



## Idaho Kick-off Webinar Transcript

### Slide 1

Good morning everyone, this is Stephen McCue, Associate Director for State and District Partnerships with the College Board. I want to welcome you to our kick-off webinar for Idaho School Day Assessments. It is brought to you by the Idaho State Department of Education and the College Board. I'm joined this morning by our colleague from SDE, Melanie Jones, Assessment Coordinator there. We also have a couple of colleagues from the College Board joining us on today's call, Debbie Pennington, Senior Director for Engagement and Outreach for College Board Assessments, and Eddie Pawlawski, Director of Outreach and Implementation. They'll be helping us answer some of the questions you may have as we go through today's deck. You'll see a chat feature on your screen where you can post your questions and we'll get to them at the end of the session this morning. We will be recording this presentation as well and we will email a link to this recording to each of you. This webinar will also be posted to the Idaho State Department of Education website. Let me now turn it over to Melanie Jones who will take us through the first few slides.

### Slide 2

Thanks Stephen and thanks to the College Board staff for coordinating the webinar. Good morning everyone. Thank you for joining us. We wanted to provide a brief update on the college entrance exam code of rules. This code has some updated language and clarifications on some key topics that will likely assist you and your staff when addressing our college entrance exam graduation requirements. The code is connected to our current partnership with the College Board in administering the School Day SAT for juniors and the voluntary, but encouraged, PSAT/NMSQT for sophomores. These updates were voted on and approved by the State Board of Education in June and a final vote by the legislature will occur during the 2018 session. The June vote allows these updates to be in effect now. You can see in bold some of the updates that were made. The un-bolded type shows a continuation of the rule as it stood. Particularly for any new staff here, the college graduation requirements indicated that students must take a college entrance exam prior to the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> grade. In bold, it references that the students who participated in the Compass Assessment, prior to its final administration, may use that to fill the requirement. The students receiving special education services through a current Individualized Education Plan (IEP) may utilize the Accuplacer exam in lieu of the SAT or ACT. Accuplacer is a College Board product and we will be providing you with some professional development on its use later this fall.

### Slide 3

Continuing with some logistics, a student who misses the statewide administration of the SAT college entrance exam for one of the following reasons can take the exam during their senior year to meet the requirements. If they have transferred to an Idaho school during the 11<sup>th</sup> grade and have not previously participated in one of the allowed college entrance exams, SAT or ACT. If the student was homeschooled during grade 11 and is enrolled in an Idaho high school as a diploma seeking student or if they missed the statewide administration of college entrance exam dates for documented medical reasons.

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Continuing on, a student may elect an exemption for the college entrance exam requirement if that student is receiving special education services through a current Individualized Education Plan (IEP) that specifies the student meets the alternate assessment eligibility criteria. Also if the student is enrolled in a Limited English Proficiency (LEP) program for three academic years or less. Also if the student is transferring from an out of state school to an Idaho high school in grade 12. **Something new is bolded at the end,** a school district on behalf of a student, on a form established by the State Department of Education, may submit an appeal to this graduation requirement requesting that our superintendent review and consider another college entrance exam or college placement exam to fulfill this requirement or exempt the student due to extenuating circumstances. A small clarification here, the emphasis would need to be extenuating and somewhat life-altering circumstances.

### Slide 5

Important to Know. There is no fall senior make up SAT test date. Seniors, who are not exempt from the college entrance exam requirement based upon the rule criteria, will need to pay for the test on their own. When applicable, staff may submit an appeal based upon the extenuating circumstances that led to the student missing the exam during their junior year. You would need to emphasize that they missed the primary date and the make-up date and then also attach medical documentation if there were extenuating circumstances. Counselors/School level test supervisors will be required to seek documentation from a senior that would be taking it. So this piece means a senior can take it if the following rules are met: if they've missed the two test dates, for example if they were in a bad car accident. If there's medical documentation from the counselor, the senior may take it, however as a reminder, there will be no fall test date. The senior would have to take the exam with the juniors in the spring. If they need to take it prior, it would have to be at their own expense. A couple of reminders, the state will continue to pay for 10<sup>th</sup> graders who take the PSAT/NMSQT. This is an optional assessment but encouraged. The state coordinates and offers statewide two opportunities for juniors to take the SAT in the spring. It's important that schools are ready to offer that make-up date because seniors will not have the opportunity to make it up in the fall. The last message I wanted to share with you has to do with some messaging. This isn't just a simple requirement or checklist. We have seen that despite pathway or student indecision, the outcome of participating in a college entrance exam can be surprising and often open up opportunities and ideas. So we're looking forward to partnering with you and the College Board this year in administering these assessments. I'll turn it over to Steve now. Thanks.

