Relevancy for all Vermont Students

October 30, 2026



College Board Introduction

- **Matt Zarro,** *Senior Director, State & District Partnerships, K12 Services*

Agenda



1) Developing Student Talent
2) Vermont 2026 College Board Program Results
3) Advanced Placement Updates
4) Class of 2026 SAT Suite Learnings
4) Q & A

More Talent Than We Can See

One connected system to uncover it: the SAT Suite, AP, & BigFuture

CollegeBoard



How the System Works

See the Talent

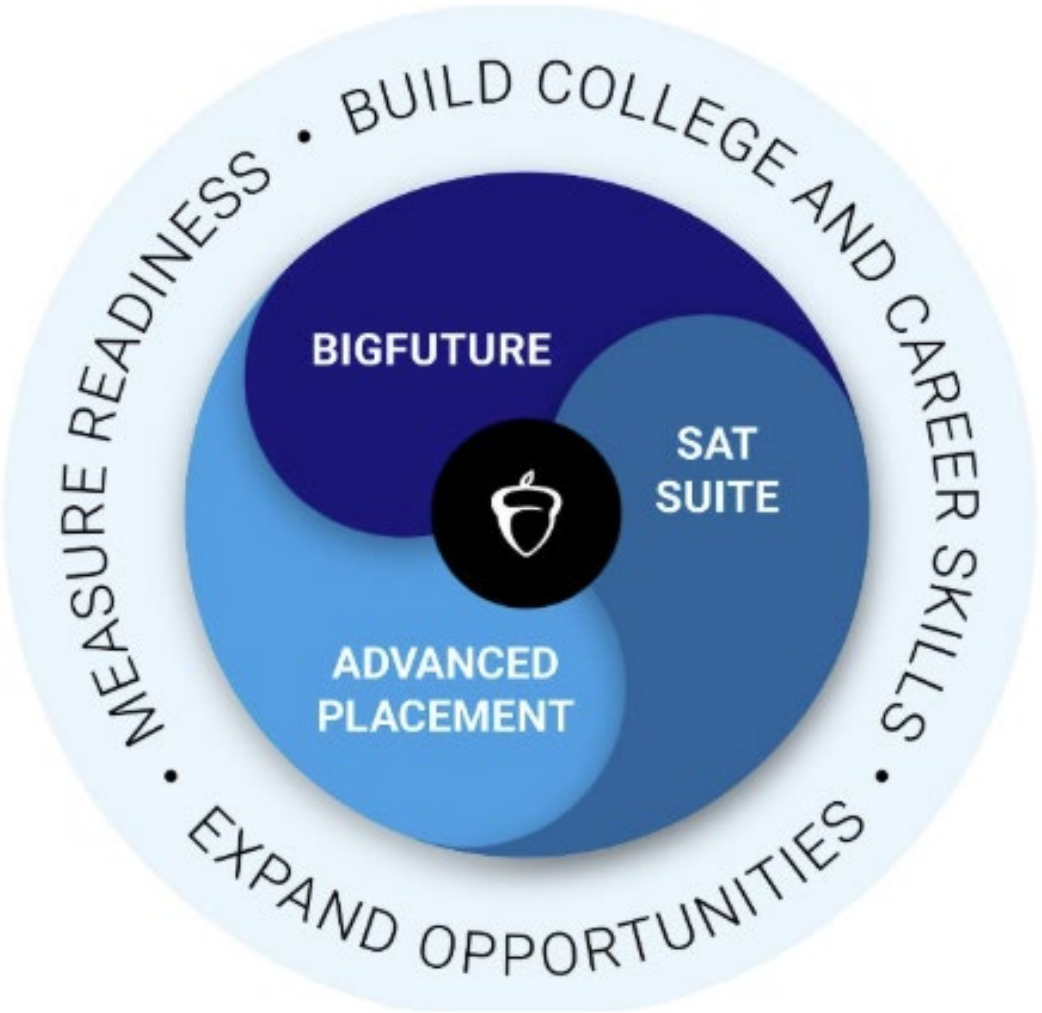
The SAT® Suite measures college and career readiness for every student on one scale, grades 8–12 — so ability shows up in data, not just in who raises their hand.

