

## EDUCATOR BRIEF

# Supporting Students Using Official SAT<sup>®</sup> Practice on Khan Academy<sup>®</sup>

Best Practices from  
**Orange County**  
Public Schools, Florida





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In 2015, the College Board and Khan Academy launched Official SAT® Practice, a comprehensive readiness tool that is free for all students. This is the first time that the organization that designs the SAT has come together with a leader in online education to provide personalized practice for all students at no cost. The practice tools level the playing field for all students who are interested in taking the SAT and preparing for college.

Students who take the SAT, PSAT/NMSQT®, PSAT™ 10, or PSAT™ 8/9 have access to free, world-class SAT study resources through Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy. By linking their College Board and Khan Academy accounts, students get personalized practice recommendations based on their own test results.

Through Official SAT Practice, students receive a personalized study plan along with:

- Six official full-length practice tests (with additional tests added over time)
- Study and test-taking tips from students and experts
- Thousands of interactive problems written in collaboration with the College Board and video lessons explaining problems step by step

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OFFICIAL SAT® PRACTICE ON KHAN ACADEMY

# Best Practices from Florida's Orange County Public Schools

In response to the College Board's redesign of the SAT to focus on the few things evidence shows matter most for college and career success, Orange County Public Schools (OCPS), Florida, encouraged use of Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy in all of its 21 high schools during the 2015-16 school year.





The **Orange County Public Schools (OCPS)** system is the 10th largest in the nation and is the fourth largest in Florida. As of 2015, 196,951 students were served by OCPS.<sup>2</sup>

**Total Student Makeup:**

- 38% Hispanic
- 28% White
- 27% Black
- 5% Asian
- 2% Multicultural
- 65% Economically disadvantaged

This educator brief describes how schools can help students make the most of Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy both during the school day and after school. In this brief, we highlight the following key strategies from schools that are implementing Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy to prepare for the SAT.

**How school and district leaders can support SAT practice:**

- Facilitate teacher learning about Official SAT Practice to support students
- Promote teacher collaboration for successful implementation
- Identify ways to maximize students' time practicing during or after school

**How teachers can support SAT practice:**

- Track student progress
- Connect SAT content and skills to daily classroom instruction
- Structure an open dialogue with students to drive engagement

**How to engage other adults to support SAT practice:**

- Outreach to parents to maximize student engagement
- Partner with community organizations to support students' use of Official SAT Practice

The superintendent's office challenged high schools to incorporate Official SAT Practice into the school day to prepare students for the new SAT. Districtwide staff training was held at the end of the 2014-15 school year with clear action steps, determined by each building, for all schools to plan how to use the free practice tools at their schools.

English and Language Arts teachers were especially motivated to incorporate Official SAT Practice into their classroom instruction because high school seniors in the state of Florida may use the SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing score to satisfy their reading/ELA state graduation requirement.<sup>1</sup>

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*The information compiled for this brief came from four OCPS high schools:<sup>3</sup>*

- **Oak Ridge High School**
  - **Boone High School**
  - **Dr. Phillips High School**
  - **Cypress Creek High School**
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A blue-tinted photograph of students in a school hallway. In the foreground, a young man on the left is smiling and looking towards the right. A young woman on the right is also smiling and looking upwards, with her hand near her face. Other students are visible in the background, slightly out of focus.

**“It’s not only the prep ...  
it’s also the videos, the  
points, and the positive  
reinforcement ...”**

**Cameron Gonzalez**  
Junior

# Key Takeaways

## **Facilitate teacher comfort with Official SAT Practice to support student learning.**

Increase teacher comfort with Official SAT Practice by getting all teachers involved in a thorough training on the platform before using it with students. During teacher training, teachers can use an exploratory approach by logging in as a student to take a diagnostic quiz in their content area to understand what students will encounter. Each teacher should have access to a computer with a reliable internet connection and sufficient time for Q&A should be allotted for the training. To access how-to videos, such as a walk-through to learn how the practice tools work, go to **satpractice.org**, and click to the “Tips and Strategies” section. Go to **satpractice.org/k12** for additional videos and educator resources.

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*At Oak Ridge High School, all teachers went to **satpractice.org** and created their own student accounts to understand how Official SAT Practice works. They learned how energy points — which measure effort on Khan Academy — are acquired, how students level up in skills, and how videos can be used to support learning.*

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### **Oak Ridge High School Current enrollment: 2,360<sup>4</sup>**

At Oak Ridge High School, ELA teachers used Official SAT Practice weekly for at least 30 minutes with their 11th-grade students. Oak Ridge has 1:1 computer/internet access for all students.

#### **Student Makeup:**

- 2% Asian/Pacific Islander
- 49% Black
- 39% Hispanic
- 7% White
- 1% Two or More Races
- 100% Free or Reduced-Price Lunch Eligible



### Boone High School Current enrollment: 2,896<sup>5</sup>

ELA teachers at Boone High School used Official SAT Practice with their 11th- and 12th-grade students on a weekly basis during class time either in the school's media lab or with laptop carts in their classrooms.

