laws themselves.

Question 2: Unjust laws and just laws are both symbols

Answer Choices:

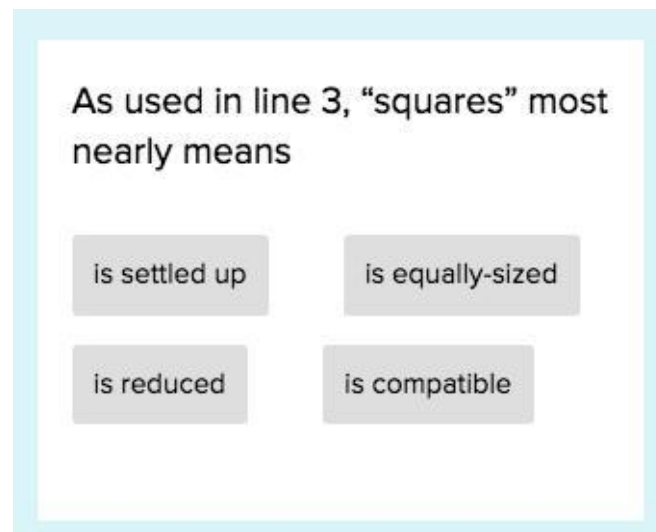
- The same reasoning applies when describing unjust laws and just laws
- Unjust laws and just laws are both symbols
- The majority group compels the minority group in both unjust and just laws
- Unjust laws and just laws are both symbols

Feedback for Choice B (Correct): CORRECT! Choice B is the best answer. The author uses the phrase mainly to connect the point just made about what makes a law unjust to the following point about what makes a law just. Both descriptions explain laws in terms of the circumstances under which a majority group compels a minority group to do something; therefore, the same reasoning is used in both situations.

Next Question

Just like on the NEW SAT, every passage will have sets of linked questions in which you will be asked to provide text-based evidence to support the correct answer to a previous question. You'll be able to see your previous work from linked questions as you work on new questions.

In addition, students now have to understand words that may have multiple meanings as they are used in the context of a passage.



Math Overview

Overall, math questions on the NEW SAT are **more difficult** than those on the current test. Not only do the math sections test new subject areas, such as trigonometry, but they also look different. For example, you can expect to see a single set of data serve as the basis for several questions, and an extended response grid in question (for which answer choices are not provided) with multiple parts.

Math with Calculator

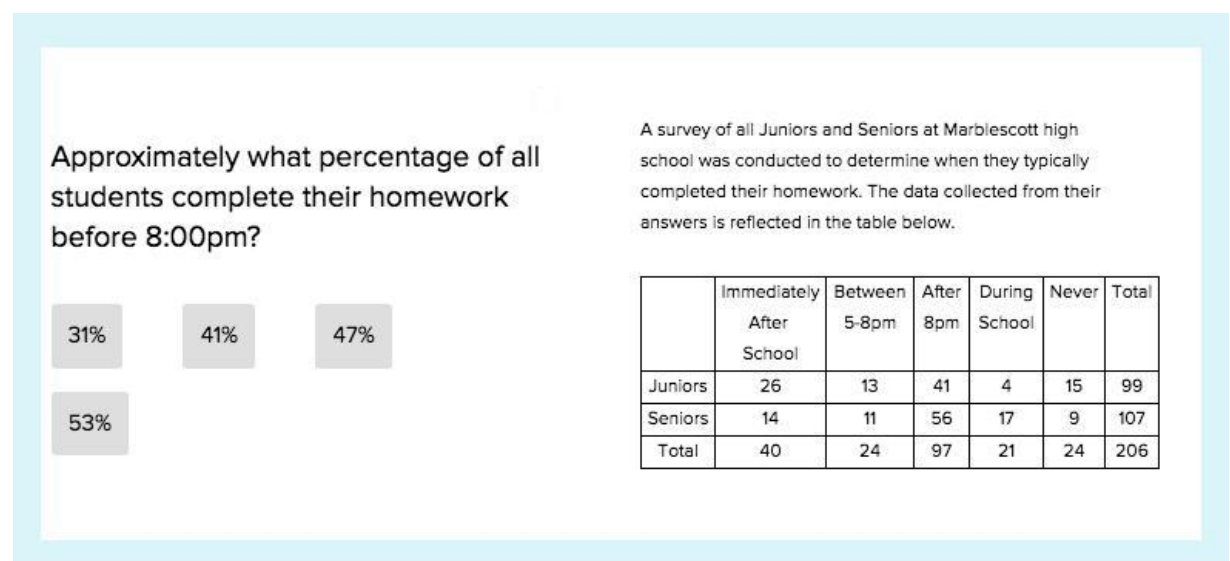
Questions on the new Math test fall into four “content categories”