Develop the Talent

AP Potential™ turns Suite scores into invitations **to AP® coursework** — and AP develops that talent with college-level learning and potential credit.

Direct the Talent

Career Insights and **BigFuture®** turn every score into a personalized plan for college, career, or both — so momentum doesn't stop at a number



A Mission-Driven Partner, at Scale

7.6M

Students helped each year through College Board programs

30K+

Partner schools working with College Board across the country

125+

Years of research-backed program development as a not-for-profit

What do you want for your students?

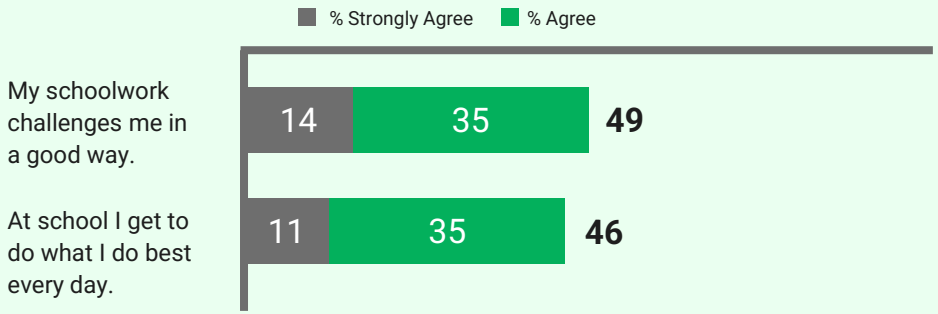


Gen Z expects more—and they're ready for coursework that inspires.

PROBLEM

Less than 50%

of Gen Z say their coursework challenges them or gives them the opportunity to do what they do best.



SOLUTION

According to students

The times you've been very excited about or interested in what you learned in school:

1. The topic was something I wanted to learn more about.
2. I was able to learn in a hands-on way, such as doing an experiment, simulation or demonstration.
3. The topic was something I could use in my everyday life or in a current or future job.

Source: Walton Family Foundation-Gallup Voices of Gen Z Study, *Year 2 Annual Survey Report* https://nextgeninsights.waltonfamilyfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Walton_Gallup_Voices-of-Gen-Z_Year-2-2024-Final-Report.pdf

Learning that matters for college & career

80+%

of students want more career exploration opportunities in high school

70%

of jobs require some form of skills training beyond high school

50%

a child's chance of earning more than their parents has fallen from roughly 90%

Sources: College Board, September 2022 |National Center for Education Statistics, May 2023 | Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce Opportunity Insights, Harvard University: Americans born in 1940 vs. those born in the 1980s

2026 College Board Program Results Vermont Public Schools

CollegeBoard

2026 SAT Participation

Vermont Public Schools

What we saw in **Vermont**

3.1%

% participation change from prior year

2,557

Total Test Takers

51%

Met both benchmarks

14%

Test takers indicating ***Business, Management, and Marketing as intended college major***

5,662 test takers completed the SAT or a PSAT-related assessment (PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, or PSAT 8/9) in the 2025-26 school year.

