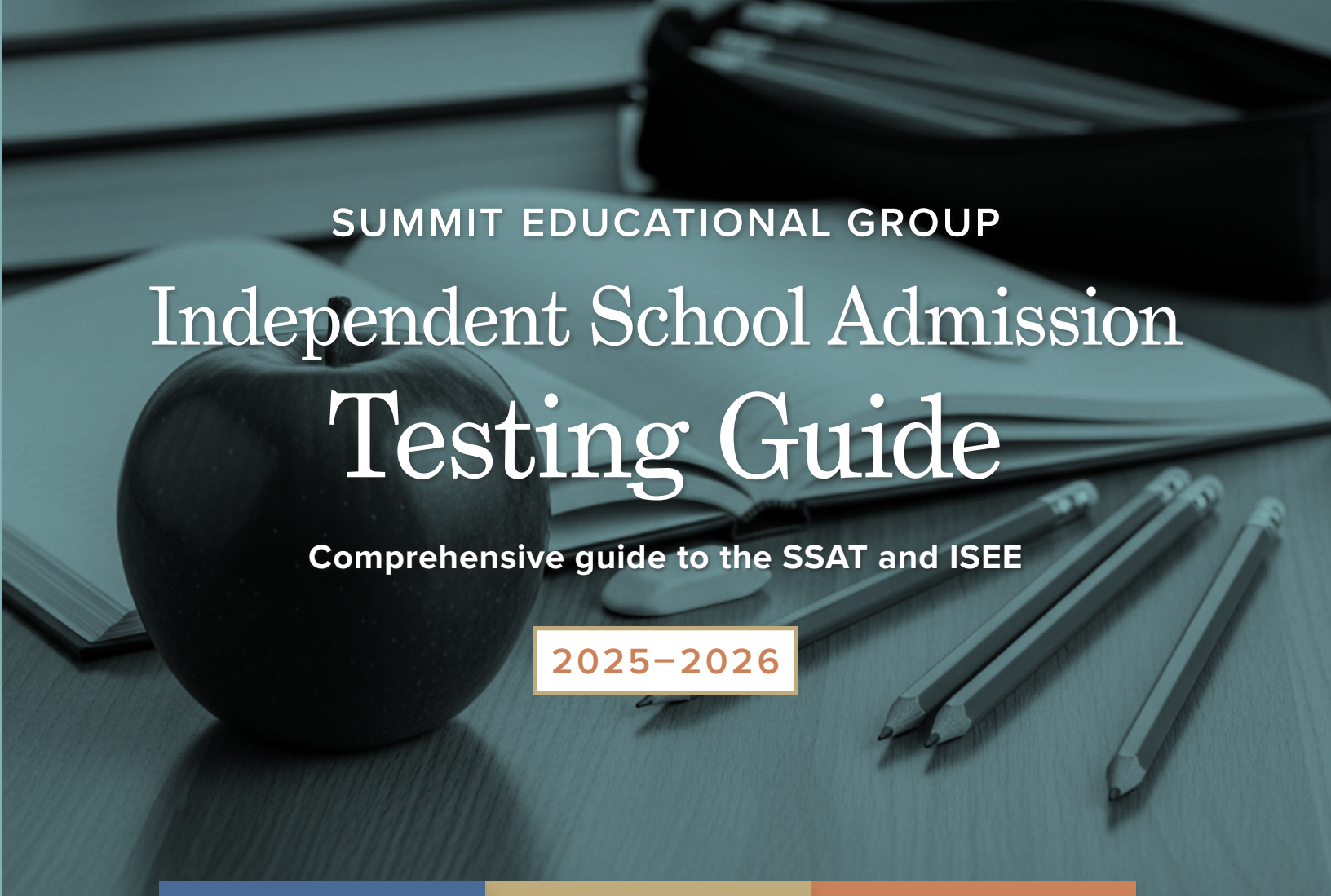




SUMMIT EDUCATIONAL GROUP

Independent School Admission Testing Guide

Comprehensive guide to the SSAT and ISEE

2025–2026

Advice for creating
a sane and sensible
testing plan

Admissions facts
for a sample of
independent schools

Detailed comparison
between the
SSAT and ISEE

*The essential independent school admission testing guide for families,
school counselors, and educational consultants.*

LETTER FROM SUMMIT

Dear Colleagues, Parents, and Students,

The independent school admissions process is often an exciting time for families, but can also be a process that induces stress, particularly when it is for the first time. Many selective independent schools continue to require testing or have shifted from a test optional policy back to requiring testing from applicants. Other schools have remained test optional. Questions remain about what test optional policies mean for students: Should I submit scores? What does test-optional really mean? Do I even need to take these tests at all?

In this test optional and competitive admissions landscape, we continue to advise students to test with an 'everything to gain, nothing to lose' mindset. Test optional does not mean test blind, nor does it mean that SSAT or ISEE scores are unimportant. Test scores still play a role in the admissions process. Scores that enhance a student's application will allow that student to stand out. Especially in the era of grade inflation, SSAT or ISEE scores can validate a student's transcript and further demonstrate their academic readiness. For the vast majority of students, having strong scores that they can submit to a wide range of schools will only help.

Summit is proud to have successfully provided families with expert support through the SSAT and ISEE process for several decades. Our program directors can develop a customized testing plan for your student and our SSAT/ISEE tutors are specifically trained to work with the content on these tests for the younger age levels. We are able to provide tutoring and practice tests through paper and digital methods depending on which testing method will work best for your student.

Given the mix of testing policies at different schools, it is also likely that some of the schools on your list will require testing. When it comes to test preparation, we recommend that students map out their unique, customized testing plan early in the process. Our goal is always to help students score to their true potential on test day and to achieve a score that showcases their academic abilities.

Summit works hard to keep you current on all of the changes. In addition to providing exceptional 1-1 test preparation and academic tutoring services, we strive to be a trusted, expert resource for counselors and families navigating the process. This complementary, annual Independent School Admission Testing Guide is a valuable tool that will answer many of your questions. Hang onto it and refer to it often throughout your independent school admissions journey.

If you're looking for professional, thoughtful, personal guidance, expert tutors and teachers, and exceptional test prep and academic tutoring, we are here for you. We are very proud that **85% of our families come as referrals** from their friends, school counselors, private consultants, learning specialists, and others. It means we are doing well by our students and families and the rest of our constituents.

Our commitment is to your success on your terms. We encourage you to contact us. We'd be delighted to help in any way we can.

Sincerely,



Michael Dean
VP, Academic Services
Summit Educational Group



Drew Heilpern
Brand Ambassador
Summit Educational Group

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ABOUT SUMMIT EDUCATIONAL GROUP

For more than 35 years, Summit has provided premium, one-on-one test preparation and academic tutoring services, delivered both in-home and online. Our goal is to help students reach their full academic potential while reducing anxiety and building confidence. We pride ourselves on our high level of service, course materials, and most importantly, our outstanding tutors. We know that a strong tutor — and the right tutor — is essential to a successful tutoring program.



One-on-One Test Prep



Summit's customized, one-on-one, in-home and online tutoring prepares students for the SAT, ACT, PSAT, SSAT, ISEE, and AP exams. Families choose us for our expertise, reputation, and results. We use a three-pronged approach to lead students to standardized testing success, integrating a proven combination of academic skill-building, test-taking strategy, and ongoing practice testing.

Prior to starting our SAT or ACT test prep, our Foundations program can help fill skill gaps in the math and verbal content on the SAT and ACT. With our curriculum specifically developed for learning the necessary fundamentals, Foundations tutors work one-on-one with students to help them succeed in their later, full-fledged test prep program.



One-on-One Academic Prep

Summit's highly qualified tutors can help students who want targeted support with a specific subject as well as additional instruction to help them excel. We provide tutoring in most subjects, including English, math, science, history, and languages. Utilizing course syllabi and textbooks, Summit academic tutors are able to provide additional course instruction, help with homework, and facilitate study for mid-terms and final exams. We believe in meeting students where they are and designing a 1-1 tutoring program that will help them excel in the classroom.

Our tutors can help your student conquer AP exams. Whether for ongoing learning support throughout the year or review and preparation leading up to test day, we customize each and every AP program to specifically fit your student's needs.

Summit's Academic Managers help students stay engaged with schoolwork and on top of their schedule. They help ensure that homework is completed successfully and on time, holding students accountable while helping to improve organizational and study skills. Academic Managers will also collaborate with students to create work plans. We provide comprehensive reports following every session, making parents aware of any areas where students might need additional support.



Advanced One-on-One Math & Writing Courses

Summit's Peak academic programs are advanced, 1-1 math and writing programs designed to accelerate a student's math or writing development. Students who complete these programs are prepared to excel in the honors, accelerated, and AP courses that lie ahead. Designed for students in grades 4–10, Peak programs are all delivered 1-1 by our expert, professional tutors.



Peak Writing Program

The Peak Reading & Writing program, for students in grades 5–9, gives students a solid foundation of basic essay-writing skills. Students finish the program with a strong knowledge of how to structure essays, write strong thesis statements, and support their arguments. They also learn key reading strategies that are essential for implementing these writing skills.

The Peak Analytical Writing program, for students in grades 8–12, teaches students the art of analytical writing, the most frequent and often most challenging form of writing students encounter in high school and college.

SUMMIT'S PROVEN PROCESS

OUR APPROACH

As a Summit client, you get more than a great tutor. You also get an entire team of experts dedicated to your student's success. Your Program Director serves as your personal advisor and dedicated resource, from carefully matching your student with one of our expert tutors to checking in with you along the way to ensure goals are being met. In addition, you gain access to our proven resources, including proprietary course materials and curricula.



Initial Diagnostic

Whether your student's focus is test prep, academic, or one-on-one accelerated math and writing, successful tutoring programs begin with a baseline diagnostic assessment. **We use the results of our diagnostic tests to customize the program for your student.** Students in our academic and advanced programs start with an initial skill assessment. Test prep students begin by taking a proctored practice test. Your Program Director, together with your family, will craft a customized and sensible tutoring plan and will recommend the number of tutoring sessions, taking into account your student's strengths, areas in need of improvement, learning schedule, and timeline.



Individualized Tutoring Plan

We recognize that every student is unique — in personality, learning style, and goals. That is why we customize each of our programs to fit the individual, putting the student's well-being front and center. From the first phone call, we make the success of your student our number one priority. Our Program Directors will recommend the right tutoring program for your student. While every program varies, our typical programs consist of 12 to 16 weekly 90-minute sessions. Everything is customized to be as flexible as possible. **There is no minimum or maximum number of sessions for any of our programs.**



Tutor Matching

After completing a thorough intake to learn about your student's personality, learning style, and goals, your Program Director matches your student to the tutor who will be the best fit. Our tutors are passionate teachers who know how to motivate, build confidence, and raise scores and grades. **A strong tutor — and the right tutor — is essential to a successful tutoring program.**



One-on-One Tutoring

Whether your student chooses



in-home or online tutoring, your family will receive the same great Summit services and results. We believe one-on-one tutoring is the best way to effectively teach students. Each tutoring session is geared to your student. We work with your student to set specific goals, customize lessons, and evaluate progress along the way. A continuous assessment of needs and customization is at the core of every Summit program. After each session, you receive a lesson recap email to monitor progress and to learn of any areas where your student needs additional support.

In-home tutoring services are currently available in various regions throughout New England and New York. Your student's test prep takes place in their home, on their schedule.

If in-home tutoring is not available in your area or your student needs even more convenience and flexibility, our online tutoring platform offers the same curriculum and tutoring as our in-home options. Online students can work through problems with their tutor as they interact and collaborate through a shared whiteboard. Online tutoring is live, dynamic, and as productive as in-person tutoring.



Practice Tests and Progress Checks Along the Way

Checkpoints throughout all of our tutoring programs are an important means of assessing student progress. Students in test prep programs apply their newly acquired skills and strategies by taking practice tests in a simulated environment (see below for the many ways you can take a proctored practice test with Summit). Results from practice tests inform future sessions as tutors and students continue to work together toward their score goals.

Our tutors in academic programs also measure student progress toward key goals. These goals can be based on major assignments from school courses, or more advanced tasks that push students to achieve the highest levels of mastery in a subject.



Achieve Your Goal

We're committed to helping our students achieve their goals...and we know we've been successful: 85% of our families are referred to us by school counselors, educational consultants, and other families we've worked with. They've all seen firsthand how Summit's approach builds confidence and maximizes grades and test scores.

MANY OPTIONS TO TAKE A PRACTICE TEST WITH SUMMIT



In-Person SAT, ACT, SSAT, ISEE, and AP

We offer in-person proctored practice tests at locations throughout Southern New England and New York.



Virtual Proctor — Paper Test — ACT, SSAT, and ISEE

If you're not able to make it to one of our testing sites, take a paper test over Zoom with one of our virtual proctors. These live, virtually proctored tests follow the same prescribed script and timing of the official tests, providing an excellent simulation of the actual test day experience.



Self-Proctor — SAT, ACT, SSAT, and ISEE

Self-proctoring is for students who cannot attend one of our scheduled practice test dates.

We can either mail you a paper test as well as the instructions for taking it or you can take an online test using our digital testing platform. With our self-proctored option, students get to experience the testing format, structure and timing with the convenience of taking it whenever suits them best. Note that students can take our digital SAT proctored in one of our offices or at home on their own.



Online — Computer-Based Test — SAT, ACT, SSAT, ISEE, and AP

The practice tests on our digital test platform mirror the timing and difficulty of official tests, providing an excellent simulation of the test day experience. See pg. v for details.