- **Heart of Algebra**
- **Problem Solving and Data Analysis**
- **Passport to Advanced Math**
- **Additional Topics in Mathematics**

There are fewer geometry questions and more word problems, with questions based in both science and the social sciences (for example, economics).

These problems, which can be in each of the four content categories, often ask for exact answers (rather than equations or formulas). Calculator math problems may also ask you to provide answers that are precise to the nearest tenth or hundredth decimal place, and you may need to multiply or divide large numbers in order to reach the correct answer.

There will also be an increased emphasis on interpretation and manipulation of data sets as shown below.



Math with No Calculator

While no-calculator questions may ask for a numerical solution, they **will not require you to multiply or divide large numbers, or to provide an answer carried out to several decimal places**. No-calculator questions will often ask for the correct equation or formula necessary to solve a problem, but sometimes won't ask you to "do the math" to find the answer.

This question is a representative example of the mathematical thinking that NEW SAT will ask students to demonstrate. Students will often be asked to

show an understanding of problems by providing expressions or equations that could be used to solve the problem accurately.

A salesperson makes a \$45 commission for each television she sells and a \$50 commission for each computer she sells. She also makes \$10 bonus for every sale completed on a Sunday. Over a seven-day period, the salesperson sells 5 more televisions than computers, and 3 of those sales are completed on Sunday. What expression could be used to determine the salesperson's commission for that week?

$$\$450x + \$50(x-5) + \$30$$

$$\$45x + \$50(x-5) + \$30$$

$$\$45 + \$50 - 5 + \$30$$

$$\$95(x-5) + \$3$$

Evidence-Based Writing & Essay



Testive Coach Anthony Stott walks us through sample questions from the Evidence-Based Writing section and provides insight on the essay.

Evidence-Based Writing Overview

The College Board has changed the writing section quite significantly—it now looks a lot like the ACT English Test.

What this means is that they have eliminated the use of three question types (improving sentences, error identification, improving paragraphs). Instead, students will be **given four passages** of 400-450 words that they need to improve. Students will need to be able to **recognize grammatical errors and correct them** as illustrated in the sample question below.



The Importance of Touch

NO CHANGE

these infants remain

this remains

our senses remain

Human infants develop the sense of touch first, and these remain both emotionally and physically central through their lives. Although scientists have long understood the power of touch, disbelieving individuals are being more cautious in their willingness to elevate this sense over all others. ☐

[1] Doubters of the power of touch are stuck in the past, basing their arguments on theories that science has long discredited. [2] One such self-proclaimed expert on the power of touch was John B. Watson, who in 1928 strongly advised parents to maintain a strict physical boundary between themselves and their children. [3] Watson urged, and then warned parents to refrain from hugging or kissing their children, warning that such physical behavior will lead to weak and "mawkish" adults. [4] Although he acknowledged that parents have an obligation to feed, clothe,

Another differentiator from the current SAT is that at least one of these passages will contain **informational graphics**, such as a table, and will require students to make connections between the table and the content of the passage. Essentially, students will need to decipher the table to be able to answer the question. So, while it is a writing question, it will also be included in the social sciences subscore.

In addition, students will be asked to **improve a passage** by eliminating or adding entire sentences—similar to the paragraph improvement questions on the current SAT. This will gauge a student's ability to write well.



The writer wants to add a conclusion to the introductory paragraph that casts doubt on those who do not recognize the power of touch. Which would best accomplish that goal?

NO CHANGE

Those who deny the power of touch have much to learn from recent studies conducted by the nation's leading behaviorist psychologists.