2026 AP Participation

Vermont Public Schools

What we saw in **Vermont**

6,164

AP Exams Taken

3,441

Total Test Takers

4,953

Number of Exams 3+

6.3%

% Change

4.2%

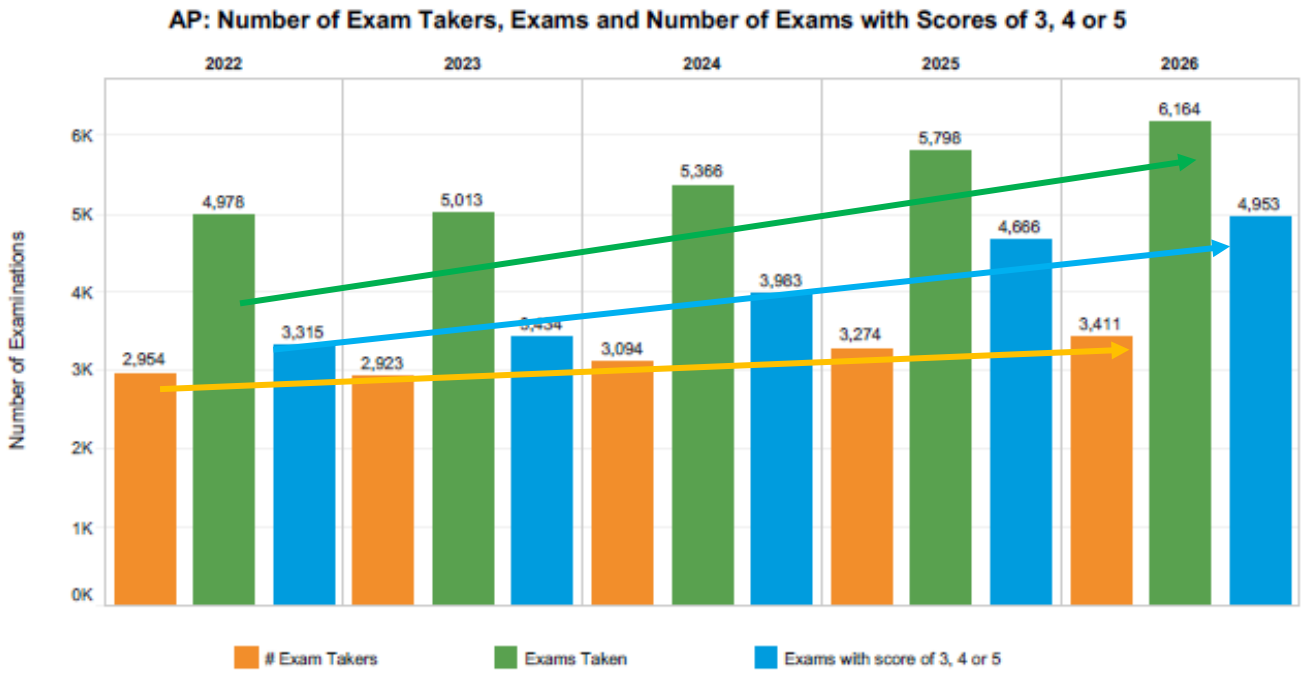
% Change

6.2%

% Change

Exams Taken and Performance vs Test Takers

Are more students given the opportunity to take one or are the same students taking multiple exams?



AP student participation is not growing fast enough to adequately diversify student access

Develop the Talent with AP



Earn College Credit

With qualifying AP® Exam scores, students can earn college credit and placement before setting foot on campus.



Stand Out to Colleges

AP on a transcript gives colleges a clear, nationally recognized signal of motivation and college-level work.



Keep Options Open

Credit earned through AP gives students flexibility to change majors, study abroad, or pursue internships.



Save Time and Money

Earning credit or placement can open room in a student's schedule — or even support early graduation.

Rigor benefits students

Regardless of Score. Research on AP® Exam scores of 1 and 2 shows better college outcomes than for academically similar students who never took AP.



College enrollment: AP students, including those who score a 1 or 2, enroll in four-year colleges at higher rates than academically similar students who did not take AP.



College readiness: Students who score a 2 perform as well or better in the introductory college course as academically similar peers who did not take the AP course.