DIGITAL PRACTICE TEST ADMINISTRATION

Summit is proud to offer digital practice tests through TAO, a web-based testing platform that provides students with convenient and flexible test administration. Whether students are taking a PSAT, SAT, ACT, AP, SSAT, or ISEE, our testing platform simulates the experience of taking the official, computer-based versions of these tests, allowing students to test on their own time. Key features include:

Delivery of all main college and high school admission tests	PSAT, SAT, ACT, AP, SSAT, and ISEE, as well as academic math assessments, are offered.
Real, computer-based test experience	Each test type closely mimics the features seen in the official, digital version for that particular test type. Our digital SAT is fully adaptive.
Support for extended time testing	Our digital test platform offers both standard and extended time testing options.
Convenience and flexibility	Our digital test platform is web-based, so take a test whenever and wherever students have an internet connection.
Support for multiple devices	Most Apple or PC devices can be used. Desktops, laptops, and tablets are all supported.
Immediate scores and feedback	Scores are available upon completion of the test, and Summit's detailed score reports identify students' strengths and areas for improvement.

CONVENIENT TESTING OPTION FOR SCHOOLS

Summit's digital testing platform also gives schools a convenient, student-friendly alternative to administering on-campus practice tests. Important benefits to schools include:

Accommodates busy schedules	Schedule the test for a specific day and time or provide a longer testing window (e.g., 1 week) so even the busiest students can find time to test.
Ease of administration	Our digital test platform eliminates the need to find available rooms, proctors, or that perfect day and time.
Free for partner schools	We offer our digital test platform as a free resource for partner schools and charge only a nominal per student fee for non-partner schools.
Immediate scores and feedback	Individual and group score reports available as soon as students complete the test.

Taking practice tests is a critical component of successful test preparation, and Summit offers multiple testing options for students, including our new digital test platform. Please see page vi or visit <https://www.mytutor.com/events/practice-tests> to learn about all of our free practice test options. If you are a school looking to set up a practice test with Summit, please contact info@mytutor.com.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES FOR SCHOOL PARTNERS

For more than 35 years, Summit Educational Group has been a trusted resource to schools in New England and New York. Our school partnerships include complimentary presentations for parents, faculty trainings, free practice tests, and classroom-based test prep programs. We strive to reduce anxiety, increase clarity, and impart confidence to families and educators around the college admission standardized testing landscape.



Parent and Faculty Information Sessions

Every year, Summit is asked to give informational talks on the testing process to students, parents, and faculty at some of the most competitive schools in the Northeast. Our objective is to provide honest, stress-free information about the admission testing process. In the past year, **we have delivered over 135 presentations.**



Classroom-Based Test Prep Programs

Over the past year, we've **conducted more than 145 classroom-based test prep programs.** No two schools are alike, and neither are any two Summit programs. We recognize that every school has a unique student body and unique needs, and we customize our test prep programs to meet those needs.



Practice Tests

Summit conducts proctored practice tests at many schools throughout our region. Within a week of the test, schools receive a comprehensive group score report, and students receive detailed, individual reports. Our new Digital Test Platform (below) offers an even more convenient testing option, with immediate score reports and no need to schedule rooms or proctors.



Course Material and Teacher Training

Schools from around the world leverage Summit's best-in-class curriculum to support their programs. Our books blend core academic skill-building with proven test prep strategy in an easy-to-understand format. With our customized professional development and training sessions, you and your colleagues will have the comprehensive understanding to make the most of your new Summit course materials.



Digital Test Platform

Summit's Digital Test Platform (DTP) is a one-of-a-kind, web-based testing platform that provides a convenient way to take timed practice tests on a student's own schedule. DTP is designed to simulate the computer-based version of each individual test, so students will know exactly what to expect on test day. Detailed score reports provide actionable feedback immediately upon completion of a full practice test or practice test section. We offer the DTP as a resource for our partner schools.

SUMMIT'S SCHOOL PARTNERS

Andover High School, MA	Greenwich High School, CT	Miss Hall's School, MA	Sharon High School, MA
Atrium School, MA	Groton School, MA	Moses Brown School, MA	Simsbury High School, CT
Avon Old Farms School, CT	Haldane High School, MA	Mother Caroline Academy, MA	St. George's School, RI
Bancroft School, MA	Hamden Hall Country Day School, MA	Natick High School, MA	St. John's Preparatory School, MA
Belmont Day School, MA	The Harvey School, NY	Nativity Preparatory School, MA	St. Joseph's High School, CT
Belmont High School, MA	High School of American Studies, NY	Needham High School, MA	St. Luke's School, CT
Boston College High School, MA	High School of Environmental Studies, NY	New Canaan Country School, CT	South Kent School, CT
Boston Latin School, MA	Hopkins School, CT	New Canaan High School, CT	Staples High School, CT
Brimmer and May School, MA	Hopkinton High School, MA	The Newman School, MA	Suffield Academy, CT
British International School of Boston, MA	The Hotchkiss School, CT	Newton North High School, MA	Swampscott High School, MA
Brookline High School, MA	Immaculate High School, CT	Newton South High School, MA	Taft School Summer Program, CT
Buckingham Browne & Nichols School, MA	John Jay High School, NY	Noble and Greenough School, MA	Thayer Academy, MA
Canterbury School, CT	Kent School, CT	North Salem High School, NY	The Ursuline School, NY
Charles River School, MA	King Phillip Regional High School, MA	North Shore Hockey Academy, MA	The Winchendon School, MA
Cheshire Academy, CT	King School, CT	Northfield Mount Herman Summer Program, MA	Ursuline Academy, MA
Choate Rosemary Hall, CT	Kingswood Oxford, CT	Norwood High School, MA	Waring School, MA
Collegiate School, NY	Lawrence Academy, MA	Notre Dame Academy, MA	Watertown High School, MA
Dana Hall School, MA	The Leffell School, NY	Phillips Academy Andover Summer Program, MA	Watkinson School, CT
Darien High School, CT	Lexington High School, MA	Pleasantville High School, NY	Wellesley High School, MA
Dexter Southfield School, MA	Lincoln School, RI	Pomfret School, CT	Weston High School, MA
Dover-Sherborn High School, MA	Loomis Chaffee School, CT	Providence Country Day School, RI	Westminster School, CT
Eagle Hill School, MA	Loomis Chaffee Summer Program, CT	Ramapo High School, NJ	Weston High School, CT
Ethel Walker School, CT	The MacDuffie School, MA	The Rashi School, MA	Westover School, CT
Farmington High School, CT	Magen David Yeshiva High School, NY	Rectory School, CT	Westwood High School, MA
Fessenden School, MA	Maimonides School, MA	Ridgefield High School, CT	Whitby School, CT
Fontbonne Academy, MA	Manchester Essex Regional High School, MA	Rising Tide Charter School, MA	Wilbraham & Munson Academy, MA
Forman School, CT	Marianapolis Preparatory School, MA	The Rivers School, MA	Wilton High School, CT
The Frederick Gunn School, CT	The Master's School, CT	The Roxbury Latin School, MA	Wooster High School, CT
Gann Academy, MA	Masuk High School, CT	Rye Country Day School, NY	Worcester Academy, MA
Glen Urquhart School, MA	The Meadowbrook School of Weston, MA	Rye Country Day Summer Session, NY	Xaverian Brothers High School, MA
Greens Farm Academy, CT	Milton Academy, MA	Sacred Heart Greenwich, CT	
Greenwich Academy, CT	Milton High School, MA	Salisbury School, CT	

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

We've listed some of the most common questions and where you can find the answers. Of course, we welcome the chance to talk directly with you about these or other independent school admission testing questions.

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STANDARDIZED TESTING & ADMISSION



STANDARDIZED TESTING & ADMISSION

SSAT and ISEE test scores are an important part of your independent school application, but they are just one of many criteria for admission. The proper role of standardized tests in the admission process is to complement the use of school grades and other factors.

Today's independent school admission process is a holistic one. Your SSAT or ISEE scores are just one aspect of a multi-faceted application. Rather than look for reasons to reject students, admissions directors read applications supportively, considering all areas as they look for reasons to accept students. For example, a great personal interview or strong teacher recommendations might offset lower test scores.

Many independent schools now have a test-optional policy, which means that you have the option whether or not to submit test scores as part of your application. If you submit your scores, they will be considered. If you are unable to test or do not perform well on the test, you can choose not to submit your scores and your application will still be considered complete. Think of this as an opportunity of everything to gain and nothing to lose. Keep in mind that many independent schools continue to require testing, so it is likely that you will need to test for some of your applications.

Admission Factors

- School grades and rigor of curriculum
- Teacher recommendations
- Test scores
- Personal interview
- Extracurricular activities
- Application essays
- Demonstrated interest

TAKE-HOME MESSAGE

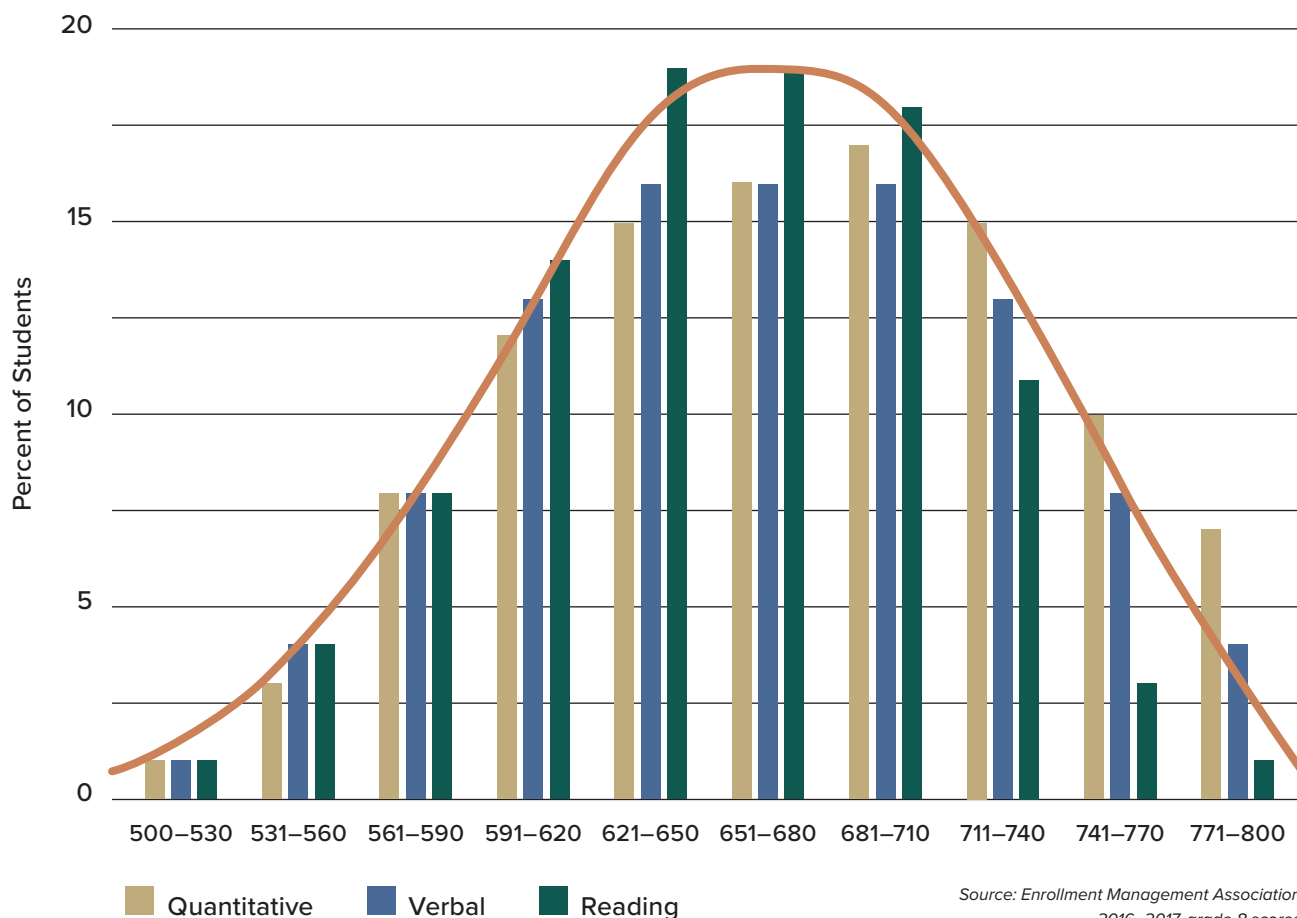
Test scores are not the most important consideration for independent school admission. Admission offices review applications holistically and read them supportively.

GRADES & STANDARDIZED TESTING SCORES

Performance in a rigorous school curriculum is the most important factor in admission decisions, but it is an imperfect metric for evaluating students. This is because course difficulty and grading vary from teacher to teacher and school to school. The SSAT and ISEE address the primary problems with school grades. Each test provides a common baseline for all students and is designed to provide a useful and consistent

distribution of scores. The ISEE and SSAT are scored on a bell curve so that most students achieve scores in the middle of the curve. This score distribution allows admission offices to compare how students perform relative to the entire test-taking population. The chart below illustrates the bell-curve distribution of SSAT scaled scores. Note that very few students achieve scores near the top of the scale.

The Bell Curve of SSAT Scaled Scores



TAKE-HOME MESSAGE

Most students score in the middle of the SSAT and ISEE scales. On average, students earn only about 50% of the possible raw points on the SSAT and ISEE. This distribution is very different from that of typical school grades, which tend to be weighted toward higher scores.

THE COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

The following table shows admission information for a small sample of independent schools. Use this data to get a general sense of competitiveness for independent school admission. As mentioned, test scores are not the only consideration in admission decisions. You can still be accepted into schools if your test scores are lower than the schools' averages, especially if your application has other strengths.

For international students, most schools also require the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

Note: Available SSAT data for admitted applicants is typically self-reported. Many schools do not elect to publish admission data. We recommend contacting the schools you are interested in applying to when evaluating admission data.

