

---

# Need Assistance with the Optional Essay?

Here are some frequently asked questions about the optional SAT Essay for Idaho SAT School Day test administrators.

## Is the SAT with Essay available for Idaho students in spring 2021?

All students registered for the spring SAT School Day via bulk registration are eligible to take the SAT. The SAT without Essay is the default registration for all students. In spring 2021, Idaho students will have the option to take the SAT with Essay as a state-paid choice.

## Why might students choose to participate in the optional SAT Essay?

Idaho students will have the option to take the SAT with Essay as a state-paid choice. Adding the optional Essay to their SAT registration is an individual student choice. The optional Essay requires students to make purposeful, substantive use of textual evidence in a way that can be objectively evaluated. The optional Essay connects reading and writing in a manner that both embodies and reinforces the interdependency of ELA/literacy skills. Also, the Essay may be required by some colleges, universities, and scholarship providers. To review a list of school's essay policies, go to:

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/college-essay-policies>

## When do students make the decision about adding the optional SAT Essay?

Students who wish to take the Essay must register for it between January 22, 2021 and February 5, 2021, by 10 p.m. Mountain. Students will add the Essay to their registration through their online College Board account found by logging in at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org), or by calling the College Board at 855-373-6387, Option 2.

## How do students register for the optional Essay?

Students may register online at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) using their existing College Board account (or creating a new one if they don't already have one) or by calling the College Board's at 855-373-6387, Option 2. We recommend having interested students update their registration during the school day so that you can assist if they have a problem.

## Can students be registered for the optional Essay during the bulk registration process?

No, bulk registration for the SAT Essay is not available. The decision to opt into the essay is an individual student choice. Students will add the Essay to their registration individually through their College Board account by logging in at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org), or by calling the College Board at 855-373-6387, Option 2.

## When is the optional Essay offered during the SAT administration?

The Essay is offered at the conclusion of the required SAT tests (Reading, Writing and Language, and Math) and adds approximately 50 minutes to the testing experience.

## Can a student remove the optional Essay from a registration if they change their mind?

If a student changes their mind and would like to remove the optional Essay, they can select the link to “Remove the Essay from my registration” before the February 5, 2021 deadline. Students will not be able to remove the optional Essay from their registration after February 5, 2021.

## What happens if a student registers for the optional Essay but does not participate on test day?

If the student marks the indicator for optional Essay but doesn’t take the essay, they will receive their multiple-choice score and a 0 score for the essay. If the student doesn’t mark the essay indicator, they will receive scores only from the multiple-choice sections.

## What happens if a student transferred to a school or district and did not register for the optional Essay in their student account before the February 5 deadline?

If a student transferred to a school or district after the bulk registration process was complete and did not have the opportunity to register for the optional Essay in their College Board student account before the February 5 deadline, the school should contact [IdahoSDSupport@collegeboard.org](mailto:IdahoSDSupport@collegeboard.org) immediately for assistance.

## Can students practice for the optional Essay?

Students can practice for the optional Essay by visiting the Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy site at: <http://satpractice.org>.

## Are accommodations available for students?

Students and parents should work with their school’s Services for Students with Disabilities Coordinator to submit requests for students who may need an accommodation for the writing task. Students with already approved accommodations may need to have an additional request submitted for the optional Essay. All requests for accommodations should be submitted by February 22, 2021.

## Can test coordinators identify students who registered for the optional Essay?

Test Coordinators can monitor student essay registrations by logging into the Educator Reporting Portal and using your College Board Professional Account to view the Registration Roster Report for Essay registrations

## Need assistance?

If you need additional assistance, please contact: [IdahoSDSupport@collegeboard.org](mailto:IdahoSDSupport@collegeboard.org), or Stephen McCue ([smccue@collegeboard.org](mailto:smccue@collegeboard.org)).