### Slide 6

Thank you Melanie. To continue on now, I'd like to start by sharing with you some important dates. We have PSAT/NMSQT School Day coming up soon on October 11<sup>th</sup>. You can still place orders for that exam. The deadline to do so is September 22<sup>nd</sup>. With regard to accommodation requests, you should still consider getting those requests in as early as possible for the spring SAT. A reminder that once a student is approved for accommodations, those accommodations are valid for all College Board assessments. If you are planning to place an order for the PSAT/NMSQT another reminder that you will need to have a College Board account set up first if you don't already have one. It is a fairly simple process and you can go to the College Board's website to find directions how to do so. You will then need an access code to place your order. SAT School Day will be April 10<sup>th</sup>, with a makeup day on April 24<sup>th</sup>. We will be sending you an intake form for you to update information about contacts. You'll also receive a School Day calendar later this fall.

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For the next couple of slides I want to share with you some information about the partnership between the College Board and the State Department of Education including a timeline and some resources to help you prepare for the 2017-18 test administrations.

### Slide 8

Here we have a glance at how these assessments work in relationship to one another. PSAT/NMSQT is considered a baseline where students can get a grasp on which skills they are struggling with and which skills they are doing well with so they can better prepare for the SAT. The resources we provide to PSAT/NMSQT test takers are a really good starting point for them to get better prepared for their college entrance exam. Students, again as Melanie has described, have the option to take Accuplacer and the SAT of course is the college entrance exam they can take during junior year.

### Slide 9

One of the reasons why the SAT Suite of Assessments is so powerful is because the PSAT/NMSQT and the SAT are on a vertical scale. That means that students and educators can see the progress made by students moving from one exam to the next. In other words if a student scored 500 on the math section of the PSAT/NMSQT and the following year scored 575 on the math section of the SAT, we can clearly state that the student has progressed by 75 points.

### Slide 10

The fall 10<sup>th</sup> grade PSAT/NMSQT administration is optional in Idaho but it is really a great initiative for schools to pursue so their students can improve their skills based on the feedback we provide them. October 11<sup>th</sup> is the primary test date. If schools have an unavoidable conflict with that date, they can use the alternate test date which is October 25<sup>th</sup>. All orders need to be placed through the Test Ordering System and the deadline to do so is September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Students and schools will both receive PSAT/NMSQT score reports in December.

### Slide 11

Any 11<sup>th</sup> graders who take the PSAT/NMSQT are automatically entered into the National Merit Scholarship competition. School and districts may choose to add 11<sup>th</sup> graders to the PSAT/NMSQT administration in October but as a reminder, the State Department of Education only covers the cost of 10<sup>th</sup> grade PSAT/NMSQT exams. 11<sup>th</sup> graders who are income eligible for fee waivers may also use them to take the PSAT/NMSQT in October. Another reason why the PSAT/NMSQT exam is so helpful for students is the many scholarships associated with it. The PSAT/NMSQT is associated with millions of dollars in scholarships. Some of our new scholarship partners appear in this slide.

### Slide 12

It is important to update or confirm the contact information for the PSAT/NMSQT Coordinator at your school. This is also a good time to think about test logistics and personnel needed to administer the test. You will need to also think about testing rooms and how the administration of the test might affect class schedules. It is also a good idea to formulate a communications plan that your school will use to inform both students and families about the upcoming test.

### Slide 13

We are looking forward to the spring administration of the SAT for 11<sup>th</sup> graders. The primary test day is April 10<sup>th</sup> and the makeup test day is April 24<sup>th</sup>. One item to note is that the essay will not be part of this spring's SAT School Day test administration.