SCHOOL	AVERAGE SSAT PERCENTILE*	LOCATION	ACCEPT RATE	BOARDING/DAY	GRADES	SSAT OR ISEE REQUIRED
Avon Old Farms School	58%	Avon, CT	45%	Both	9-12	SSAT Optional
Belmont Hill School	82%	Belmont, MA	29%	Day	7-12	SSAT/ISEE Required
Berkshire School	71%	Sheffield, MA	27%	Both	9-12	SSAT Optional
Blair Academy	75%	Blairstown, NJ	27%	Both	9-12	Test Optional
Brooks School	71%	North Andover, MA	25%	Both	9-12	Test Optional
Brunswick School	70%	Greenwich, CT	26%	Day	PK-12	SSAT/ISEE Required
Canterbury School	65%	New Milford, CT	35%	Both	9-12	SSAT Recommended
Cheshire Academy	58%	Cheshire, CT	45%	Both	9-12	Test Optional
Choate Rosemary Hall	84%	Wallingford, CT	16%	Both	9-12	Test Optional
Collegiate School	86%	New York, NY	12%	Day	K-12	SSAT/ISEE Required
Concord Academy	75%	Concord, MA	28%	Both	9-12	Test Optional
Cushing Academy	56%	Ashburnham, MA	45%	Both	9-12	SSAT Optional
Dana Hall School	58%	Wellesley, MA	40%	Both	5-12	SSAT/ISEE Required
Deerfield Academy	86%	Deerfield, MA	12%	Both	9-12	SSAT/ISEE Required
Emma Willard School	65%	Troy, NY	36%	Both	9-12	Test Optional
The Frederick Gunn School	56%	Washington, CT	50%	Both	9-12	Testing Recommended
The Governor's Academy	71%	Byfield, MA	23%	Both	9-12	Test Optional
Greens Farms Academy	65%	Westport, CT	35%	Day	PK-12	SSAT/ISEE Required
Greenwich Academy	63%	Greenwich, CT	20%	Day	PK-12	SSAT/ISEE Required
Greenwich Country Day School	56%	Greenwich, CT	55%	Day	PK-12	SSAT/ISEE Required
Groton School	82%	Groton, MA	12%	Both	8-12	SSAT/ISEE Required
Hamden Hall Country Day School	56%	Hamden, CT	60%	Day	PK-12	SSAT/ISEE Required
The Harvey School	56%	Katonah, NY	45%	Both	6-12	Testing Recommended
The Hill School	82%	Pottstown, PA	32%	Both	9-12	SSAT/ISEE Required
Holderness School	63%	Holderness, NH	45%	Both	9-12	SSAT Optional

*Note: Available SSAT data for admitted applicants is typically self-reported.

SCHOOL	AVERAGE SSAT PERCENTILE*	LOCATION	ACCEPT RATE	BOARDING/ DAY	GRADES	SSAT OR ISEE REQUIRED
Hoosac School	70%	Hoosick, NY	45%	Both	8-12	Test Optional
Hopkins School	71%	New Haven, CT	46%	Day	7-12	SSAT/ISEE Required
Horace Mann School	92%	Bronx, NY	10%	Day	PK-12	SSAT/ISEE Required
The Hotchkiss School	86%	Lakeville, CT	18%	Both	9-12	SSAT/ISEE Required
The Hun School of Princeton	56%	Princeton, NJ	35%	Both	6-12	Test Flexible
Kent School	71%	Kent, CT	42%	Both	9-12	SSAT Optional
Kimball Union Academy	58%	Meriden, NH	38%	Both	9-12	Testing Recommended
Kingswood Oxford School	56%	West Hartford, CT	60%	Day	9-12	SSAT Optional
Lawrence Academy	62%	Groton, MA	29%	Both	9-12	SSAT Optional
The Lawrenceville School	86%	Lawrenceville, NJ	15%	Both	9-12	SSAT/ISEE Required
Loomis Chaffee School	75%	Windsor, CT	18%	Both	9-12	Test Optional
The Madeira School	77%	McLean, VA	54%	Both	9-12	SSAT/ISEE Required
Mercersburg Academy	63%	Mercersburg, PA	28%	Both	9-12	Testing Recommended
Middlesex School	82%	Concord, MA	18%	Both	9-12	SSAT/ISEE Required
Millbrook School	72%	Millbrook, NY	37%	Both	9-12	Test Optional
Milton Academy	86%	Milton, MA	19%	Both	9-12	Test Optional
Miss Hall's School	63%	Pittsfield, MA	70%	Both	9-12	SSAT Optional
Miss Porter's School	62%	Farmington, CT	48%	Both	9-12	Test Optional
Noble and Greenough School	75%	Dedham, MA	16%	Both	7-12	SSAT Required
Northfield Mount Hermon	71%	Mount Hermon, MA	32%	Both	9-12	Test Optional
The Peddie School	82%	Hightstown, NJ	22%	Both	9-12	SSAT/ISEE Required
Phillips Academy Andover	93%	Andover, MA	13%	Both	9-12	SSAT/ISEE Required
Phillips Exeter Academy	94%	Exeter, NH	16%	Both	9-12	SSAT/ISEE Required
Pomfret School	63%	Pomfret, CT	39%	Both	9-12	Test Optional
Portsmouth Abbey School	71%	Portsmouth, RI	31%	Both	9-12	Test Optional
Proctor Academy	58%	Andover, NH	43%	Both	9-12	Test Optional
The Rivers School	63%	Weston, MA	30%	Day	6-12	SSAT Required
The Roxbury Latin School	92%	West Roxbury, MA	17%	Day	7-12	SSAT/ISEE Required
Rye Country Day School	76%	Rye, NY	25%	Day	PK-12	SSAT/ISEE Required
Sacred Heart Greenwich	60%	Greenwich, CT	55%	Day	PK-12	SSAT/ISEE Required
Salisbury School	58%	Salisbury, CT	33%	Both	9-12	Testing Recommended
St. George's School	82%	Middletown, RI	19%	Both	9-12	Test Optional
St. Luke's School	63%	New Canaan, CT	35%	Day	5-12	SSAT/ISEE Required

SCHOOL	AVERAGE SSAT PERCENTILE*	LOCATION	ACCEPT RATE	BOARDING/ DAY	GRADES	SSAT OR ISEE REQUIRED
St. Mark's School	76%	Southborough, MA	29%	Both	9-12	Test Optional
St. Paul's School	86%	Concord, NH	16%	Boarding	9-12	SSAT/ISEE Required
St. Sebastian's School	58%	Needham, MA	30%	Day	7-12	SSAT/ISEE Required
Suffield Academy	70%	Suffield, CT	29%	Both	9-12	Test Optional
Tabor Academy	63%	Marion, MA	37%	Both	9-12	Test Optional
The Taft School	77%	Watertown, CT	19%	Both	9-12	SSAT Required
The Thacher School	85%	Ojai, CA	15%	Both	9-12	SSAT/ISEE Required
Thayer Academy	58%	Braintree, MA	38%	Day	6-12	SSAT Required
Trinity-Pawling School	50%	Pawling, NY	50%	Both	7-12	Test Optional
Vermont Academy	50%	Saxtons River, VT	65%	Both	9-12	Test Optional
Western Reserve Academy	58%	Hudson, OH	39%	Both	9-12	SSAT/ISEE Required
Westminster School	80%	Simsbury, CT	25%	Both	9-12	Testing Recommended
Westover School	65%	Middlebury, CT	60%	Both	9-12	Testing Recommended
Wilbraham & Monson Academy	65%	Wilbraham, MA	40%	Both	9-12	Testing Recommended
Williston Northampton School	63%	Easthampton, MA	33%	Both	7-12	Test Optional
The Winsor School	82%	Boston, MA	25%	Day	5-12	SSAT Required
Wooster School	56%	Danbury, CT	60%	Day	PK-12	Test Optional

*Note: Available SSAT data for admitted applicants is typically self-reported.

Source: boardingschoolreview.com, privateschoolreview.com, startclass.com, and self-reported data

THE COMPETITIVE TESTING POPULATION

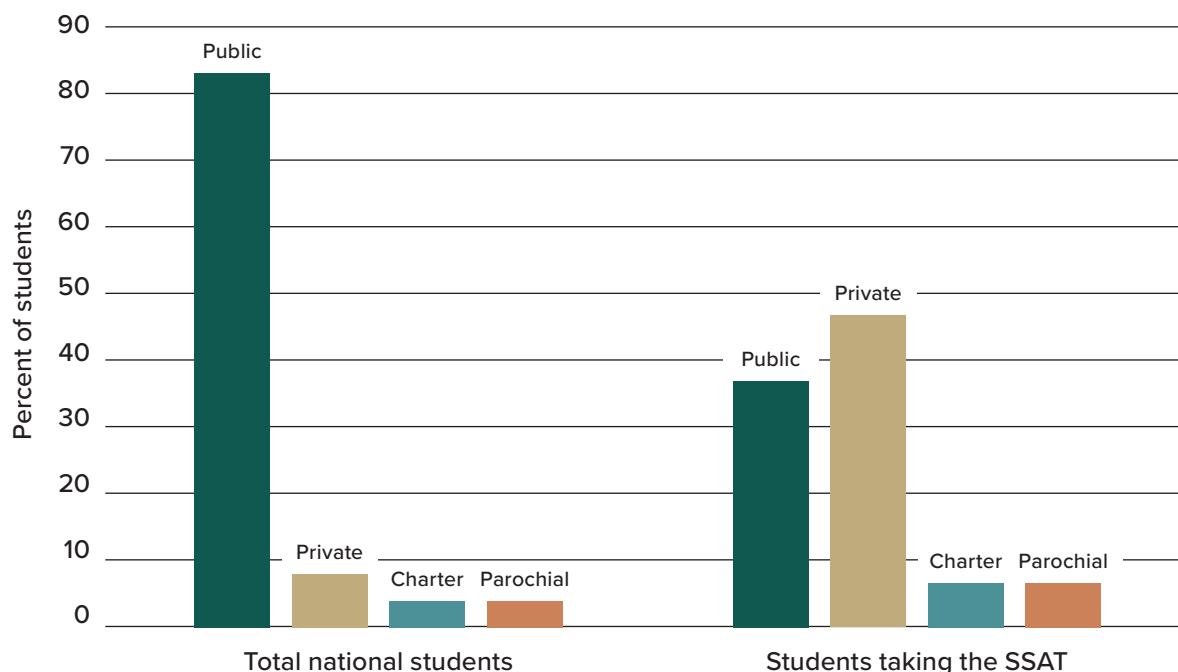
The group of students taking the ISEE and SSAT is particularly well-educated and well-prepared. Most students taking these tests are currently attending independent schools, as demonstrated in the chart below. Thus, achieving a better-than-average percentile rank in this group of especially competitive and skilled test-takers is a great challenge. Both the Educational Records Bureau (ERB) and the Enrollment Management Association (EMA, formerly the SSAT Board) caution that your percentile ranks for these tests may seem surprisingly low.

According to the ERB, ISEE test-takers are “a very

select group of students who are applying to competitive schools. Therefore, ISEE percentile ranks are generally lower — anywhere from 10 to 40 percentile points lower — than those on other tests that use national norms.”

According to the EMA, “the SSAT norm group is highly competitive; your results are compared only with other students (same grade/gender) who take the SSAT to apply for admission to some of the most selective independent schools in the country.”

Most SSAT Students Are Already Attending Independent Schools



Source: National Center for Education Statistics and Enrollment Management Association, 2013

TAKE-HOME MESSAGE

Your SSAT or ISEE percentile ranks may be lower than expected. Rest assured that schools understand the competitive nature of the SSAT and ISEE. Your test preparation can help improve your standing among this group of test-takers.

SUPERSCORING & SENDING MULTIPLE SCORES

Which scores should I send, and when should I send them?

It is generally a good idea to avoid sending test scores immediately. Most students benefit from taking 2–3 official tests, analyzing the scores, reviewing admission policies of their chosen schools, and then deciding which scores to send to each school.

Some schools request that you send all test scores. These schools may discourage “overtesting,” in which case you should limit your testing to a few, well-prepared attempts.

Note: The SSAT score report indicates whether the student has taken the test more than once. If you have taken multiple SSATs but only send one score, schools will be aware that they have not received all of your scores. Typically, this is not a problem and will not impact admission decisions.

What is “superscoring”?

Some schools will allow “superscoring” — that is, they will consider your highest section scores from multiple tests to generate a total score that reflects your highest potential. Not all schools use this method of score consideration. Contact admission offices to determine whether you should send multiple scores.

Neither the EMA nor ERB (who create the SSAT and ISEE, respectively) offers superscoring. Rather, superscoring is done by schools’ admission offices.

In some cases, it is preferable to withhold a test score that would be useful for superscoring. For example, if a student achieved a high math score but a very low reading score, the benefit of using the math score for superscoring may not outweigh the negative impression given by the reading score. Talk to one of Summit’s Program Directors, a guidance counselor, or an educational consultant to help make these decisions.

TAKE-HOME MESSAGE

The best plan for most students is to take the SSAT or ISEE twice after they have fully prepared. Taking 2–3 official tests reduces the risk of a bad testing experience and provides opportunities for higher scores. Taking the test too many times may place unnecessary stress on students.

TEST PREP & PLANNING



CONSIDERATIONS FOR TEST PREPARATION

What is a “good” score?

Don't become fixated on a certain score. The goal of test preparation is to help you reach your potential.

Each school determines its own standards for what are considered strong SSAT or ISEE scores. Contact school admission offices to determine how competitive your scores are.

Remember that standardized test scores are not the only consideration for your applications. The importance of test scores is determined by each schools' admission policies.

When should I take the test?

As a general rule, it is best to take the test as late as possible within the window of application deadlines while still having time to potentially re-test. As time goes on, you will learn more skills in school and in your test prep, which will improve your scores.

Test dates between November and January are popular because most application deadlines are in January. However, some SSAT students may choose to prepare over the course of the summer and target a first test in October.