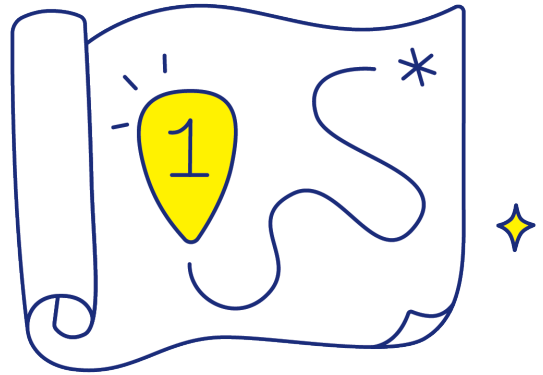
Future progress: Many students who first score a 1 or 2 take more AP courses and score higher, especially 9th and 10th graders who earn a 2.



College credit: 3 out of 4 AP students who enroll in a four-year college start with some AP credit.

START WITH ONE AP

Broaden participation in advanced coursework and strengthen college and career readiness measures.



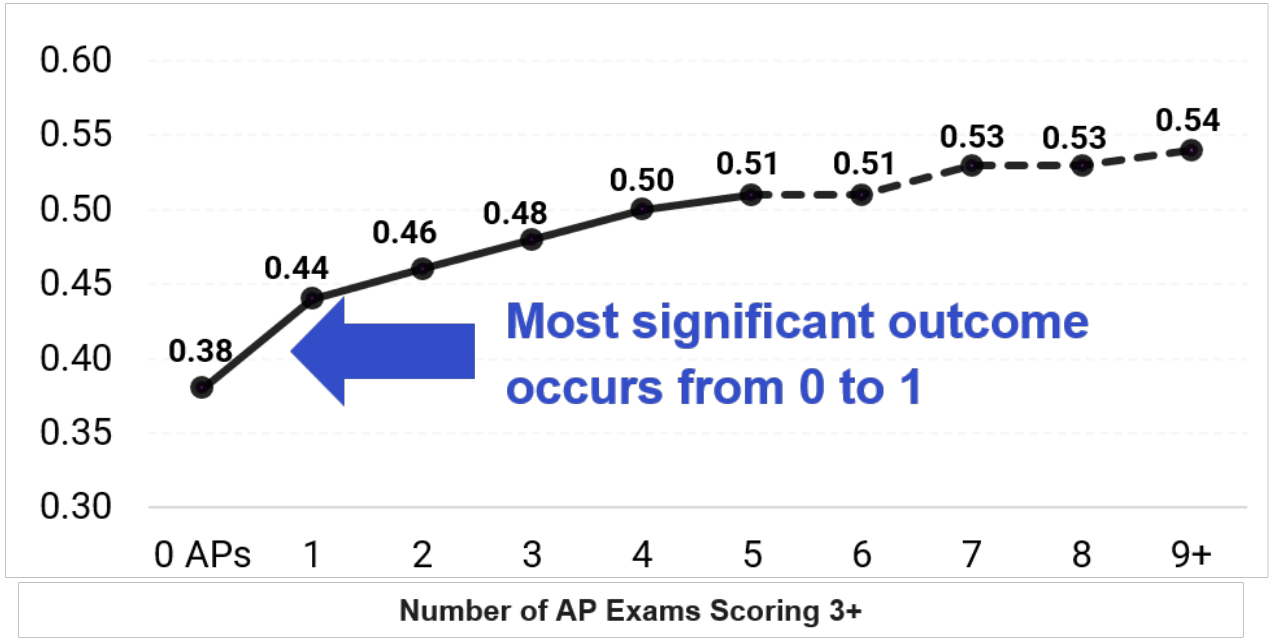
Offering one accessible AP course in grade 9 or 10 can help Vermont districts expand participation, strengthen access to rigor, and support the work of academic excellence

Just one AP Course can change outcomes.

Research show that AP students are:

1. More likely to enroll in college
2. More likely to perform better in college
3. More likely to complete college

Additional AP **Success** is
Positively Related to Degree Completion



Solid lines denote statistically significant relative to one fewer AP Exam.

