

March 11, 2021

Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs  
Maine State Legislature  
Cross Building, Room 208  
Augusta, Maine 04330

Dear Chairwoman Daughtry, Chairman Brennan, and Members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee:

On behalf of the College Board, a mission-driven not-for-profit organization that connects students to success and opportunity, I am writing to express our concerns with LD 277, which seeks to prohibit Maine schools from administering the SAT as part of the statewide assessment program.

Maine was the first state to adopt the SAT as its statewide assessment to meet federal accountability requirements in 2006. Following in Maine's footsteps, states and districts across the country support using the SAT as part of their efforts to improve college readiness and break down barriers to college.

There is also a growing consensus among researchers that offering the SAT at no cost during the school day propels more students into college. A [study](#) of Maine's longstanding policy to offer the SAT to all public high school students found that it increased 4-year college-going rates among Maine public high school graduates by at least 2-3 percentage points overall, and by 10 percentage points among those students who took the SAT only because it was made universal.

Independent [research](#) from Michigan also shows students who take college entrance exams in states that administer them during the school day see higher college attendance rates—and low-income students benefit the most.

The reasons to use the SAT for accountability are compelling. The SAT measures what students are learning in high school, and what research shows they need to know to succeed in college and careers. The SAT connects students to distinct opportunities and benefits like free, personalized practice on Khan Academy and college application fee waivers. Additionally, the SAT offers actionable data reports to educators, students, and families aligned to state standards; and opens the door to college. The bottom line is offering the SAT helps propel students along the path to college and career success.

Maine districts continue to see the value of the SAT for their students. Despite the uncertainty around statewide testing this year, many Maine districts stepped in and partnered with the College Board to administer the assessment during the school day at no cost to students. We continue to work with educators to ensure students can show their potential to succeed.

Sincerely,

Gabe Sheheane  
Senior Director, State Government Relations  
College Board