SSAT or ISEE?

Some schools only accept one of these tests. The SSAT is most commonly used when applying to grades 9–12, while the ISEE is most commonly used for lower grades.

Schools that prefer one test may still accept the other. If you are considering both tests, your test preparation should begin with a diagnostic SSAT and ISEE to determine which you prefer.

Refer to pages 44–46 for more information on deciding between the SSAT and ISEE.

How many times should I take the test?

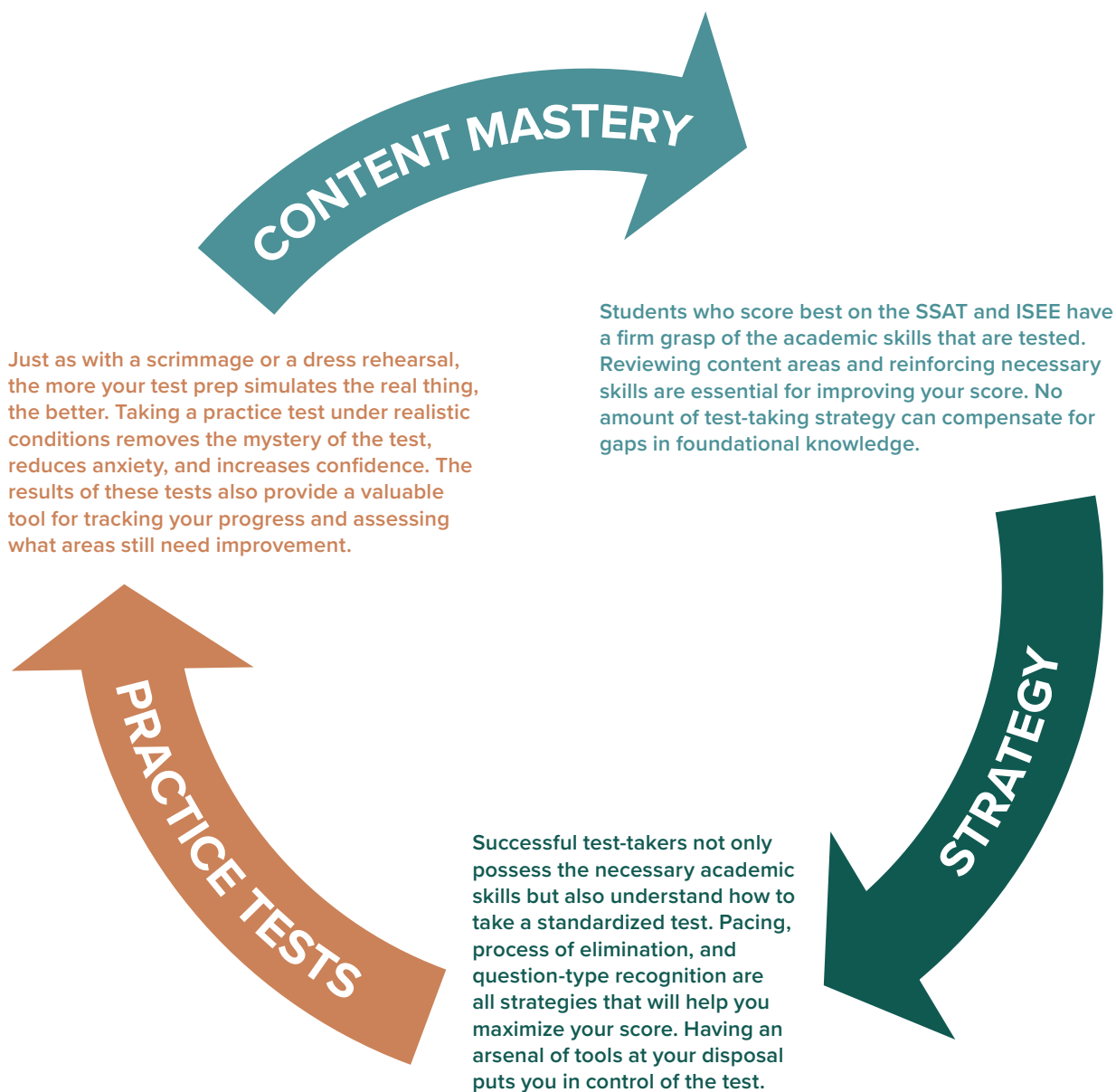
Take two to three official tests to make sure you reach your highest potential.

Depending on your testing experience and the content on the test, your test score can fluctuate. If you take the test only once, it may not be the best representation of your skills.

Avoid overtesting. Taking the test too many times will not guarantee higher scores and may cause unnecessary stress.

FOUNDATIONS OF GOOD TEST PREPARATION

Good test prep strengthens underlying skills, develops comfort and confidence, and ultimately enables students to meet their potential. While there are many components to a successful test preparation program, there are three key fundamentals.



SSAT TEST DATES & ADMINISTRATIONS

SSAT Testing

Students applying to independent schools have the option of taking their entrance exams online or paper-based. Elementary level testing will continue to be paper-based.

Registration for all levels and test types opens August 1st, 2025 for the testing year through July 31st, 2026.

Students taking the Middle or Upper Level SSAT have several paper- and computer-based options.

1. Paper-Based Standard Test Dates administered at school test sites. Middle & Upper students can take up to 6 standard tests per testing year. Elementary students can take up to 2 standard tests per testing year.

The 2025–2026 Standard Test Dates are:

- October 11th, 2025
- November 15th, 2025*
- December 13th, 2025*
- January 3rd, 2026
- January 31st, 2026
- March 7th, 2026

2. Paper-Based Flex Tests administered by test centers and educational consultants, with a limit of 1 Flex test per testing year.

3. Computer-Based SSAT at a Prometric Test Center with daily availability. Families need to visit proscheduler.prometric.com and search for “SSAT by The Enrollment Management Association” to review options. This option is only available to Middle and Upper level students; students can take 2 Prometric tests per testing year.

4. Computer-Based at Home via live, virtual proctor (PSI). Tests are offered at set times each month. For the complete 2025-26 schedule, visit www.ssat.org/testing/home/test-dates. This option is only available to Middle and Upper level students in the United States and Canada. Students can only take 1 SSAT at Home per testing year.

Fees

SSAT Domestic (U.S. & Canada) Testing Fees

Middle/Upper Level

- Standard/Flex: \$172
- Educational Consultant: \$272
- Prometric Center: \$242
- At-Home: \$258

Elementary Level

- Standard/Flex: \$112
- Educational Consultant: \$172

SSAT International Testing Fees

- Middle/Upper Level: \$329
- Elementary Level: \$229

Flex Testing

A Flex test is a group or individual administration of the paper-based SSAT on any date other than the standard dates. Flex tests are given by member schools or approved educational consultants.

Families may prefer the scheduling convenience of a Flex test and students may find Flex administrations more comfortable. You may take one Flex test in a testing year between August 1st and July 31st.

“Open” Flex tests are given by schools and are available to all registrants.

“Closed” Flex tests may be given by educational consultants or schools. To register, you must make arrangements with the consultant or school in order to receive an access code for the test administration.

These test administrations have a higher registration fee than standard national test dates.

Go to search.ssat.org/test-center-search to find a list of educational consultants who provide Flex tests.

*Offers Elementary testing

ISEE TEST DATES & ADMINISTRATIONS

ISEE Testing

As with the SSAT, students are similarly offered online and paper-based ISEE testing options, as follows:

1. Computer-Based ISEE at a **Prometric Test Center**

(some test sites may offer the paper-based format too).

2. Computer-Based ISEE at home, via live, virtual proctor (Prometric PropProctor). This option is only available for students in the U.S. and Canada applying to grades 5–12.

3. Paper-Based tests administered by test centers.

To view available testing sites and begin registration, go to iseeonline.erblearn.org.

Scheduling a Test Date

The computer-based ISEE can be taken from home according to your student's schedule. Otherwise, the schedule of test dates is determined by the different testing providers.

Fees

ISEE Testing Fees

- At-Home school-administered: \$160
- At-Home ERB-administered: \$210
- At a Prometric Test Center: \$235
- Large group testing at a school: \$160
- Small group testing at an office: \$220
- Individual testing at an office: \$250

Note: There is a \$30 additional fee for those who register over the phone instead of online.

Students may take the ISEE up to three times, once per four-month window. Use the table below as a guide.

ISEE TESTING WINDOWS											
FALL				WINTER				SPRING/SUMMER			
Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul

ADMISSION & TESTING TIMELINE

The calendar below shows a typical testing plan timeline in independent school applications.

Most applications are due between mid-January and February. Planning for applications should begin in late spring, about 18 months before you expect to enroll in your new school.

Early in the application process, craft a testing plan that addresses which tests you're going to take, when you're going to take them, and how and when you're going to prepare for them.

	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
TESTING TIMELINE	Consider taking an official test in spring. Before you begin your test preparation, you may take an official SSAT or ISEE as a diagnostic. Use this test as a low-stakes opportunity to familiarize yourself with the testing experience and get a sense of your potential before the new testing window opens August 1st.		Create your testing plan. • Contact admission offices to see what standardized test scores are required. • Register for the SSAT or ISEE. • You may also need to register for the TOEFL if English is your second language. • Allow for a sufficient amount of practice and study before your test dates. Depending on students' needs, a full prep program may last from 8 to 15 weeks.		Begin your test preparation at the beginning of the school year. • Start with a diagnostic test, which will establish a baseline score and identify areas for improvement. • Balance your test preparation with your class work. Your school grades are the highest priority.	

A good testing plan is sensible and strikes a balance with the student's academic and extracurricular activities. It eliminates the need for overtesting and helps students and families maintain perspective through what can be a stressful admission process.

Allow a sufficient amount of practice and study before your test dates. Depending on students' needs, a full test preparation program may last from 8 to 15 weeks.

	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
TESTING TIMELINE	Take the SSAT or ISEE. • We recommend taking your first test in November so you can take it again in December or January. • The ISEE can be taken once per 4-month testing window. Take the ISEE in November, which is in the fall window, so you can take the test again in the winter window.		Take the SSAT or ISEE again, if needed. • We recommend taking the test twice to make sure you reach your highest potential. • Avoid overtesting. Taking the test too many times will not guarantee higher scores and will bring unnecessary stress.		Relax! Congratulate yourself on all of your hard work. You earned it!	

TIPS FOR TEST DAY

On the day leading up to your official test, you want to feel calm and confident. Your test preparation should be completed, and you should know the game plan and strategies that will guide you through the test. Here is some advice for how to have a successful test day.

THE NIGHT BEFORE THE TEST

- **You are ready!** This is not the time for last-minute studying. Do something relaxing and fun!
- **If you are taking the test outside your home:**
 - Review everything you are required to bring with you, such as an admission ticket or photo ID, depending on the specific requirements
 - Pack 3 or 4 No. 2 pencils with erasers
 - Bring water and a snack
 - Confirm the address of your test center
- **If you are taking the test at home**
 - Review the technical requirements and software needs and make sure your computer is set up appropriately
 - Set up your work space — clear off any additional items on the desk area
- **Visualize success.** Imagine yourself using the strategies you've learned. See yourself solving question after question. Envision completing the last question, putting your pencil down, and closing the test booklet. Let yourself feel the good feeling of a job well done.
- **Get plenty of sleep the night before.** Don't worry if you have trouble sleeping, because you'll have plenty of adrenaline to keep your brain going during the test.

THE MORNING OF THE TEST

- **Have a backup alarm** — either another clock or a parent or guardian.
- **Eat a good breakfast.** Make sure to avoid heavy, fatty foods that will make you feel tired.
- **Do something easy that you enjoy** (take a walk or listen to music). You want to go into the test awake and upbeat.

AT THE TEST

- **Arrive 30 minutes early to the test center** to easily register, find your room, and settle in.
- **Make sure to use the bathroom** before you start the test. You only have a few short breaks during the test; you don't want to have to worry about a line at the restroom.
- **Find your seat** and sit for a minute. Continue to visualize yourself working successfully through the test, using all of the skills and strategies you've learned. You are ready.
- **During breaks, stand up, walk around, and stretch if necessary.** It will help you stay focused and release nervous energy.
- **Pace yourself** but don't get too concerned with the clock.
- **If you start losing focus, try this concentration exercise:** Every five questions, put down your pencil, stare at the ceiling, blink a few times, take several slow breaths, and then continue.
- **Every section is an opportunity to do well.**

AFTER THE TEST

- **Plan to do something positive and fun. You deserve it!**

SSAT & ISEE ACCOMMODATIONS

Students who have documented learning differences are eligible for accommodations from both the Enrollment Management Association (EMA) and the Educational Records Bureau (ERB). Because these are distinct institutions with their own application processes, approval from one organization does not guarantee approval from the other.

The chart below is intended as a guide to help families navigate the accommodations application process. Families should review the official guidelines and school timelines early in the process to ask questions and to ensure that the required documentation is gathered and submitted in a timely fashion.