They are flat out wrong in every respect.

Such silly assumptions have no real basis in science and need to be exposed, as this has been by recent leading, smarter studies.

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Fortunately, Watson's theories regarding the dangers of touch eventually fell out favor and indeed became contradicted by empirical research. These studies showed that, much like our four

Analytical Breakdown: Similar to ACT English

Our analysis of the NEW SAT Writing Test shows that it is **remarkably similar to the ACT English Test**—the format of the two tests is essentially identical at a question level.

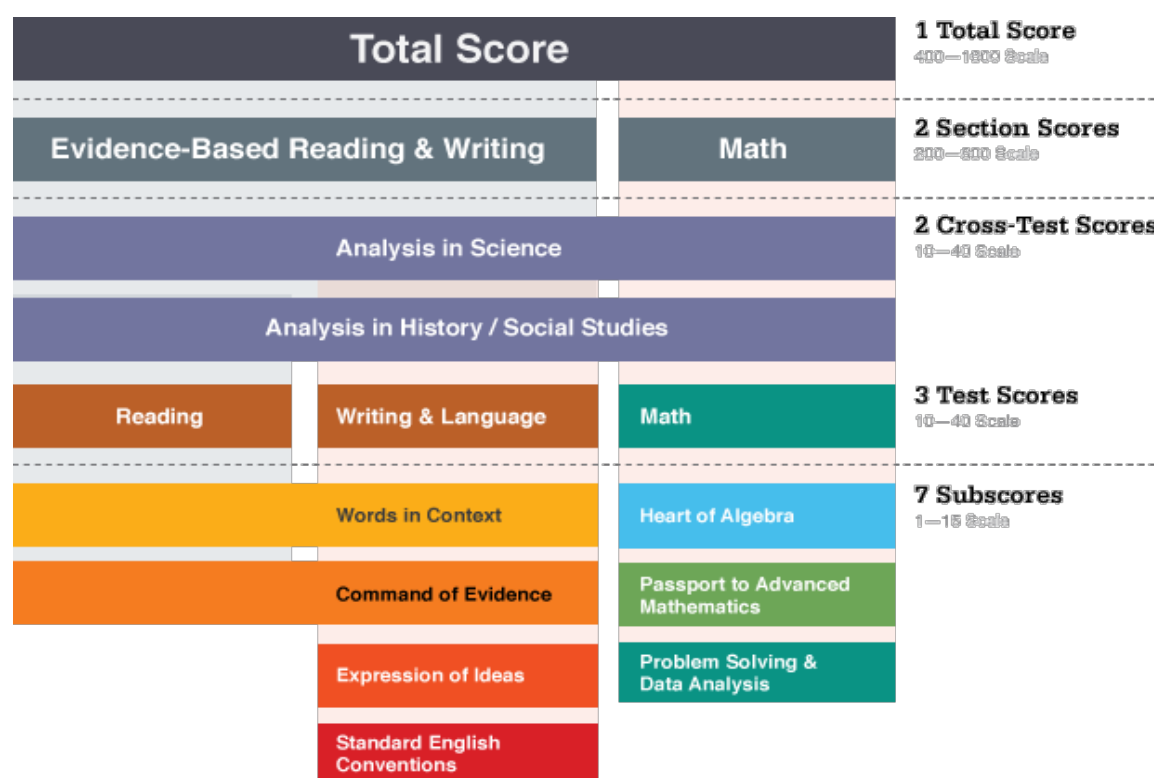
The final major change to the NEW SAT is that all four sections (Reading, Writing, Math/Calculator, and Math/No Calculator) will contain questions that refer to graphics or data tables. In fact, questions that refer to graphics or data tables may form up to 20% of the NEW SAT, so data literacy will be especially important for students taking the NEW SAT.

Scoring for the Evidence-Based Writing Section

Students will receive a combined score for the Evidence-Based Reading & Writing sections of the test.

The Evidence-Based Writing section will have four passages with 11 questions in each passage for a total of 44 questions. Students will get a subscore for Standard English Conventions (grammar & usage) and Expression of Ideas. So, even though there will be just one combined score for the Evidence-Based Reading & Writing sections, colleges will see all of the subscores as illustrated in the chart below courtesy of the [College Board website](https://collegeboard.org/sat).