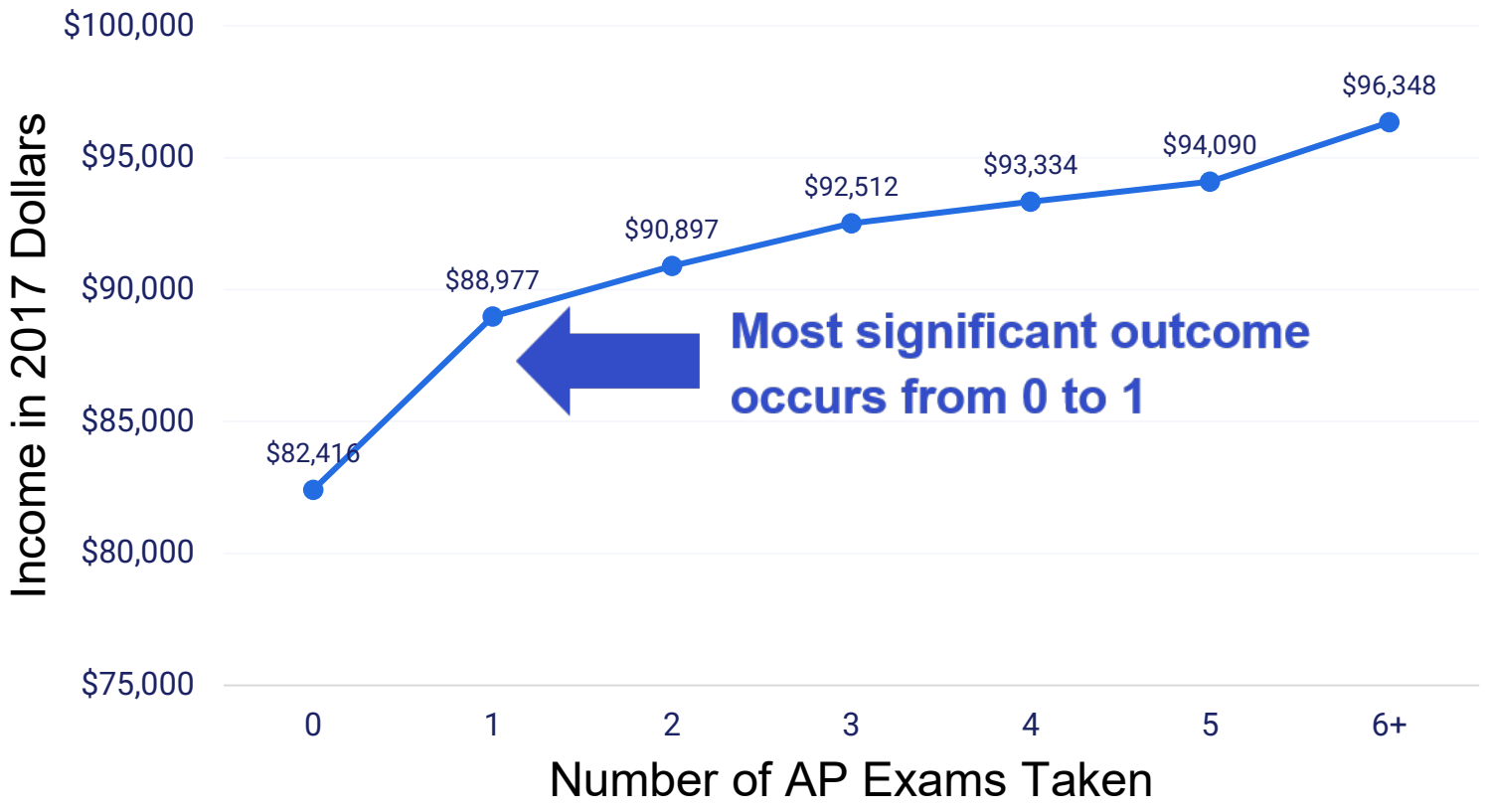
Sources
https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED582570.pdf and https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED583157.pdf

Why Zero to One Matters

+$6,561 with the first AP® Exam

"We find that AP students earn $6,500–$14,000 more per year in their early-30s compared to individuals who did not take AP Exams after controlling for differences in student backgrounds, academic preparation, and access to AP."