	SSAT	ISEE
INFORMATION	ssat.org/testing/accommodations/overview	erblearn.org/families/isee-accommodations/
ELIGIBILITY	You must have an identified disabling condition or impairment which substantially limits your ability to perform a major life activity, including sight, hearing, speech, reading, concentration, thought, communication, and learning.	You must have complete and specific documentation that establishes a current need for the requested accommodations. You must currently receive and utilize accommodations, due to your disability, for school-based testing in your school.
DURATION OF APPROVAL	An accommodations application needs to be approved only once per testing season (from August 1st to July 31st). For example, if you are approved for accommodations for an SSAT in November, your approval is valid for any other SSAT until July 31st. Accommodations applications, along with full documentation, must be submitted at least 4 weeks before the testing date.	Once accommodations are approved, the approval is valid for 15 months.
APPLICATION PROCESS	1. Create a parent account online, add your student(s) to the account, and select "Request Accommodations." 2. Provide the contact information for your student's school point of contact to complete the approver attestation. 3. After being contacted by the Enrollment Management Association (EMA), your approver submits approval and identification forms. Upload supporting documentation and the current school statement form to your student's online account. The EMA will process your request and submit for approval (this may take up to 3 weeks). 4. If necessary, documentation is reviewed by the EMA. 5. The EMA processes request and sends confirmation. 6. Register to take the SSAT with accommodations.	1. Create an online ERB account and list the accommodations you currently receive in school. 2. Have your student's current school complete the Current School Statement that will be sent to you as part of the <i>ISEE Accommodations Request Form</i>. Submit any additional supporting documentation. 3. The ERB processes request and submits approval (this may take up to 3 weeks). 4. Register for a testing location and testing date. Schools, testing offices, and Prometric centers have different accommodations offerings. You can view available accommodations online when registering. If your accommodations are not offered at any locations, arrange for an individual test administration at a school that is registered as a testing site. 5. On test day, bring a copy of the verification email from the ERB.

Source: ssat.org

Source: erblearn.org

	SSAT	ISEE
DOCUMENTATION TYPES	• Individualized Education Program (IEP) • Section 504 Accommodations Plan(s) • Testing results or documentation from a qualified professional • Private School Service Plan or other formal documentation on letterhead • Private or school-based evaluation reports • Documentation of accommodations for other standardized tests or school-based testing (Documents must be dated within the last three years of the date your request is submitted.)	• Individualized Educational Program (IEP) • Section 504 Accommodations Plan(s) • Psycho-Educational Testing Evaluation • School Accommodations Plan from current calendar year • Physician letter detailing accommodations required due to a medically treated issue (vision impairment, deafness, paralysis, ADD, ADHD, etc.) or a physical disability (Documents must be dated within the last six months to three years, depending on documentation type.)
SCHOOL OR PROFESSIONAL CONFIRMATION	An approver must confirm your requested accommodations are valid. If your approver is from your school and the documentation is an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP), 504 plan, or private school documentation, you will NOT need to submit the documentation to the EMA. If your approver is a doctor or practitioner involved with your diagnosis, treatment, testing, or care but is not from your school, you will need to submit the documentation to the EMA.	The student's current school must verify that the accommodations requested are currently being used in classroom and testing situations. The school should initial the list of accommodations the student requires. If the student's needs are not listed, then check "other" and explain on the lines provided. If for some reason the student does not currently receive the accommodations requested in the current school setting, this should also be explained (such as the school already incorporating an adapted curriculum).
APPEAL PROCESS	If your approver denies your accommodations, you may resend the request or indicate a different qualified approver. If the EMA denies your accommodations, the EMA will explain the aspects that affected the decision and provide instructions for submitting further documentation or filing an appeal.	If your accommodations are denied, appeals can be emailed to the ERB at iseeaccommodations@erblearn.org for further consideration.
COMMON ACCOMMODATIONS	• 50% additional time • Answer directly in test booklet • Large print test booklet • Calculator • Personal laptop with spell check for Writing Sample	• Extended time (Prometric test centers offer extended time for the ISEE Online only) • Answer directly in test booklet • Large print test booklet • Calculator • Computer with spell check for Essay
TEST MODE DIFFERENCES	ssat.org/about/accommodations#test-modes	erblearn.org/families/isee-accommodations

Source: ssat.orgSource: erblearn.org

CHARACTER SKILLS SNAPSHOT

What is the Snapshot?

The Character Skills Snapshot is an online test measuring character skills and situational judgment skills widely valued by independent schools. The Snapshot has been developed through the Enrollment Management Association (EMA) to complement cognitive assessments, such as the SSAT, and provide a more holistic view of applicants. It is not meant to replace other pieces of the application process, such as recommendation letters or the personal interview. Some schools request all applicants take the Snapshot to create more well-rounded applications.

What is on the test?

Forced-Choice Questions: In this section, students are presented 3 statements and asked to choose which are most or least representative of their personal judgments. Depending on the test form used, the Snapshot contains anywhere from 20 to 30 Forced-Choice items.

For example, a Forced-Choice question may provide the statements “I enjoy being challenged,” “I always have a backup plan,” and “I get overwhelmed when I have many options,” and asks students to choose one that is most like them and one that is least like them.

Situational Judgments: This section contains 10–15 scenarios, each with 4 different responses. Students must rate the appropriateness of each response.

For example, a question may describe a team project with a friend who is not contributing, provide 4 ways to address the issue, and asks the student to rate each solution on a scale between “Not Appropriate” and “Very Appropriate.”

What are the logistics for the test?

The test can be taken online at home. It is untimed, but must be completed in one sitting. Students typically take 20–30 minutes to complete the test.

Students are permitted to take the test only once during the testing year.

The Snapshot costs \$60. Students who are registered to take the SSAT can take the Snapshot for a reduced fee of \$30.

Students should take the Snapshot without outside input or aid. Coaching or prep is not needed. The test should present authentic insights into the student.

What skills are measured?

Students are rated as “Emerging,” “Developing,” or “Demonstrating” in each of 7 areas:

Intellectual:

- Intellectual Engagement — seeks to understand, enjoys challenge, likes to learn more about topics of interest
- Open-Mindedness — contemplates other viewpoints, open to new experiences, receptive to new ideas

Intrapersonal:

- Initiative — starts tasks without needing a push, recognizes when to act, takes charge of situations
- Resilience — rebounds from setbacks, learns during failures
- Self-Control — remains in control of emotions when stressed, controls impulses, considers outcomes

Interpersonal:

- Social Awareness — recognizes appropriate ways to interact, adapts behavior, resolves conflicts
- Teamwork — works with others, contributes ideas, considers thoughts and feelings of team members

TAKE-HOME MESSAGE

Not all schools require or recommend the Snapshot. Contact admission offices for each school’s preference.

You do not need to prepare for the Character Skills Snapshot. This test is not designed to be challenging, like the SSAT or ISEE. Instead, it simply requires your honest personal feedback.

SSAT



SUMMIT
EDUCATIONAL GROUP

THE SSAT

The Secondary School Admission Test (SSAT) is created by the Enrollment Management Association (formerly the SSAT Board) and is administered at three levels based on the applicant's grade: Elementary, Middle, and Upper. Each level of the test is intended for multiple grades:

- **Elementary Level**

Students in grades 3–4, applying to grades 4–5

- **Middle Level**

Students in grades 5–7, applying to grades 6–8

- **Upper Level**

Students in grades 8–11, applying to grades 9–12

The SSAT measures verbal, math, and reading skills needed for successful performance in independent schools.

The SSAT is designed to be a critical thinking test, as opposed to the curriculum-based exams commonly seen in schools. The SSAT is not intended to reflect the content seen in typical schoolwork.

Different Grades, Different Testing Experiences

Taking the SSAT can be a very different experience depending on the grade level of the student. For example, students in grades 8 to 11 take the Upper Level SSAT, so 8th graders will likely encounter some material that is more advanced than what they have learned in school. On the other hand, 11th graders will likely be familiar with all of the material on the test.

Keep in mind that your scores are compared only to those of students in the same grade, so there is no scoring advantage or disadvantage to taking the test at a certain grade level.

SSAT LEVELS & STRUCTURE

TEST LEVEL	SECTION	QUESTIONS	TIME (MINUTES)	SCALED SCORES
Elementary Level Students in grades 3–4, applying to grades 4–5	QUANTITATIVE	30	30	300–600 per section
	VERBAL	30	20	
	15-minute break			900–1800 total
	READING	28	30	
	WRITING	1	15	Essay not scored
	EXPERIMENTAL*	15–17	15	
	TOTAL TIME: 2 hours 5 minutes			
Middle Level Students in grades 5–7, applying to grades 6–8	WRITING	1	25	440–710 per section
	10-minute break			
	QUANTITATIVE	25	30	1320–2130 total
	READING	40	40	
	10-minute break			Essay not scored
	VERBAL	60	30	
	QUANTITATIVE	25	30	
	EXPERIMENTAL*	16	15	
	TOTAL TIME: 3 hours 10 minutes			
Upper Level Students in grades 8–11, applying to grades 9–12	WRITING	1	25	500–800 per section
	10-minute break			
	QUANTITATIVE	25	30	1500–2400 total
	READING	40	40	
	10-minute break			Essay not scored
	VERBAL	60	30	
	QUANTITATIVE	25	30	
	EXPERIMENTAL*	16	15	
	TOTAL TIME: 3 hours 10 minutes			

*All tests also include a 15-minute Experimental section, which is used to test newly created questions. The Experimental section is not scored, so it will not affect the competitiveness of your application.

SSAT SCALED SCORES VS. PERCENTILES

Both the SSAT and ISEE report scaled scores. However, independent school admission offices have historically relied more on percentile ranks than on scaled scores.

SSAT essays are not scored. Copies of your essay are sent to schools along with your score report. The importance of your essay in admission decisions varies from school to school, but it is generally much less important than your percentile rank.

Raw Scores

Every question on the SSAT is worth one raw point. The easiest question is worth just as much as the most difficult question. There are no points for skipped questions. Each incorrect answer results in a $\frac{1}{4}$ point penalty. The total number of correct answers, minus the total penalty for incorrect answers, is the raw score.

Scaled Scores

Your raw score is converted to a scaled score. Each SSAT has a slightly different scale to account for any small differences between tests. As a result, no test date is easier or harder than any other. A 600 on one test indicates the same level of performance as a 600 on another test.

You receive a scaled score in each of the three sections: Quantitative, Verbal, and Reading.

Your scaled scores are added to create a total score.

Percentiles

Your section scaled scores and total scaled score are given percentile ranks, indicating how well you scored compared to other test-takers of the same grade and gender. For example, a 60th percentile score indicates that you performed the same as or better than 60% of test-takers. Your percentile rank is based on scores from all students in your grade who have taken the test over the past three years.

Percentile Ranks in Perspective

Your SSAT percentile might seem quite low because your scores are being compared to those of other SSAT students, a very competitive group.

The good news is, depending on where you are on the scoring scale, a small difference in raw scores can result in a large difference in percentile ranking. For example, a student who gets a raw score of 25 (out of 60) on the Verbal section of the Upper Level SSAT will increase by nearly 20 percentile points by getting only 5 more correct answers. Having an effective plan of attack, building skills, and learning test-taking strategies can create a large improvement to your SSAT percentile rank.

TAKE-HOME MESSAGE

Answering just a few more questions correctly can make a significant difference in your scaled and percentile scores.

SSAT SCORING

Raw scores for each section are calculated by adding one point for each correct answer and then subtracting a quarter of a point for every incorrect answer.

Scaled scores for each section are calculated using a conversion table, as shown in the abridged table below. These scaled scores are added together to create a total score.

Scaled raw scores are assigned percentile ranks based on the percentage of students who scored at or below that level, as shown below.

Below is an example of how raw scores are converted to scaled scores for a particular SSAT test.
Note that each test has a slightly different scale to account for difficulty.

RAW SCORE TO SCALED SCORE CONVERSION			
Raw Score	Verbal Scaled Score	Quantitative Scaled Score	Reading Scaled Score
15	615	640	619
16	620	648	623
17	625	656	628
18	630	661	635
19	635	665	643
20	641	667	651
21	646	676	657
22	651	683	662
23	656	687	667
24	662	690	672
25	667	692	681
26	671	698	685
27	675	704	690
28	681	708	700
29	687	713	706
30	692	716	711
31	696	725	716
32	700	730	721
33	705	734	730
34	711	738	737
35	717	740	745
36	720	747	751
37	723	752	757
38	726	755	761
39	730	759	781
40	735	764	800
41	742	767	
42	750	770	
43	757	777	
44	763	784	
45	767	790	

SCALED RAW SCORE TO PERCENTILE RANK CONVERSION			
Total Score	Percentile Rank	Total Score	Percentile Rank
1800	12	2120	80
1820	16	2140	84
1840	19	2160	85
1860	22	2180	90
1880	27	2200	91
1900	32	2220	93
1920	37	2240	95
1940	42	2260	96
1960	47	2280	97
1980	51	2300	98
2000	54	2320	99
2020	58	2340	99
2040	64	2360	99
2060	66	2380	99
2080	71	2400	99
2100	76		

These conversion tables are estimated based on data for 8th grade students taking the Upper Level SSAT.

SSAT SCORE REPORT

A The Total Percentile score is usually the most important score when applying to independent schools. This score shows your relative standing among other students who took the SSAT.

B The Scaled scores represent your performance on the test. Some schools have benchmarks for Scaled scores to determine whether you are ready for the rigor of the schools' curricula.

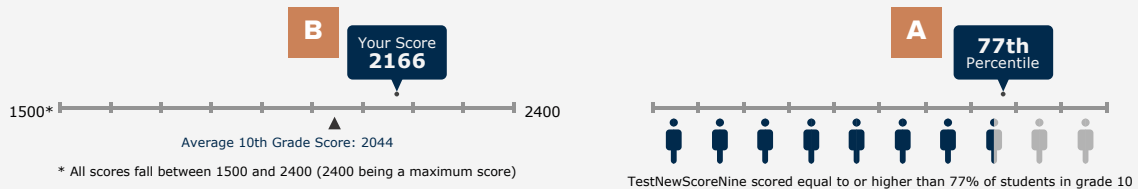


Student
Chicago, IL 60602
United States

DOB: Aug 10, 2009
Current Grade: 10

Registration ID: 24XX4402
Level: Upper Grades 8-12
Test Date: Aug 12, 2024

TOTAL SSAT SCORE SUMMARY

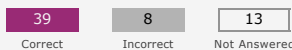


Verbal: 91st Percentile



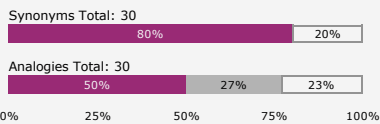
If taken multiple times, your score would fall between: 741 - 781

Total Items: 60 Not Reached: 1



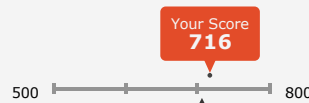
Accuracy by Topic

Correct Incorrect Not Answered



Due to rounding, these percentages may not add to 100.