The test is 35 minutes long so students need to move somewhat quickly since they need to answer about 1.25 questions per minute.



*The redesigned assessment will report a total score that will be the sum of the two-section scores. Please note that Analysis in Science and Analysis in History / Social Studies scores are subject to ongoing research.

The Essay: Who Should Complete it?

We know that the essay is now optional just like on the ACT. With that said, many colleges require students to complete the essay if they take the ACT, so we can only imagine the same will hold true for the NEW SAT. The best way to know for sure is to review the application guidelines of the schools you're interested in applying to.

Regardless, we recommend that **everybody complete the essay**. You're already there, it might work in your favor, and if not, you don't need to report the score if you don't want to.

The College Board allows 50 minutes for students to complete the essay and it's based on a historical document, such as a famous speech or the Declaration of Independence. Students will be given a prompt for the essay and need to use evidence from this document to support their position.

Scoring for the Essay

The way the essay is scored is different than the current SAT. It will be reviewed looking at three criteria: reading, analysis, and writing. Two people will read your essay and give it a score of 1-4 for each criteria. Those scores are combined to give you a total score out of 24 possible points.

Test Prep

NEW SAT or ACT: Which Test to Take



ACT or NEW SAT? That is the question! Testive Coach Carlos Cousins lays out the difference between the two tests and how you can decide which test is right for your student.

As the prospect of college quickly approaches, the task of figuring out which college admissions exam to take can be more than a bit intimidating. Here are answers to the questions we get asked most frequently.

What does each test measure?

ACT

The ACT is comprised of Math, Science, English, and Reading with an optional essay.

The Math section tests elementary and intermediate algebra, plane geometry, and trigonometry. Unlike the current SAT, there are two easy distractors that you can cross out, but process of elimination can be tricky. The math section on the ACT better aligns with Common Core.

The Science section includes very dense articles and you also have to decipher graphs that can get a little confusing. Time is not your friend for this portion of the test, so if you are someone who needs extra time, this may be something to consider. With that said, you can definitely prepare for this section by getting comfortable with the language the test employs and learning what to look for. Timing yourself on practice tests will help you build up stamina for this section.

The English and Reading sections are both based off essays. There are four essays in the Reading section and five in the English section. What you have to do is dissect a passage carefully first. On the English section, you'll focus on usage mechanics and rhetorical skills.

The Reading section pulls from text from real life, including academic papers from social studies, natural sciences, or humanities as well as prose or quotes from literary fiction. It's less civics oriented and more academic oriented.

NEW SAT

There are only three sections on the NEW SAT; Evidence-Based Reading & Writing, Math, and an optional essay.

The NEW SAT is copying a lot of what the ACT has been doing, primarily because in the last few years more people have been taking the ACT over the SAT. Many think this move by the College Board is driven by the desire to once again make the SAT the number one standardized test taken by students.

The Reading & Writing sections are quite similar to the ACT. However, instead of pulling in reading passages from things you might see in the newspaper, the NEW SAT will be asking students to analyze U.S. founding documents, great global conversations, and speeches by leading world figures.

The NEW SAT Math section will now include trigonometry, which is similar to the ACT.

There is no science section on the NEW SAT, but they do include scientific graphs throughout the test to try to simulate testing of Common Core data interpretation concepts.

Does one test favor a certain type of student?

The main advantage of the NEW SAT is time. If you add up all of the time in each section, you have 50% more time on the NEW SAT. That's a considerable difference.

The Math section in the NEW SAT is predicted to be slightly more difficult than the Math section in the ACT.

The Reading & Writing section is about the same on both tests as far as difficulty, but you'll have more time to complete this section on the NEW SAT.

The Science section is only on the ACT, so if that is a strength you are trying to showcase, that might be something to consider.

Both tests have an optional essay so that shouldn't have a huge impact.

Should I just take both tests?

Before you sign up for both the NEW SAT and ACT, Testive recommends you purchase the latest edition of the College Board's The Official SAT Study Guide and the latest edition of the ACT's The Real ACT.