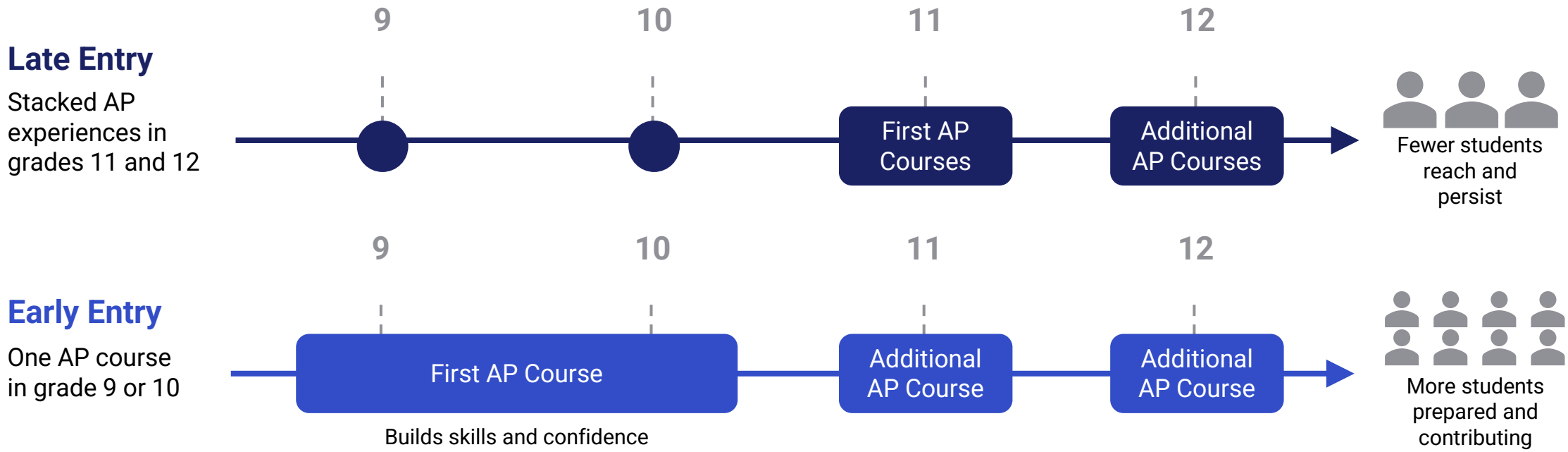
"The largest incremental increase in estimated income – from $82,416 to $88,977 – is associated with students taking their first AP Exam."



Hsu, J., Hurwitz, M., & Mabel, Z. (2020). Evaluating the Relationship Between Advanced Placement and Financial Well-Being in Adulthood. College Board.

When students need an earlier entry point:

Start with One AP early in high school to create a practical entry point into advanced coursework, more opportunities to count toward college readiness, and more time for students to build success.



Start with one course—not a full AP schedule.

Start With One AP

Benefits to VT Districts + Schools

- Expands AP participation through an accessible early entry point
- Establishes a stronger pipeline into additional advanced coursework
- Builds earlier momentum toward the school's advanced-coursework goals
- Increases opportunities to demonstrate college and career readiness

Rationale

A well-positioned first AP course can open the door to continued advanced coursework and success.



Key Takeaway

Start with one course, not a full AP schedule.

Offer a first AP course that's high-interest with no or few prerequisites.

	Student Interest	AP Course
	Business, Money	**AP Business with Personal Finance**
	Technology, AI, Internet	**AP Computer Science Principles**
	Maps, Exploration, Movement	**AP Human Geography**
	New Ideas, Arguments	**AP Seminar**
	Communication	**AP Seminar: English**
	Language Skills	**AP Spanish Language and Culture**
	History	**AP World History: Modern

Start with
One AP



AP Seminar

Students investigate ideas and build arguments backed by evidence.

