

Standardized Testing Information for Students and Parents

PSAT Testing

When students begin their junior year, standardized tests become essential to the college admission process. Lackawanna High School recommends that juniors take the PSAT developed by ETS (Educational Testing Service). The PSAT serves two basic functions. First, it is a shortened practice form of the SAT (two hours and ten minutes), which helps students assess their strengths and weaknesses before they actually take the SAT. Second, it qualifies juniors for the National Merit Scholarship program.

SAT Testing

Typically, juniors take the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) toward the end of the academic school year in April, May, or June. Lackawanna High School is a test center in May. The SAT is a three-hour and forty-five minute test that measures critical reading, mathematical reasoning, and writing abilities. Registration bulletins are available in the counseling center. It is essential to pay attention to deadlines. Students with testing modifications also need to fill out a separate form that they can get from their counselor.

Students can take preparatory classes for the SAT at many locations including Erie Community College, Trocaire College, and the State University of New York at Buffalo. The cost of these courses can run from \$17.95 to \$800.00. Research is inconclusive concerning the helpfulness of these preparatory classes. Local bookstores also have review books and software programs.

Students may take the SAT as many times as they wish. There are also SAT II's. SAT II's are specific subject tests which some colleges and universities require for admittance. Students and parents need to check with such institutions to see which assessments are required for admission. Students may not take the SAT and the SAT II on the same test date and should plan testing times accordingly.

ACT Testing

Many students also take the ACT (American College Testing Program). Depending on a student's strengths, he/she may score higher on the SAT or the ACT. Specific questions or concerns regarding the SAT or ACT can be answered through the registration bulletins or your student's guidance counselor.