### Slide 14

New items for 2017-18 include a streamlined accommodations process. Students who currently receive accommodations at school as part of an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 will typically now have those accommodations automatically approved by the College Board for use on our assessments as well. As a result, the process will likely be quicker and there will be fewer occasions when additional documentation is required. New ELL options include dictionaries that have been translated into multiple languages that students can now use to assist them with test directions. The student questionnaire is also more compact and requires less time to complete which will save time on test day. Students will also now be able to send their four free SAT score sends by identifying the colleges directly on their answer sheet rather than going through their College Board account. There is also a new process for 11<sup>th</sup> grade fee waivers on the PSAT/NMSQT. In December we will send a roster of test takers to the school and the PSAT/NMSQT Coordinator will simply be able to check off the names of those students who are using a fee waiver. There is also no admissions ticket required for the SAT and no test day paper registration as well.

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We also wanted to remind you about the benefits associated with student usage of Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy. PSAT/NMSQT test takers can link their College Board account with Khan Academy to receive a personalized practice plan identifying the specific skills they need to practice the most. Khan Academy then provides the students with practice material so they can further develop those skills. Again this is a wonderful way for students to receive free, world-class practice material to help them

prepare for the SAT. We hope you pass along information to your students and their families about this resource and encourage them to use it as much as possible.

#### Slide 16

Now is also a good time to inform your students about the PSAT/NMSQT and share with them the purpose, content and benefits of the exam. For many 10<sup>th</sup> graders, this will be their first step on the path toward college and career readiness. There are resources, handouts and presentations available at this website for both students and parents.

#### Slide 17

This slide shows results from a recent study of 250,000 students who took PSAT/NMSQT and then SAT after utilizing Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy. The research shows that a little bit of practice goes a long way. Twenty hours of practice on Khan Academy resulted in an average score increase on the SAT of 115 points. That type of increase might help students get access to additional colleges.

#### Slide 18

There are many organizations that are partnering with the College Board to help provide students with access to Khan Academy, including the Boys and Girls Club of America. 28% of SAT practice also occurs during school hours. This shows the strong support teachers have for this tool. States that administer the SAT to all juniors, like Idaho, also show the highest percentage of students who have linked their College Board account with Khan Academy.

#### Slide 19

Here we have some recently added features. There are live Khan Academy sessions available on YouTube that students are encouraged to join and ask questions. We also have a new guide which features Educator Best Practices. We have also added more official practice SAT tests to Khan Academy. Now there are a total of eight practice tests available. Khan Academy also now features guided essay practice in which students can respond to three separate essay prompts and receive instant feedback about their written response using artificial intelligence.

#### Slide 20

Here we have some items currently in development. They include coaching tools for educators. Khan Academy has also been adding deeper skills in ELA to help students practice. Additional research on score gains will also be available in 2018 when our complete research study is made available. We are also developing additional curriculum resources to help teachers use Official SAT Practice in their classrooms.

#### Slide 21

We have recently released some new coaching resources for educators. Educators can now set themselves up as a coach on Khan Academy and monitor the practice work being done by their students. This will allow coaches to see which skills the student needs to develop the most and how much progress they are making to that end. We also have lesson plans for teachers in math, reading

and writing. Coaches can also see whether their students have linked their College Board account with Khan Academy. Educators will also be able to monitor the number of practice questions and practice tests the students have taken and the progress that they are making.

#### Slide 22

Here we have both the telephone numbers and email addresses for both Melanie Jones and myself. Please feel free to contact us if you have further questions about the School Day program.

#### Slide 23

On this slide there are some key details about the PSAT/NMSQT Bulk Registration process including some key dates. The last day to complete the Bulk Registration upload for 10<sup>th</sup> graders is September 21<sup>st</sup> and the final day to place test orders for PSAT/NMSQT is September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Secure test materials will be arriving at the schools by October 4<sup>th</sup> and test day again is October 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### Slide 24

We also wanted to share with you some expectations moving forward whenever our team is attempting to contact you about the School Day program. All of our communications will clearly indicate Idaho School Day moving forward allowing you to differentiate communications from both College Board and SDE. All emails will also have an easily identifiable email address and will have a special subject line in the email as seen here. We know you sometimes receive other emails from both SDE and College Board so know you will be able to determine when those communications pertain to the School Day assessments.

#### Slide 25

Finally, we have the logos seen here that will be featured on all School Day materials moving forward.