Why Students Take the Course

- Because it connects to communication, research, public speaking, collaboration, writing, and critical analysis across many subjects.
- And because it helps students become better problem-solvers, more confident speakers, and stronger critical thinkers for college and future careers.

Why it works as a first AP

Builds skills used
across all AP courses

Learn More

Get Connected

AP®

Career Kickstart

Offer AP in high-demand career pathways.



Schools can connect career relevance and college credit in one pathway.

CTE

- Applied learning
- Technical and professional skills
- Clear connection to future work

AP

- College-level coursework
- Nationally recognized AP experience
- Opportunity to earn college credit

High-demand career fields

College degree / postsecondary study

Applied projects, college credit, and employer credentials strengthen CTE pathways.

AP Course	✓ Projects	✓ College Credit Opportunities	✓ Employer Value
AP Business with Personal Finance	• Build a business model and advise on family finances	• College-level learning • College credit • Advanced placement	• Employer validated skills • Employer-endorsed credential
AP Computer Science Principles	• Design a computing or AI-based solution	• College-level learning • College credit • Advanced placement	• Employer validated skills
AP Cybersecurity	• Analyze and respond to cybersecurity risks	• College-level learning • College credit • Advanced placement	• Employer validated skills • Employer-endorsed credential
AP Networking	• Configure and troubleshoot networks	• College-level learning • College credit • Advanced placement	• Employer validated skills • Employer-endorsed credential

Career Kickstart



AP Business with Personal Finance

Students learn how businesses grow and compete—and how to manage money, credit, and personal finance.

Why Students Take the Course

- Because it presents entrepreneurship, finance, marketing, management, and leadership in a hands-on, real-world way.
- And because it helps students think like business leaders, solve real business challenges, and build confidence making financial and business decisions that connect to college, careers, and everyday life.

CTE Program of Study

Business / Finance / Entrepreneurship

Learn More

Get Connected

Creative Innovator | Critical Thinker | Reflective & Future Focused

Career Kickstart



AP Cybersecurity

Students learn how digital systems are protected from attacks, threats, and security risks.

Why Students Take the Course

- Because cybersecurity affects business, government, health care, finance, education, and everyday life.
- And because it helps students build technical and analytical skills used in college and future careers.

CTE Program of Study

Cybersecurity / Information Technology

Learn More

Get Connected

Exclusive: What's next for Career Kickstart?



- AP Business with Personal Finance
- AP Cybersecurity

- AP Networking

Committed

- AP Anatomy & Physiology

In Consideration

- AP Marketing & Sales
- AP Engineering

In Consideration

- AP Agriculture Science
- AP Accounting
- AP Advanced Manufacturing
- AP Digital Art & Design

Implementation Supports



Pre-AP

Help your students get ready with Pre-AP



Chat with a content expert

Schedule a free, one-to-one or group session to ask questions, get practical guidance, and explore resources to prepare for a successful launch.



AP Counselor Credential Program

Online training opportunity for middle and high school counselors, debunk myths around AP and support program growth



AP Professional Learning

Free AP Summer Institutes for all teachers who are new to a course. Personalized options available with district pricing.

The Class of 2026: SAT Suite Learnings

Earlier Insight. Data-Informed Decisions. Stronger Outcomes.

SAT®

Three broad trends in the assessment landscape

Grade inflation and AI complicate readiness signals

AI and inconsistent grading practices have increased the need for **objective measures** that provide a consistent view of student readiness. GPA alone is no longer enough.

Educational institutions are seeking authentic measures

More colleges are reaffirming the value of objective measures to complement other indicators of readiness and that same trend is happening across K-12.

Educators maximizing value by leveraging assessment data

At a time when states and districts need to be more efficient with their spend, educators are unlocking earlier insight from assessments, particularly connected systems, to shape learning paths.

SAT Suite: Not just a test, but a key to unlock **Earlier Insights for educators**, **Data-Informed Decisions** for administrators and **Stronger Outcomes** for learners. An objective readiness signal and authentic measure that delivers value and real opportunity.

