

■ ■ ■ SAT AS MICHIGAN'S BASIC SKILLS EXAMINATION

On February 28, 2017, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) sent a memo to Michigan's educator preparation institutions (EPIs) detailing a new policy by which the SAT examination may now be used as the basic skills examination (BSE) for teacher candidates. The memo noted the following points:

- Passing the newly-redesigned SAT (as administered on March 5, 2016 or later) now fulfills the requirements for the BSE as set forth by Michigan Compiled Law (MCL) 380.1531(2).
- In order to show a passing status for the BSE, the SAT has two sections that must be passed at or above the career- and college-readiness (CCR) benchmark as shown in the table below:

SAT Section	Benchmark
Evidence-Based Reading and Writing	480
Mathematics	530

- Both individual sections of the SAT must be passed at or above these score values; there is no CCR benchmark made on the SAT Composite, or overall, score scale.

■ ■ PRE PHASE-OUT

The last administration of the PRE is scheduled for **September 23, 2017, with a score report date of October 20, 2017**. After September 23, 2017, no new PRE administrations will be available from Evaluation Services (ES), the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC) testing vendor.

Passing results from the PRE, or its predecessor the Basic Skills Test (BST), will continue to be accepted after October 1, 2017, given the caveats above about the last administration date.

Back in 2014, the following alternate measures were made available to establish a PRE passing status:

- an equivalent ACT score on any subtest within valid administration dates;
- an equivalent MME score on any subtest within valid administration dates;
- a -1 Statistical Error of Measurement (SEM) adjustment on one subtest with a passing result on the other two subtests; or
- any combination of the above three.



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Since these alternate measures are based on any valid PRE attempt, they must likewise be tied to the valid administration dates of the PRE. Thus, **only ACT and MME tests taken on or before September 23, 2017 may be accepted** for this purpose. In addition, any -1 SEM adjustment must similarly be based on a PRE administration that occurred on or before September 23, 2017.

In late March 2017, consensus was reached between the MDE and a representative group of colleges and universities to set a cut-off date for acceptability the current alternates to the PRE, **of October 1, 2025**. After that date, scores from the ACT or MME, or the -1 SEM adjustment, **will no longer be accepted, even with administration dates of September 23, 2017 or earlier**. This was done to align with the existing policies relating to the catalog period, whereby colleges and universities are under a legal obligation to honor to course offerings, program requirements, and related details as published in course catalogs to potential candidates seeking entry into programs.

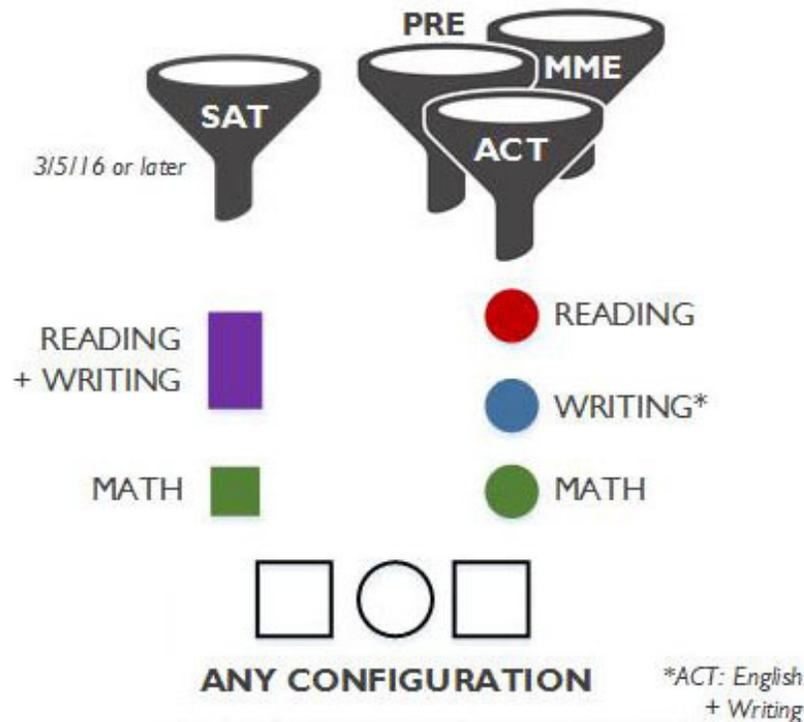
To summarize:

Date	Event, Update, or Change
March 5, 2016	First date of SAT administration available for use as valid substitute for PRE
September 23, 2017	Last administration date of the PRE ACT scores, MME scores, or -1 SEM claims must be based on test administration dates on or before this date
October 20, 2017	Report date of the last administration of the PRE
October 1, 2025	ACT scores, MME scores and -1 SEM claims no longer acceptable, even if their test administration dates occurred on or before September 23, 2017

■ ■ USE OF MULTIPLE PASSING SUBTESTS

Since passing results on the PRE must be honored after October 1, 2017—and by extension, its alternate measures between October 1, 2017, and October 1, 2025, as described above—this also means that passing results in different subtests must be honored, regardless of the examination, within the valid date ranges explained above. Accordingly, one or the other SAT sections can be used to establish a partial passing result, and be combined with partial passing results from other examinations to fulfill the requirements of the law.

