

Quotes from Professionals and Educators Across the Country on the Benefits of the Redesigned SAT

Citation: www.deliveringopportunity.org

"College Board's redesign of the SAT and focus on providing free resources to help prepare students for college and a career, particularly in critical STEM subjects, is to be commended. This serves as a reminder that we must continue working together to provide a path for all students to be successful."

Dr. Peter Balyta
President, Texas Instruments Education Technology

"This is a clear message that good hard work is going to pay off and achievement is going to pay off. This is one of the most significant developments that I have seen in the 40-plus years that I've been working in admissions in higher education."

William R. Fitzsimmons,
Dean of Admissions,
Harvard University

"It's really exciting that students will be asked to read real documents and offer evidence to support their perception. And the math will now focus on areas that will be helpful for admissions officers and students as they go through high school."

Pam Horne,
Associate Vice Provost
for Enrollment Management
and Dean of Admissions,
Purdue University

"The newly redesigned SAT is right on to focus on graphical data. It is the language of communication and if you look at the kind of technical information that folks in engineering, biomedical science, computer science are looking at, are writing themselves, it's simply another way of communicating. To put something in a data table, to put something in a visual graphic form, can make a point quickly; and if you try to actually explain that in words, you find yourself going on and on."

Ann Jones,
Vice President
Project Lead the Way

Bill McCallum, commenting on the Focused, Useful and Interdisciplinary approach taken in the SAT:

“That is really what most of college readiness and career readiness is about. One of the things that’s really exciting about the redesigned SAT is that they’re pulling in materials from science and mathematics into the reading portions of the test. I mean, these days, kids need to be able to read graphs as well as paragraphs. The ability to analyze scientific information is as important as the ability to read text, to reason quantitatively, to model, and to think about how to use mathematics”.

Bill McCallum,
Institute for Mathematics & Education

“I’m excited about the redesigned SAT because it really marks a change in assessment....It engages students in argument, both on the reading side and on the author’s side, trying to write their own arguments, to move back and forth between, say, a table and the prose. Being able to see when it’s saying the same thing; when it’s adding information; when it’s contradicting something in the text.

The redesigned SAT will deliver opportunities I think in a couple of ways. I think they’re going to have an impact on what it is the teachers do with students in middle school and high school. Instead of aiming at some skills that might be predictive of college success, they’ll actually be aiming themselves at the skills that really do matter in college. Students are going to have a better idea of how to prepare for it because they’ll have a better sense of what they’re being asked to do. I think the kinds of things that they would need to do to prepare for this are something that’s not just aimed at a test but are really aimed at college success itself”.

Tim Shanahan
Distinguished Professor Emeritus of urban education
University of Illinois at Chicago
Director, Center for Literacy