New in 2027: A Stronger Suite

The SAT Suite you already trust, now with more capability, more insight, and more value.



Skills-based career connections

Every PSAT and SAT score will power a personalized, skills-based exploration experience, making clear how students' foundational academic skills align with career pathways of interest.



Science Score

The SAT now includes a Science Practices & Foundations score — an integrated measure of cross-disciplinary analytical thinking built directly into the assessment – doesn’t add any testing time.



Improved Growth Reporting

Longitudinal growth data across the full Suite for both students and schools that is actionable for district administrators and curriculum teams.



Google Classroom

SAT Skills Standards now available in Google Classroom. Assessment data connects directly to daily lesson planning and classroom instruction.

Resources focused on foundational skill building

Student Resources



Official Prep on Khan Academy®

Aligned video modules, skill-building, and prep strategies.



My Practice—the HUB

Practice results in, tailored next steps out, to Khan Academy and the question bank.



Student Question Bank

Targeted practice by specific skill area based on learner profile.

Educator Resources



Knowledge & Skills Reports

Strengths and gaps at the student, classroom, school, and district levels.



Skills Insight™

Translates score bands into specific knowledge and skills they represent.



Educator Question Bank

Thousands of official questions, filterable by domain, skill, and difficulty.

All part of the SAT Suite. Our resources help educators extract earlier insights to make data informed decisions that unlock stronger outcomes for every learner.

A Growing Math Readiness Gap

Post-Pandemic Context

- COVID-19 caused documented learning loss, especially in math
- SAT Math scores declined nationally while high school GPAs increased
- Test-optional policies reduced institutional visibility into math readiness
- More students are arriving on campus under-prepared for first-year math

~30×

increase in students arriving below high school math level at one UC campus

UCSD SAWG, 2025

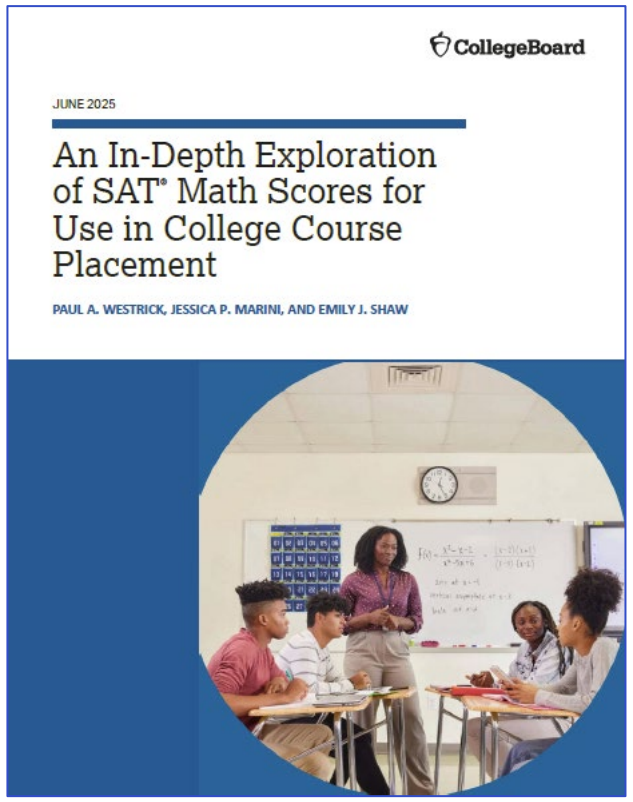
15–17%

of first-year students earn a D, F, or withdrawal in a math course

Marini et al., 2026

About the Research – Study 1

An In-Depth Exploration of SAT Math Scores for Use in College Course Placement



- 54 four-year institutions
- 152,829 students across 4 academic years
- Four math course types: Calculus, Pre-Calc, Algebra, Statistics
- Validity, accuracy rates, and probability-of-success analyses
- Examined impact of when students took the SAT in high school

Thank You

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CollegeBoard