

BOARD OF REGENTS  
BRIEFING PAPER  
SAT Concordance Scores

**BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:**

Existing Board policy includes benchmark scores on certain examinations, including the College Board's SAT, for placement into gateway mathematics and English courses (*Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 1*), university admissions (*Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 4*), and eligibility for the Millennium Scholarship (*Title 4, Chapter 18, Sections 9.2.1, 9.3.1 and 9.4*). The College Board recently redesigned its SAT Suite of Assessments, which includes the SAT. As noted by the College Board, the new tests are designed, among other things, to measure the essential ingredients for college and career readiness and success, as shown by research. Following the administration of the redesigned SAT in March 2016, the College Board issued concordance tables for comparing the old SAT scores to the new SAT scores.

Based on the College Board's concordance tables, System staff recommends revising Board policy to include the concordant SAT scores for SAT tests administered in March 2016 and later.

**SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:**

Revise Board policy governing placement into gateway mathematics and English Courses (*Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 1*), university admissions (*Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 4*), and eligibility for the Millennium Scholarship (*Title 4, Chapter 18, Sections 9.2.1, 9.3.1 and 9.4*) to include benchmark scores for the new SAT tests administered in March 2016 and later. Retain the existing scores for tests administered prior to March 2016. (See the attached policy proposal.) In addition, amend *Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 5* to delete an outdated subsection recommending students take the ACT or SAT that was effective only until Fall 2012.

**IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):**

The College Board administered its redesigned SAT in March 2016, and issued the concordance tables for the new SAT in May 2016.

**BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:**

- Board policy governing benchmark scores for placement into gateway courses, university admissions and eligibility for the Millennium Scholarship must include the appropriate concordant scores on the College Board's redesigned SAT to appropriately guide students and institutional staff in the administration of the policies.
- Based on the tables issued by the College Board, the new scores are concordant with the existing benchmark scores in Board policy and do not reflect a substantive change.

**POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:**

None have been presented.

**ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:**

None have been presented.

**COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:**

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title #\_\_\_\_ Chapter #\_\_\_\_ Section #\_\_\_\_
- X Amends Current Board Policy: Title 4, Chapter 16, Sections 1, 4, and 5; and Title 4, Chapter 18, Sections 9.2.1, 9.3.1 and 9.4
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter #\_\_\_\_ Section #\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- X Fiscal Impact: Yes\_\_\_\_ No X\_\_\_\_
- Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

**POLICY PROPOSAL**  
**TITLE 4, CHAPTER 16, SECTION 1**

SAT Benchmarks for Placement into English and Mathematics

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 1. NSHE Placement Policy

The placement policies of the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) are intended to ensure a foundation of knowledge and competencies that will assist students in successfully pursuing and attaining an academic degree. Students are strongly encouraged to prepare for the rigors of higher education prior to entering the NSHE.

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2. Initial Placement of Students into English and Mathematics Courses.

- a. Exemption from Remedial Instruction. Degree-seeking students who meet or exceed the minimum English or mathematics scores on any one of the college readiness assessments listed below must be placed into a college-level course in that subject and are exempt from being placed into any form of remedial instruction in that subject provided that the student:

....

Institutions may use other factors including high school transcript, grade point average, or additional testing to determine the appropriate first college-level course. Institutions are not required to honor initial placement decisions pursuant to this subsection for students who fail to remain continuously enrolled in required mathematics and English courses until the core mathematics and English requirements are completed.

<u>College Readiness Assessments – English</u>	
<u>Test Score</u>	<u>Minimum Score</u>
ACT English	18
SAT Critical Reading – <i>SAT Test Date Prior to March 2016</i>	500
<i>SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing – SAT Test Date March 2016 and later</i>	<b>480</b>
Smarter Balanced	2583 (Achievement Level 3)
PARCC	Level 4 Score

<u>College Readiness Assessments – Mathematics</u>	
<u>Test Score</u>	<u>Minimum Score</u>
ACT Mathematics	22
SAT Math[ <del>ematics</del> ] – <i>SAT Test Date Prior to March 2016</i>	500
<i>SAT Math – SAT Test Date March 2016 and later</i>	<b>530</b>
Smarter Balanced	2628 (Achievement Level 3)
PARCC	Level 4 Score

....

**POLICY PROPOSAL**  
**TITLE 4, CHAPTER 16, SECTIONS 4 and 5**  
University Admissions – SAT Scores

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 4. Requirements for Admission to the Universities