Then, take a timed, proctored practice exam from each book—preferably under the supervision of a teacher or parent.

After taking both tests, ask yourself the following questions:

- Which exam felt more intuitive?
- Which exam felt more straightforward?
- Which exam do you feel allows you to most efficiently show off what you are capable of to the colleges you are applying to?

What matters most is to have a baseline test score, which you'll come away with after taking these two practice tests. Then reflect on why you've

answered a question incorrectly rather than just glancing over it. Testive helps you figure out where you're doing poorly and helps you tackle what you're not doing well. Our software will keep serving up questions in your trouble areas until you've got it.

For those students who still decide they want to take both exams the road ahead is especially tricky. Keep in mind that both exams are renowned for their repetitiveness and predictability, but also that each takes a very particular approach. Make sure you study for each test separately and space them out. Trying to study for both at the same time will only lead to frustration and confusion.

Ultimately, each student has to make their own decision which test or tests they want to take. But remember, as with anything in life, focus, effort, and preparation are the keys to success.

When and How to Prep



Testive's Student Success Advisor, Andrea Schlageter, explains best practices for preparing for the NEW SAT and how Testive can help students achieve their goals.

When should a student start prepping for the NEW SAT?

Students should figure out when they think they have 100 hours of prep time before the test. For most students, they can fit this in over the course of three to four months; however, those with really busy schedules may need a little more time.

What about the ACT? Is the prep time the same?

If students choose the ACT over the NEW SAT, they will need the same amount of time to prep. The only difference between preparing for the ACT and the NEW SAT is the content to study.

Do you suggest taking both tests just to see what happens?

I suggest taking at least one practice ACT and one practice SAT. It's best if students have a teacher or parent proctoring and timing the exam just to make it is a more realistic experience. By doing this, if a student doesn't finish certain sections because of time constraints, they can focus on them in their prep.

Remember, students have a limited window of time to prepare and take these tests. They don't want to take an actual SAT test just to get a baseline.

From your experience, what types of students have been most successful in their prep?

Students who are engaged and have goals. It helps everyone keep on track if a student has a strong goal and can see that they are making progress towards that goal. Find out the average score for the school they are most interested in and orient around that as a target. At the end of the day, the only way to be successful in prep is by doing the work. Whatever will keep your student on track and focused will be what works for them.

How does Testive prep differ from other test prep companies?

We take an error-focused approach. We always have students practicing in their weakest areas and heavily emphasize the review and reflect process. By doing this, we see 3x the industry average in score increase.

If I want to start prepping with Testive, when & how do I sign-up?

You should **sign up as soon as you can!** All of our coaches are great but each student is different and will work differently with each coach. Even if you are planning to begin in a month or two months from now, it is best to reserve your spot with the coach who will work best with your student as soon as you know this is the prep method for you.

The best way to sign-up is to [schedule a call](#) with me or one of our other student success advisors. We can walk you through the process, set up a demo of our platform, and answer any questions you might have. But, if you're confident that Testive will be a good fit and you just want to get started, you can [enroll in a plan](#) and then we'll contact you and your student with a kickoff call.

If I have more questions about the NEW SAT or test prep in general, is there a place I can send an email or a phone number I can call?

Most questions about these tests are difficult to answer through email. As each student is different, my recommendations for your situation may be different. The quickest way to have your questions answered is by [booking a time to chat](#) with me or another one of our student success advisors. With that said, you are still certainly welcome to go to our website and [complete a contact form](#) or call us at (888) 960-8378 and we'll get back to you within 24 hours.

What other advice do you have to offer to kids facing the NEW SAT?

Because this is a new test and there is a lot of uncertainty surrounding it, we recommend taking the ACT, at least for the first year. Once the dust settles and there is more information about scores, how colleges are handling the test, and other data is available, it's safer to go with the sure bet. But, if you're a risk taker and did great on the NEW PSAT, then by all means, go for it.

For more information about the NEW SAT or to find out the best prep method for your student:

- *Call us at 888-960-8378*
- *[Schedule a call](#) with one of our Student Success Advisors*
- *[Sign up for a demo](#) of our software*
- *Send us an email at hello@testive.com*