Quantitative: 54th Percentile



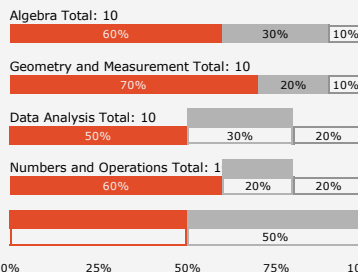
If taken multiple times, your score would fall between: 697 - 735

Total Items: 50 Not Reached: 5



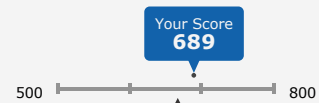
Accuracy by Topic

Correct Incorrect Not Answered



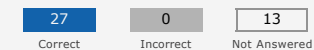
0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

Reading: 65th Percentile



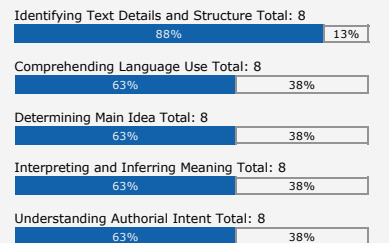
If taken multiple times, your score would fall between: 669 - 709

Total Items: 40 Not Reached: 0



Accuracy by Topic

Correct Incorrect Not Answered



0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

C The Test Question Breakdown provides more specific information on your performance in different content areas of the test. Consider the fact that each wrong answer receives a penalty to your raw score. Too many wrong answers in an area may indicate a need to strengthen skills or change your testing strategies.

SSAT QUANTITATIVE OVERVIEW

The Quantitative sections of the SSAT differ from what you've seen in standard math courses. While SSAT math requires a solid foundation in math skills, the questions themselves test the application of those skills to more abstract and complex problems.

The SSAT has two Quantitative sections, each allowing 30 minutes to work through 25 questions. Both sections are arranged in rough order of difficulty. For example, questions 24 and 25 will be much harder than questions 4 and 5.

MIDDLE AND UPPER LEVEL SSAT STRUCTURE 25 QUESTIONS, 30 MINUTES TOTAL FOR SECTION 1



25 QUESTIONS, 30 MINUTES TOTAL FOR SECTION 2



TEST STRATEGY

Know your limits.

Many students can raise their Quantitative scores by simply slowing down and focusing on fewer problems. Each question is worth one raw point, so you should put your time and energy into the questions within your capabilities. Be careful to avoid mistakes on the easiest questions, make educated guesses when you can eliminate answer choices, and skip questions that are too challenging for you.

SSAT QUANTITATIVE SKILLS

The SSAT tests math skills ranging from arithmetic to algebra and basic geometry. Be on the lookout for nonstandard presentation of questions, which may cause difficulty.

Test-takers are not allowed to use calculators, so computational skills are vital.

Some math concepts are only tested on the Upper Level test. In addition to the Upper Level skills listed below, the Upper Level test may include more advanced applications of skills that also appear on the Middle Level test.

LIST OF UPPER LEVEL SSAT MATH SKILLS

Number Concepts and Operations

- Number properties
- Divisibility and remainders
- Multiples and factors
- Fractions
- Decimals and place value
- Rounding and estimation
- Percents
- Ratios and proportions
- Order of operations
- Sequences, patterns, and logic

Algebra

- Absolute value
- Exponents and roots
- Algebraic expressions and equations
- Simultaneous equations
- Inequalities
- Functions
- Quadratic equations

Geometry

- Angles
- Triangles
- Area and perimeter
- Circles
- Volume
- Spatial reasoning
- Coordinate plane
- Slope
- Graphing lines
- Transformations

Data Analysis

- Averages
- Median, mode, and range
- Probability
- Permutations
- Sets
- Charts and graphs

TEST STRATEGY

Use the answer choices to work backward.

Don't get tunnel vision. If you can't solve a math problem in the forward direction, try to solve it in the reverse direction by plugging in the answer choices or by choosing numbers for variables.

SSAT READING COMPREHENSION OVERVIEW

The Reading Comprehension section requires students to understand what's explicitly stated and what's implied in a broad range of texts. The Reading Comprehension section on the Middle and Upper Level SSAT includes 8–9 short reading passages, each 250–350 words in length.

MIDDLE AND UPPER LEVEL SSAT STRUCTURE 40 QUESTIONS, 40 MINUTES TOTAL

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
Not in order of difficulty																																							

Passage Types

- **Fact passages** address topics using details and objective information. For example, a passage might include a description of the way a volcano erupts or a biography of Florence Nightingale.
- **Opinion passages** express an opinion on a topic. For example, the author might argue that drinking water should contain fluoride.
- **Prose passages** tell a story, either fictional or biographical. For example, a passage might include a musician's memories of how she learned to play an instrument.
- **Poetry passages** tell a story, express an idea, or describe an imagined scene. Examples might include a poem about the ocean, the emotion of love, or a person's struggles.

Question Types

- Identify details
- Determine the main idea
- Derive the meaning of vocabulary from context
- Determine the author's attitude or tone
- Determine the author's purpose
- Evaluate opinions and arguments
- Make inferences
- Make predictions

TEST STRATEGY

Read with your pencil.

As you read, take notes, underline, and write down the main idea of each paragraph. If you have an organized understanding of the passage, you will be able to answer the questions with speed and confidence.

SSAT VERBAL OVERVIEW

The Verbal section contains two types of vocabulary-based questions: synonyms and analogies. Both subsections progress from easy to difficult.

Since vocabulary is best learned through context, you can prepare for the test by reading regularly. Focus on texts that are somewhat challenging, and record and study the definitions of new words you encounter.

MIDDLE AND UPPER LEVEL SSAT STRUCTURE 60 QUESTIONS, 30 MINUTES TOTAL

SYNONYMS																													
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Easy										→ Medium										→ Difficult									

ANALOGIES																													
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
Easy										→ Medium										→ Difficult									

Synonyms

Synonym questions test your ability to determine the meaning of words without contextual clues. You must choose the word that is most nearly the same in meaning to the stem word in the question.

Analogies

Analogy questions ask you to identify the relationships between words and demonstrate a nuanced understanding of their meanings. You must choose the pair of words with a relationship that best matches the relationship between the stem words in the question.

TEST STRATEGY

Know what you're looking for before checking the answer choices.

Synonyms: Consider the definition of the word before looking at the answer choices and find the answer choice that matches best.

Analogies: State the given relationship between the given pair of words first. Then, search for an answer choice that has the same relationship. Be specific.

SSAT ANALOGY TYPES

The SSAT repeats several analogy types from test to test. Familiarizing yourself with these common stems will help you quickly and confidently identify the relationships in analogy questions on the test.

Synonym

frenetic is to energetic

(frenetic means energetic)

Antonym

impudent is to respectful

(impudent is the opposite of respectful)

Function or Use

aviary is to birds

(an aviary houses birds)

Person and Activity, Tool, or Creation

cobbler is to shoe

(a cobbler makes shoes)

Action/Result

insult is to offended

(an insult will make someone offended)

Characteristic

menace is to threatening

(a menace is threatening)

Type

fly is to insect

(a fly is a type of insect)

Part/Whole

novel is to chapter

(a chapter is a part of a novel)

Degree of Intensity

cold is to frigid

(frigid means extremely cold)

SSAT WRITING OVERVIEW

The Writing section of the SSAT requires you to write an essay in 25 minutes (15 minutes for the Elementary Level SSAT). Practice with timed essays is essential for creating a well-structured, well-supported, and well-written essay. Writing an essay under such time constraints is an unusual assignment. Be sure to time yourself while writing practice essays so you can find the right pace.

While the SSAT essay is not scored, it is sent to school admission committees, and it can still be an important part of your application.

Elementary Level

- The Elementary Level SSAT provides students with a picture and asks students to tell a story about what is happening.
- Elementary Level Writing directions:
 - “Look at the picture and tell a story about what happened. Make sure your story includes a beginning, a middle, and an end.”

Middle Level

The Middle Level SSAT gives students a choice between a creative and a personal prompt. Choose the creative prompt as inspiration for a short story or the personal prompt for an essay that illustrates your interests and personality.

Middle Level Writing directions:

“Schools would like to get to know you better through a story you tell or an essay you write. If you write a story, use the sentence presented in A to begin. Make sure that your story has a beginning, middle, and end. If you choose to write a personal essay, base your essay on the topic presented in B. Please fill in the circle next to your choice.”

Upper Level

The Upper Level SSAT gives students a choice between a personal prompt and a general prompt. The personal prompt asks about a topic related to your interests or personality. The general prompt asks a question that is somewhat philosophical so you can share your views and values.

Upper Level Writing directions:

“Schools would like to get to know you better through an essay you write. If you choose to write a personal essay, base your essay on the topic presented in A. If you choose to write a general essay, base your essay on the topic presented in B. Please fill in the circle next to your choice.”

Sample Prompts

Creative prompts:

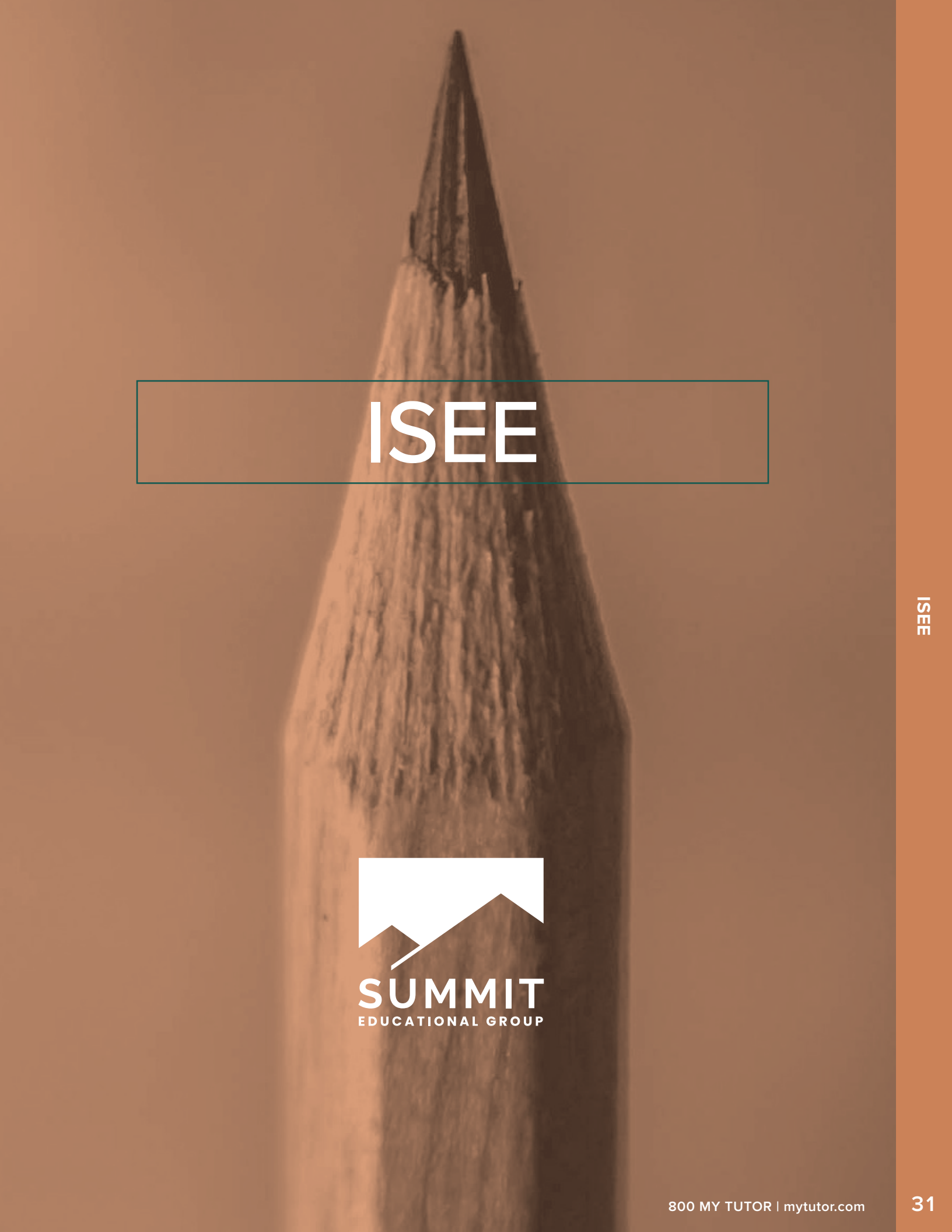
- She had never seen something so beautiful.
- They were all waiting for me to speak.
- She had always been a hard worker, but she had never faced such a difficult challenge.

Personal prompts:

- What class or subject in school do you enjoy most? Why?
- Who is someone you respect? Explain why you feel this way.
- Which two historical figures would you like to meet and why?

General prompts:

- What do you think is an important experience that every person should have and why?
- Do challenges in life define and strengthen us, or do challenges prevent us from realizing our full potential?
- Is it better to be content with yourself or the world or to constantly try to make improvements?



ISEE



THE ISEE

The Independent School Entrance Exam (ISEE) is created by the Educational Records Bureau (ERB) and is administered at three levels based on the applicant's grade: Lower, Middle, and Upper. Each level of the test is intended for multiple grades:

- **Lower Level**

Students in grades 4–5, applying to grades 5–6

- **Middle Level**

Students in grades 6–7, applying to grades 7–8

- **Upper Level**

Students in grades 8–11, applying to grades 9–12

The ISEE measures verbal, math, and reading skills needed for successful performance in independent schools.