A diagram below shows the multiple-subtest system for establishing an overall passing result on the BSE through use of multiple valid BSE tests or their equivalencies:



This diagram illustrates the following.

- The newly redesigned SAT and PRE/ACT/MME passing subtests, within valid administration dates, can be used in any combination to establish a passing result on Michigan’s BSE
- On the SAT, Evidence-Based Reading and the Evidence-Based Writing are inextricably linked, and reported as one section score. For this reason, candidates may use a passing score to count as a passing result for the Reading subtest, or the Writing subtest, or both, according to their needs.
- The title of the ACT subsection that corresponds to the PRE Writing subtest is called “ACT English Plus Writing,” not simply “Writing.”

■ ■ USE OF THE -1 SEM ADJUSTMENT

It is important to recognize that while the SAT is now a replacement for the PRE, it is not considered equivalent to the PRE in the same way that statistical equivalency between the PRE, the ACT, and the MME was established in the April 2014 study.



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A way to think about this is that the SAT and the PRE/ACT/MME have two different score scales that are based on different assumptions. The SAT section scales have a score assigned to them that describes the knowledge and skills exiting high-school students should have to be considered “career- and college-ready,” while the PRE score scale does not, and was never meant to envision this. Although the MDE followed the recommendation to adopt the SAT as Michigan’s BSE with alignment toward what knowledge and skills teacher candidates should have when entering preparation programs, the PRE scales and passing subscores continue to be based on a 2013 paradigm that asked educators what the knowledge and skills of candidates entering student teaching should be.

The -1 SEM adjustment, where a passing result for the whole of the BSE was granted upon demonstration that two subtests were passed with a third at or above the listed -1 SEM score for the designated PRE administration date, was established only in consideration of the PRE score scales and the ACT and MME equivalencies that were tied to that score scale.

For this reason, the -1 SEM adjustment **may not be used in conjunction with SAT scores**. Remember, the -1 SEM adjustment can still be used for PRE/ACT/MME passing results (even after the October 1, 2017 date, within valid dates mentioned above).

■ ■ USE OF THE OPTIONAL SAT ESSAY

The CCR scores were established by College Board on the two sections of the SAT listed at the beginning of the document. The SAT Essay generates its own separate score that is not integrated into the “Evidence-Based Reading and Writing” score. In addition, there is no CCR benchmark score that has been established on the separate score scale for the essay.

Consequently, for purposes of establishing a passing result on the BSE, the optional SAT Essay remains just that: optional. Since it is not a requirement to establish a passing result on the BSE, the Michigan Online Educator Certification System (MOECS) screens will not be modified to accept the score from the SAT Essay.

However, according to the College Board Web site at www.collegeboard.org, the SAT Essay asks candidates to use “reading, analysis, and writing skills,” and explains that test-takers will “read a passage, explain how the author builds an argument to persuade an audience, and support an explanation with evidence from the passage.”

As such, individual EPIs may certainly ask or require teacher candidates to sign up for the SAT Essay and use the score results from the separate essay section to assist in diagnosing a candidate’s strengths in these writing skills. The MDE recommends that individual EPIs work with College Board for further questions on what information can be learned from an SAT Essay score report, if they choose to require the SAT Essay at the time of entry into preparation programs.



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■ ■ CONTACTING COLLEGE BOARD

Although the MDE has a contract in place to deliver the SAT as part of its K-12 assessment program, the MDE has no contract to deliver the SAT as Michigan's basic skills examination to designated test-takers for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of the BSE under MCL 380.1531(2). Purchasing a secure SAT administration is considered a private arrangement by the test-takers with College Board, based on the recommendation of Michigan's EPIs and the subsequent agreement of the state superintendent.

As such, the MDE does not have the same range of support for SAT administration as it would have with the MTTCs. Test-takers must comply with all of College Board's requirements for test registration, testing accommodations, test security, reporting, and behavior at the testing event. The MDE encourages EPIs to work directly with College Board to assist their candidates in resolving questions or to get access to supporting materials for test preparation.

Accordingly, the best resource for these and other details is the College Board Web site at www.collegeboard.org. SAT administration dates and locations can be found there, as well as the screens for registration and payment.

As always, you can contact Dr. Steve Stegink at SteginkS@michigan.gov or at (517) 241-4945 for general questions related to the SAT and MOECS score entry, how to accept official scores from candidates, or updates related to the policies and procedures detailed in this document.