1. Students seeking admission to a university must complete the high school course requirements pursuant to Chapter 16, Section 2.
2. Effective Fall 2013, students seeking admission to the universities must take the American College Test (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) prior to admission. This provision is not applicable to transfer students or international students whose admission requirements are otherwise defined in Chapters 14 and 16.
3. Students seeking admission to the universities must have:
  - a) **At** [~~at~~] least a 3.0 (weighted) grade point average in the required high school courses for admission; or
  - b) **An** [~~a~~] **SAT** combined score:
    - i. **From** [~~from~~] the SAT Critical Reading and SAT Math sections of at least 1040 (**1600 scale**) **on SAT tests administered prior to March 2016; or**
    - ii. **From the SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and SAT Math sections of at least 1120 (1600 scale) on SAT tests administered in March 2016 or later; or**
  - c) **An** [~~an~~] ACT composite score of at least 22; or
  - d) **A** [~~a~~] Nevada Advanced High School Diploma.
4. A student who does not meet the university admission requirements established in subsections 1 through 3 may, under procedures established by the university, be admitted through other criteria. The requirements for admission under this provision are:
  - a) A combination of test scores and grade point average that indicate potential for success;
  - b) Special talents and/or abilities such as, but not limited to, the visual or performing arts or athletic abilities;
  - c) Other evidence of potential for success;
  - d) Improvement in the high school record;
  - e) Overcoming adversity or special hardship; or
  - f) Other special circumstances.

The number of students admitted under these criteria may not exceed 15 percent of the previous year's admissions.

5. Students who graduate from a NSHE community college with a transferable associate degree will be admitted into the universities or state college regardless of their grade point average at the community college.

Section 5. University Admission – General Policy

1. In the admission of students, universities shall not discriminate on the basis of a person's age, disability, ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, religion, or sexual orientation.
2. All new students are required to furnish satisfactory evidence of good moral character as evidenced by a certificate of graduation or of honorable dismissal from the school last attended.

3. All applicants for admission shall complete such tests and furnish such information as required by the regulations published in the institutional catalog governing the semester of initial enrollment.
4. ~~[American College Test (ACT) or Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores are recommended for freshman admission to a university and are required for those applicants who do not qualify on the basis of a high school record. [This subsection is effective only until Fall 2012 when students seeking admission to the universities must take the ACT or SAT pursuant to Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 3.]]~~
- ~~[5-]~~ International applicants must submit a recent medical history and examination signed by a medical doctor within the prior six months if requested by the institution.
- ~~[6]~~5. Programs designated as limited entry require fulfillment of selective admissions criteria as contained in the institutional catalog and other appropriate college documents. Continuation in selective admissions programs is likewise contingent upon fulfillment of conditions specified by the institution and contained in official institutional documents.

**POLICY PROPOSAL**  
**TITLE 4, CHAPTER 18, SECTIONS 9.2.1, 9.3.1 and 9.4**  
Millennium Scholarship – SAT Scores for Eligibility

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

9.2 Eligibility requirements for students who are not high school graduates.

9.2.1 To be eligible for a Millennium Scholarship, a student who is not a high school graduate must meet all of the following requirements:

- a. Would have graduated from high school after May 1, 2000 had the student been enrolled in high school;
- b. Receive an enhanced ACT composite score of 21 or higher; [~~or~~] a combined (*critical* reading and math) SAT score of 990 or higher (*1600 scale*) *on tests administered prior to March 2016; or a combined (Evidence-Based Reading and Writing + Math) SAT score of 1070 or higher (1600 scale) on tests administered in March 2016 or later;*

....

9.3 Eligibility requirements for students whose family or legal guardian is a resident of the State of Nevada and who graduate from high school out-of-state.

9.3.1 To be eligible for a Millennium Scholarship, a student who is not a Nevada high school graduate, but whose family or legal guardian is a resident of the State of Nevada, must meet all of the following requirements:

- a. Graduate with a diploma from a public or private high school after May 1, 2000;
- b. *If the student was a member of the graduating class of 2017 or a later graduating class, receive* [~~Receive~~] an enhanced ACT composite score of 21 or higher; [~~or~~] a combined (*critical* reading and math) SAT score of 990 or higher (*1600 scale*) *on tests administered prior to March 2016; or a combined (Evidence-Based Reading and Writing + Math) SAT score of 1070 or higher (1600 scale) on tests administered in March 2016 or later* [~~if the student was a member of the graduating class of 2017 or a later graduating class~~];

....

9.4 Eligibility requirements for students who do not satisfy the minimum grade point average requirements under Sections 9.1, 9.2, or 9.3.

A student who does not satisfy the minimum grade point average requirements under Sections 9.1, 9.2, or 9.3 is eligible for the Millennium Scholarship if the student:

- a. Was a member of the graduating class of 2016 or a later graduating class;
- b. *On ACT or SAT tests:*
  - 1. Receives an enhanced ACT composite score of 21 or higher; [~~or~~] a combined (*critical* reading and math) SAT score of 990 *or higher (1600 scale) on tests administered prior to March 2016; or a combined (Evidence-Based Reading and Writing + Math) SAT score of 1070 or higher (1600 scale) on tests administered in March 2016 or later;* and
  - 2. *The* [~~the~~] examination was administered while the student:

- [1]i. Was enrolled in a public or private high school if the student is applying for the Millennium Scholarship under Sections 9.1 or 9.3;  
or
      - [2]ii. Would have been enrolled in high school if the student is applying for the Millennium Scholarship under Section 9.2; and
- c. Meets all other eligibility requirements applicable to the student under Section 9.1, 9.2, or 9.3.