The ISEE contains elements of both aptitude (like the SSAT) and curriculum-based testing.

Different Grades, Different Testing Experiences

Taking the ISEE can be a very different experience depending on the grade level of the student. For example, students in grades 8 to 11 take the Upper Level ISEE, so 8th graders will likely encounter some material that is more advanced than what they have learned in school. On the other hand, 11th graders will likely have previously encountered all of the material on the test.

Keep in mind that your scores are compared only to those of students in the same grade, so there is no scoring advantage or disadvantage to taking the test at a certain grade level.

ISEE LEVELS & STRUCTURE

TEST LEVEL	SECTION	QUESTIONS	TIME (MINUTES)	SCALED SCORES
Lower Level Students in grades 4–5, applying to grades 5–6	VERBAL REASONING	34	20	760–940 in each of 4 sections Essay not scored
	QUANTITATIVE REASONING	38	35	
	5–10-minute break			
	READING COMPREHENSION	25	25	
	MATHEMATICS ACHIEVEMENT	30	30	
	5–10-minute break			
	ESSAY	1	30	
	TOTAL TIME: 2 hours 20 minutes Plus 10–20 minutes of breaks			
Middle Level Students in grades 6–7, applying to grades 7–8	VERBAL REASONING	40	20	760–940 in each of 4 sections Essay not scored
	QUANTITATIVE REASONING	37	35	
	5–10-minute break			
	READING COMPREHENSION	36	35	
	MATHEMATICS ACHIEVEMENT	47	40	
	5–10-minute break			
	ESSAY	1	30	
	TOTAL TIME: 2 hours 40 minutes Plus 10–20 minutes of breaks			
Upper Level Students in grades 8–11, applying to grades 9–12	VERBAL REASONING	40	20	760–940 in each of 4 sections Essay not scored
	QUANTITATIVE REASONING	37	35	
	5–10-minute break			
	READING COMPREHENSION	36	35	
	MATHEMATICS ACHIEVEMENT	47	40	
	5–10-minute break			
	ESSAY	1	30	
	TOTAL TIME: 2 hours 40 minutes Plus 10–20 minutes of breaks			

NOTE: Each section of the ISEE (excluding the essay) includes several experimental questions that will not be scored but may be used on future editions of the test. You will not be notified which questions are experimental.

ISEE SCALED SCORES, PERCENTILES, STANINES

Both the ISEE and SSAT report scaled scores. However, independent school admission offices have historically relied more on percentile ranks than on scaled scores. The ISEE also provides stanine scores (explained below), which some schools use as the primary consideration for ISEE results.

ISEE essays are not scored. The importance of your essay in admission decisions varies from school to school, but the purpose is to evaluate a student's writing ability.

Raw Scores

Your raw score is the total number of correct answers. Every question on the ISEE is worth one point, so the easiest question is worth just as much as the most difficult question. There are no points for skipped questions. There is no penalty for incorrect answers, so you should guess aggressively on the ISEE. Do not leave any answers blank.

Scaled Scores

Your raw score is converted to a scaled score. Each ISEE has a slightly different scale to account for any small differences in difficulty between tests. As a result, no test date is easier or harder than any other. An 840 on one test indicates the same level of performance as an 840 on another test.

The ISEE provides scaled scores in each of 4 sections: Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning, Reading Comprehension, and Mathematics Achievement. The ISEE does not provide a combined total score.

The section score range for the ISEE is 760–940.

Percentiles

Your scaled scores are given percentile ranks indicating how well you scored compared to other test-takers of the same grade. For example, a 60th percentile score indicates that you performed the same as or better than 60% of test-takers. Your percentile rank is based on scores from all students in your grade who have taken the test over the past three years.

Your percentile might seem quite low because your scores are being compared to those of other ISEE students, a very competitive group.

Stanines

Ranging from 1–9, stanines are groupings of percentile scores. See the table on the next page for how percentiles are grouped into stanines.

A relatively small percent of students will achieve stanine scores that are very high or very low. Stanine scores create a bell curve, so that the majority of students achieve “average” stanine scores of 4–6.

TAKE-HOME MESSAGE

Answering just a few more questions correctly can make a significant difference in your scaled, percentile, and stanine scores.

ISEE SCORING

Raw scores for each section are calculated by adding one point for each correct answer. There are no point deductions for incorrect answers.

Scaled scores for each section are calculated using a conversion table, as shown in the abridged table below.

Scaled scores are assigned percentile ranks based on the percentage of students who scored at or below that level.

Percentile ranks are then grouped into stanine scores, ranging from 1 to 9, as shown below.

Below is an example of how raw scores are converted to scaled scores for a particular ISEE test.

Note that each test has a slightly different scale to account for difficulty.

RAW SCORE TO SCALED SCORE CONVERSION				
Raw Score	Verbal Reasoning Scaled Score	Quantitative Reasoning Scaled Score	Reading Comprehension Scaled Score	Mathematics Achievement Scaled Score
15	842	859	843	852
16	845	862	848	854
17	848	866	852	857
18	852	869	856	859
19	855	873	860	862
20	858	876	865	865
21	862	879	869	867
22	865	883	873	870
23	868	886	878	872
24	871	889	882	875
25	875	893	886	877
26	878	896	891	880
27	881	899	895	882
28	884	903	899	885
29	887	906	903	887
30	891	909	908	890
31	894	913		893
32	897	916		895
33	900			898
34	904			900
35	907			903
36				905
37				908
38				910
39				913
40				915
41				918
42				921

SCALED SCORE TO PERCENTILE RANK CONVERSION			
Section	Percentile		
	25 th	50 th	75 th
Verbal Reasoning	847	863	879
Quantitative Reasoning	853	867	882
Reading Comprehension	844	865	884
Mathematics Achievement	858	871	884

These conversion tables are estimated based on data for 6th grade students taking the Middle Level ISEE.

PERCENTILE RANK	STANINE SCORE
1–3	1
4–10	2
11–22	3
23–39	4
40–59	5
60–76	6
77–88	7
89–95	8
96–99	9

Stanine groupings stay the same for each test level and for every administration of the ISEE.

ISEE SCORE REPORT

A The Stanine score is usually the most important score when applying to schools. Stanines are groups of percentile ranks, which show your relative standing among other students who took the ISEE.

B The Scaled scores represent your performance on the test. Some schools have benchmarks for Scaled scores to determine whether you are ready for the rigor of the schools' curricula.

Test Profile

Section	Scaled Score (760-940)	Percentile Rank (1-99)	Stanine Rank (1-9)	Stanine Analysis								
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Verbal Reasoning	915	96	9									VR
Reading Comprehension	911	85	7							RC		
Quantitative Reasoning	910	88	7							QR		
Mathematics Achievement	926	96	9									MA

Analysis

C

Legend: + Correct - Incorrect S Skipped N Not Reached

Section	# of Questions	Correct +	Answers
Verbal Reasoning			
Synonyms	17	14	+ + + + + - + - - + + + + + + + +
Single Word Response	10	10	+ + + + + + + + + +
Paired Word Response	8	7	+ + + + + + - +
Reading Comprehension			
Main Idea	4	4	+ + + +
Supporting Ideas	10	10	+ + + + + + + + + +
Inference	5	4	+ + + + -
Vocabulary	6	5	+ + + + + -
Organization/Logic	4	3	+ - + +
Tone/Style/Figurative Language	1	1	+
Quantitative Reasoning			
Word Problems	18	16	+ + + + + + + - + + + + + + + + - +
Quantitative Comparisons	14	10	+ + - + - + - + + - + + + +

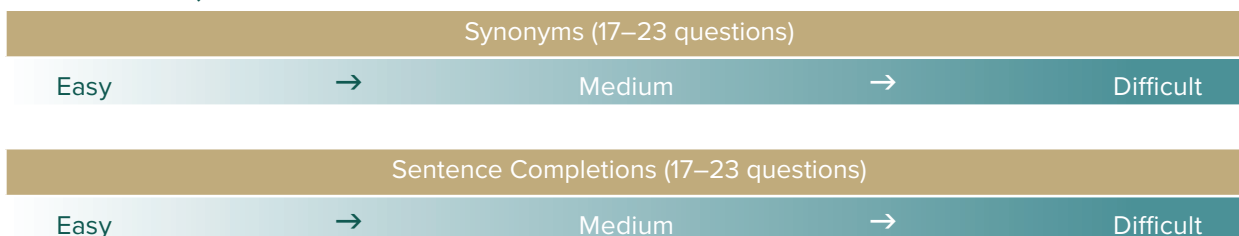
C The Analysis section provides more specific information on your performance in different content areas of the test. By comparing the results in different areas, you can determine your relative strengths and weaknesses. This can inform how you prepare for your next test.

ISEE VERBAL REASONING OVERVIEW

The Verbal Reasoning section contains two types of vocabulary-based questions: synonyms and sentence completions. Note that both subsections progress from easy to difficult.

Since vocabulary is best learned through context, you can prepare for the test by reading regularly. Focus on texts that are somewhat challenging, and record and study the definitions of new words you encounter.

MIDDLE LEVEL ISEE STRUCTURE 40 QUESTIONS, 20 MINUTES TOTAL



Synonyms

Synonyms test your ability to determine the meaning of words without contextual clues. You must choose the word that is most nearly the same in meaning to the word in the question.

Sentence Completions

Sentence completions test your ability to understand words in context. You must choose the best word(s) for the given sentence.

TEST STRATEGY

Consider multiple definitions for words.

Trickier synonym questions will use less common definitions. For example, the word “train” can mean a locomotive, a part of a dress, or the act of preparing for an event.

ISEE QUANTITATIVE REASONING OVERVIEW

Quantitative Reasoning is the first of two math sections on the ISEE and is designed to test problem-solving and critical thinking skills. These questions often require little or no calculation because the emphasis is on your ability to reason mathematically.

On the Middle and Upper Level tests, the Quantitative Reasoning section has two types of questions: word problems and quantitative comparisons. On the Lower Level test, this section has only word problems.

MIDDLE LEVEL ISEE STRUCTURE 37 QUESTIONS, 35 MINUTES TOTAL

Word Problems (18-21 questions)				
Easy	→	Medium	→	Difficult
Quantitative Comparisons (14-17 questions)				
Easy	→	Medium	→	Difficult

Word Problems

Word problems require logic and higher-order thinking. They may be different from the standard questions seen in typical math classes.

Quantitative Comparisons

The quantitative comparison questions present quantities in two columns: Column A and Column B. All comparison questions have the same four answer choices, as shown below.

- (A) The quantity in Column A is greater.
- (B) The quantity in Column B is greater.
- (C) The two quantities are equal.
- (D) The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.

TEST STRATEGIES

Test different values for variables.

Quantitative comparisons ask you to determine which quantity is greater in all possible cases. When a quantity involves variables, test different values to see if one quantity is always greater. For example, try a fraction, a negative number, a positive number, and zero.

ISEE READING COMPREHENSION OVERVIEW

The Reading Comprehension section requires students to understand what's explicitly stated and what's implied in a broad range of texts. The passages cover topics in literature, history, science, and modern life.

The Lower Level test has five reading passages, each followed by five questions. The Middle and Upper Level tests have six reading passages, each followed by six questions.

MIDDLE LEVEL ISEE STRUCTURE 36 QUESTIONS, 35 MINUTES TOTAL

Passage 1						Passage 2						Passage 3					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Passage 4						Passage 5						Passage 6					
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
Not in order of difficulty																	

Question Types

- Main Idea questions ask you to identify the primary purpose, message, or focus of the passage.
- Supporting Idea questions ask for specific facts and explicit ideas from the passage.
- Tone/Style/Figurative Language questions ask you to identify the author's attitude, describe the mood of the passage, or determine the meaning of a metaphor.
- Vocabulary questions ask you to define a word in the context in which it is used.
- Inference questions ask you to draw logical conclusions based on information in the passage.
- Organization/Logic questions ask you to recognize the structure of ideas in the passage or the purpose of portions of the passage.

Be an active reader.

As you read, you should summarize, make connections, and analyze the passage. Take notes, underline, and write down the main ideas of each paragraph. If you have an organized understanding of the passage, you will be able to answer the questions with speed and confidence.

ISEE MATHEMATICS ACHIEVEMENT OVERVIEW

Mathematics Achievement is the curriculum-based math section on the ISEE. Whereas the questions in the Quantitative Reasoning section are often abstract, the questions in the Mathematics Achievement section are more straightforward and often require knowledge of specific math terminology and procedures. The questions in this section are more likely to be similar to what you have seen in school math courses. Depending on your grade level, however, you may encounter concepts on the ISEE that you have not yet learned in school.

MIDDLE LEVEL ISEE STRUCTURE 47 QUESTIONS, 40 MINUTES TOTAL

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Easy →															
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Medium →															
33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	
Difficult →															

TEST STRATEGIES

Check your work after each question.

Instead of waiting until the end to review your answers, do a quick check after you solve each question. Did you answer the question asked? Did you make any careless mistakes? Is your answer reasonable?

ISEE Mathematics Achievement Content

The Middle Level Mathematics Achievement section spans the math areas shown below. Sample topics from each content area are listed.

CONTENT	# OF QUESTIONS	TOPICS
ALGEBRAIC CONCEPTS	9–13 Questions	- Equations - Functions - Inequalities
DECIMALS, PERCENTS, AND FRACTIONS	7–10 Questions	- Percent-decimal-fraction conversion - Rounding and estimation
WHOLE NUMBERS	7–10 Questions	- Add, subtract, multiply, divide - Positive and negative - Odd and even
DATA ANALYSIS AND PROBABILITY	5–9 Questions	- Mean, median, mode, range - Probability - Data plots
GEOMETRY	4–6 Questions	- Angles - Triangles - Circles - Coordinate plane
MEASUREMENT	4–6 Questions	- Area - Volume - Surface area

Plan the steps you'll need to get to the answer.

When trying to figure out how to solve a word problem, ask yourself, “What information do I need to find the answer?” and “What can I calculate with the information I’ve been given?”

ISEE ESSAY OVERVIEW

The Essay section of the ISEE requires you to write an essay in 30 minutes. Practice with timed essays is essential for creating a well-structured, well-supported, and well-written essay. Writing an essay under such time constraints is an unusual assignment. Be sure to time yourself while writing practice essays so you can find the right pace.

While the ISEE essay is not scored, it is sent to school admission committees, and it can still be an important part of your application.

Essay Directions

“The essay is designed to give you an opportunity to show how well you can write. You should try to express your thoughts clearly. How well you write is much more important than how much you write, but you need to say enough for a reader to understand what you mean.

You will probably want to write more than a short paragraph. You should also be aware that a copy of your essay will be sent to each school that will be receiving your test results. You are to write only in the appropriate section of the answer sheet. Please write or print so that your writing may be read by someone who is not familiar with your handwriting.”

Sample Prompts

Lower Level prompts:

- What are the best qualities of a person you admire?
- Explain a hobby you have that makes you special.

Middle Level prompts:

- Describe your ideal future career.
- Discuss a problem in the world that you would like to solve and how you would solve it.

Upper Level prompts:

- What accomplishment are you most proud of? Describe this accomplishment and why it makes you feel proud.
- Describe an experience that has inspired you.

COMPARISON OF THE SSAT & ISEE



SSAT-ISEE COMPARISON CHART

	SSAT	ISEE	KEY DIFFERENCES
Format and Length	Elementary Level • 4 sections • 1 hour, 40 minutes Middle and Upper Level • 6 sections (including experimental section) • 3 hours, 5 minutes	Lower Level • 5 sections • 2 hours, 20 minutes Middle and Upper Level • 5 sections • 2 hours, 40 minutes	The SSAT and ISEE have similar structures. Pacing is almost identical, except for the math sections, where the SSAT offers slightly more time per question. The SSAT has an experimental section, whereas the ISEE has experimental questions spread throughout.
Scoring	Incorrect answer penalty • $\frac{1}{4}$ raw score point Scaled Score ranges • Elementary — 900-1800 • Middle — 1320-2130 • Upper — 1500-2400 Scaled scores are given percentile ranks	No incorrect answer penalty Scaled Score range • 760–940 per section Scaled scores are given percentile ranks Percentiles are grouped into stanine scores	The ISEE measures verbal, math, and reading skills needed for successful performance in independent schools. The ISEE contains elements of both aptitude (like the SSAT) and curriculum-based testing.
Math	Arithmetic through geometry Questions require knowledge of math concepts and skills, as well as problem solving and critical thinking	Arithmetic through geometry Quantitative Reasoning • Focus on problem solving and critical thinking Mathematics Achievement • Focus on knowledge of math concepts and skills	Many of the math questions on the SSAT are different from what students see in standard math courses. The ISEE's Math Achievement section has straightforward questions. The Quantitative Reasoning section has trickier and more abstract questions, similar to the SSAT's math sections.
Reading	SSAT passages are typically 250–350 words long. May include poem passages	ISEE passages are typically 300–600 words long.	The SSAT and ISEE have similar reading question types. SSAT reading passages are typically shorter than ISEE passages.
Verbal	Synonyms Analogies	Synonyms Sentence Completions	An extensive vocabulary is very helpful on both tests. The SSAT's analogies require more critical thinking and less vocabulary knowledge than do the ISEE's sentence completions.
Essay	Creative or formal prompt, depending on test level	Formal prompt	For both tests, the essays are not scored but are sent directly to admissions offices.

SSAT-ISEE COMPARISON

Depending on where you are applying, you may or may not have a choice of which test to take. Upper schools often have a preference for the SSAT, and middle schools often prefer the ISEE, but many schools have no preference and will accept either test. You should always reach out to admissions offices and ask if you are unsure about which tests will be accepted.

Neither test is easier or harder than the other. Most students score comparably on both tests. However, some students perform significantly better on one test or have a strong personal preference.

When choosing between the SSAT and ISEE, consider the tests' content as well as your confidence and comfort with the format and material. If you have the time, take a practice test for each test to see if you scored better on one or have a personal preference. Do not try to prepare for both of the tests at the same time; by overstretching yourself, you will prevent yourself from performing up to your potential on either test.

Scoring

Guessing Penalty — The SSAT penalizes students $\frac{1}{4}$ raw point for incorrect answers. Therefore, students must be more careful about guessing on questions. The ISEE has no penalty for incorrect answers, so students should guess aggressively and never leave an answer blank.

Scores — Both tests convert raw scores to scaled scores, which are then given percentile ranks based on the student's ranking among other test-takers. In addition to percentiles, the ISEE also gives a stanine score.

Relative Weight — The SSAT and ISEE place different relative weight on the math and English scores. The SSAT reports two English scores (Verbal and Reading Comprehension) and one math score. The ISEE reports two English scores (Verbal Reasoning and Reading Comprehension) and two math scores (Quantitative Reasoning and Mathematics Achievement). Students who feel anxious about their math skills may prefer the SSAT, which has only one of its three section scores based on math. In comparison, half of the ISEE's section scores are based on math.

Math

Both tests have similar scopes of math concepts. The Upper Level ISEE may include more advanced concepts, such as trigonometry. The SSAT math sections and the ISEE's Quantitative Reasoning section have more abstract and complex questions. The ISEE's Mathematics Achievement section is more straightforward.

Reading

ISEE reading passages are typically longer than the SSAT's. Both tests cover similar content, but the SSAT may also include poetry passages.

Verbal

The SSAT includes analogies, whereas the ISEE includes sentence completions. Analogies test vocabulary and critical thinking. Sentence completions may require a stronger vocabulary, but the context provides more clues.

Essay

The SSAT provides two prompts and the student can choose which to respond to. The ISEE only provides a single prompt.

TAKE-HOME MESSAGE

If you have the choice between submitting SSAT or ISEE scores, begin by trying a practice test of each test type. Use your practice test scores and your preference for the different features of the tests to choose which test to focus on.

PROCESS OF ELIMINATION

Since the SSAT and the ISEE are both multiple choice tests, using Process of Elimination (POE) can be a very helpful strategy. Eliminating answer choices that you know are wrong gets you closer to finding the right answer. It also means that you will increase your odds if you need to guess. Note that there is no guessing penalty on the ISEE — you simply receive credit for all correct answers. The SSAT does have a guessing penalty, so, if you cannot use process of elimination on a certain question, you may be better off leaving it blank. The examples below illustrate how to navigate process of elimination on the SSAT.

	STUDENT A	STUDENT B	STUDENT C
	All Blank	Random Guesses	Educated Guesses
CORRECT	0	4	7
INCORRECT	0	16	13
BLANK	20	0	0
RAW SCORE	0	$4 - (16 \times \frac{1}{4}) = 0$ Raw Points	$7 - (13 \times \frac{1}{4}) = 3\frac{3}{4}$ Raw Points

Student C has used a methodical and consistent POE strategy and scores significantly higher than Student A or Student B based on POE alone. By not guessing, Student A gets 0 raw points. While Student B answers every question, the student doesn't use POE and therefore doesn't improve the odds of getting questions right. Furthermore, the SSAT's guessing penalty reduces the student's earned points.

REFERENCES & RESOURCES



TESTING GUIDE EDITORIAL TEAM



MICHAEL DEAN

VP, Academic Services

Michael received a B.A. in Film from Emerson College and an M.A. in Library and Information Science from Simmons College. He has held several different management

positions during his 15+ years at Summit, and his customer service focus and integrity make him well suited to his latest role as Executive Director. Michael is highly regarded among school and independent counselors throughout New England and New York as a trusted test prep partner who does all he can on behalf of his clients.



DREW HEILPERN

Chief Brand Ambassador

Drew graduated *cum laude* from Duke University with degrees in Biology and Education. After teaching middle school science, Drew earned his Ph.D. in

Immunology from Tufts University. Soon after, Drew began tutoring for Summit, where his enthusiasm as an educator quickly made him one of Summit's most requested tutors. As Summit's Chief Brand Ambassador, he gets to pursue his passion of helping to guide educational consultants, school counselors, and families through the standardized testing process.



CHARLIE O'HEARN

Founder

While an undergraduate at Yale University, Charlie provided personalized, in-home tutoring services to students in the New Haven area. Seeing a need for

one-on-one, in-home tutoring and test preparation, he launched Summit Educational Group in Wellesley, MA, in 1988. Charlie has written a number of highly regarded test preparation books, which are used by tutoring companies and schools nationwide. He is a frequent speaker and panelist at education conferences, forums, and schools around the country.



WHITNEY LONGWORTH

Senior Director of Partnerships

Whitney graduated *cum laude* from Connecticut College, where she was a selected scholar for the Holleran Center for Community Action and Public Policy. Her

professional background has focused on client relations in the retail and entertainment fields. Whitney enjoys collaborating with school and independent counselors and serving as a frequent guest speaker for schools and industry conferences. Outside of work, she freelances in the film industry, follows Formula 1 racing, and enjoys planning elaborate events.

"Ben engaged extremely well with our ten year old son and held his attention for weekly 90-minute sessions. Our son's scores improved substantially with practice, and we also noted improvement in his general school work and study habits."

Peter H., Parent



AUBREY ELSON

Summit Tutor & Admissions Test Expert

Aubrey just finished her MFA in Theatre from Florida Atlantic University. With a BA in Theatre and a minor in International

Relations from the University of Southern California, Aubrey has balanced her passion for teaching, kids, and academia with her love and interest in the arts. Because of her artistic background, Aubrey's teaching style is empathetic, fun, patient, supportive, and enthusiastic, and relies on tailoring her communication of ideas to fit each individual students' needs and learning style. With virtually perfect GPAs in high school, college, and graduate school, Aubrey understands and helps guide her students through learning and study techniques that ensure success.



MICHAEL SINGER

Summit Tutor & Admissions Test Expert

Michael joined Summit in 2015 and has happily tutored many one-on-one and classroom programs since then. Throughout his multi-decade

teaching career, Michael has taught reading to children and adults of all ages, religious school to children and teens, ESL/ELL to undergraduate and graduate students of all ages, and biblical studies to adults. He holds a BA in History from Franklin & Marshall College (go Dips!), an MA from Brandeis University, and has completed work toward a PhD, also at Brandeis. When not sharing his love of learning with people of all abilities and ages, Michael enjoys spending time with his family, reading, cooking, listening to podcasts, classic video gaming, and playing sports.



ZDENKA STURM

Assistant Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Training

Zdenka graduated with an Anthropology BA from Harvard, where she was recognized with

a Detur Prize and a Center for European Studies Grant. She joined Summit as a tutor in 2007. She is an enthusiastic educator and more recently worked as an Adjunct Instructor in Biology at Cambridge College. In her current role, she assists in the development of Summit's new curriculum, instruction, and training materials. Zdenka is especially passionate about mathematics and enjoys studying abstract algebra and number theory in her spare time.



JOSHUA WHITE

Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Training

Joshua oversees the development and implementation of Summit's curriculum, instruction, and training. Prior to his role as Director

of Curriculum, Joshua spent 3 years as a Summit tutor and classroom teacher, preparing students for the SAT, ACT, SSAT, ISEE, and essay writing. With over 10 years of tutoring experience, Joshua has taught students from kindergarteners to senior citizens in everything from cooking to computers.

"Claire is amazing!! She's taught the perfect blend of skills and strategy and delivered it wrapped in so much encouragement and positivity. My daughter is very confident in the test and in her abilities. The personal touch is top-notch!"

Cheryl S., Parent

RESOURCES

Summit Educational Group

mytutor.com

Summit's Blog: mytutor.com/blog

A frequently updated resource for all information regarding standardized testing, test prep, and academic tutoring.

ISEE

800-989-3721

Register for the ISEE:

erblearn.org/families/isee-registration/

Free ISEE guide and official practice test:

isee.erblearn.org/guide.aspx

SSAT

609-683-4440

Register for the SSAT: ssat.org/testing/overview

Purchase the official SSAT guide:

ssat.org/prepare/practice

Association of Independent Schools in New England

aisne.org

Information on enrollment, applications, and school programs

National Association of Independent Schools

nais.org

Information on applications, costs, and financial aid

Services for organizing and sending applications

Standard Application Online (SSAT only):

ssat.org/sao

Gateway to Prep Schools:

gatewaytoprepschools.com

Ravenna: ravennasolutions.com/families

NOTES

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[illegible]

“The students I have referred to Summit have been paired up with tutors who suit their personalities and learning styles — it’s clear to me that Summit puts a lot of time and care into making that match. They have seen increased test scores and improved self-confidence in their test taking abilities.”

Allison Matlack, Matlack Educational Consulting, Needham, MA

“Summit is absolutely my ‘go-to’ for tutoring. I believe they are the best in the business and I have complete confidence that families will be well served and thoroughly satisfied with their Summit experience.”

Audrey Ludemann, The Bertram Group, Westport, CT

“We’ve been working with Summit for more than five years, and we have been consistently pleased with the quality of the tutors, the flexibility of the staff, the creativity of the programming, and the results our students have received.”

Tim Murphy, Director of Secondary School Counseling, The Fessenden School, Newton, MA

“Summit has been our top choice for years since they provide terrific tutoring and their team is agile enough to work well with not only our New England students, but our families from across the country and around the world.”

Don McMillan, McMillan Education, Boston MA

“Summit has been my go-to resource for both independent school and college testing prep for my families. They have gone above and beyond with their flexible online tutoring for my remote families, even navigating tricky time zone differences for several of my international clients. I am confident that my clients who are local in New England and abroad always receive the same level of quality when they work with Summit.”

Brian Hetzel, Hetzel Educational Consulting, West Hartford, CT



The essential Independent School Admission Testing Guide for families,
school counselors, and educational consultants

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