#### Student Makeup:

- 2% Asian/Pacific Islander
- 11% Black
- 32% Hispanic
- 54% White
- 2% Two or More Races
- 42% Free or Reduced-Price Lunch Eligible

## Teacher collaboration is beneficial for successful implementation of Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy.

Teachers can work together to support their students' progress. In working groups, teachers can establish a system to monitor and report on student growth and discuss ways to motivate students to stay on task. Teachers can also help each other with the administration and scoring of both written and online practice tests. Scoring the tests together allows teachers to identify and better understand their students' areas of strength and where they need more support. Students can also download and use the Daily Practice for the New SAT app for easy scoring. Think about a schoolwide event or campaign to engage teachers and classes across grade levels and content areas.

*Teachers at Boone High School used their professional learning communities (PLCs) to work through issues, such as understanding what resources were most needed for teachers just starting out with Official SAT Practice, how to best track student progress, and how to answer questions as they arose. One of the outcomes was the development of a "quick start guide" for students and teachers logging into Official SAT Practice for the first time and a chart for students to track their progress on the platform. The 11th-grade ELA PLC lead stated, "Teachers met as often as once a week in their PLCs and shared their strategies and resources with each other to support SAT practice."*

*At Oak Ridge High School, curriculum leaders held a monthlong "You Khan Do It!" campaign. Teachers across grade levels and content areas used the SAT practice tools, which also worked as a graduation and college- and career-ready intervention. Teachers encouraged students to use Official SAT Practice as bellwork or extra credit opportunities. Classes competed with one another to obtain the most energy points and win weekly prizes that were donated by local businesses or in-school incentives, such as front-of-the-line lunch passes and breakfast celebrations.*

## Track student progress.

Develop a system for students to demonstrate their progress. Students are likely to feel more motivated to practice when teachers measure their progress and help them set achievement goals. Teachers can create tracking forms for students to log completed sections, energy points, completed quizzes, reflections, and time on task. For example, after a student completes a section, they can take a screenshot of the completed section and paste it into the tracking form. This way, students can show their teachers how they are progressing through each practice session.

*Teachers at Dr. Phillips High School monitored their students' progress on the platform by having students take screenshots of complete sections and track energy points. Teachers included this data in weekly reports on student progress to the administrative dean, who oversaw implementation of Official SAT Practice. During practice time teachers circulate to monitor students' progress, provide immediate feedback, and discuss students' strengths and weaknesses.*

**“You practice, but you don't notice that you're kinda competing with yourself. It's fun — *I like it a lot.*”**

**D'Andre Weaver**

Junior

## Connect SAT content and skills to daily classroom instruction.

Your local College Board office can help you review the alignment between your state's standards and the content covered on the SAT to make connections to your curriculum. Because Official SAT Practice is directly aligned to SAT content and skills, teachers will see connections and be less likely to perceive test practice as an additional task disconnected from their daily classroom instruction. Work with your school's access manager to learn more about the K–12 Assessment Reporting Portal, which provides reports that map SAT skills to your state's standards.

*School leaders at Oak Ridge High School took time to emphasize the importance of working with teachers on the connection to their day-to-day instruction and to review state standards covered on the SAT. In PLCs, teachers examined the instructional materials provided by the College Board to show connection and alignment to curriculum and student learning expectations.*

## Identify ways to maximize students' time practicing during or outside the school day.

Not all students have access to a computer with a reliable internet connection outside of school. Find time and a dedicated space for students to access Official SAT Practice with teachers to facilitate and support practice. Ensure all students get to spend time using Official SAT Practice through media labs, extended library hours, or by partnering with community organizations that can provide facilities and adults to support student practice. This can help you carve out time for students to work on their skills without disrupting regular classroom instruction.

*At Dr. Phillips High School, a structured “lab approach” was used to ensure all 11th- and 12th-grade students had access and dedicated time to practice on Khan Academy. All 11th- and 12th-grade students had lab usage designated for SAT practice for both ELA/reading and math. When the media labs were unavailable, laptop carts were strategically placed around the campus so that students could still practice.*

*At Cypress Creek High School, after-school SAT practice sessions were held in the school's College and Career Resource Center. Although any student could drop in to a session, teachers and counselors also used data points such as course grades and teacher recommendations to identify the students who would most benefit from more practice time and encouraged these students to attend. Teachers who led the after-school tutoring sessions also called the homes of the identified students to encourage them to attend sessions.*



### Downloadable tools

Contact your regional College Board office for examples of these resources:

[collegeboard.org/about/region-offices](https://collegeboard.org/about/region-offices).



### Dr. Phillips High School Current enrollment: 3,490<sup>6</sup>

Ninth- through 11th-grade students at Dr. Phillips High School used Official SAT Practice once a week in their ELA and math classes in the school's media labs and with laptop carts.

#### Student Makeup:

- 7% Asian/Pacific Islander
- 32% Black
- 26% Hispanic
- 33% White
- 2% Two or More Races
- 48% Free or Reduced-Price Lunch Eligible



### **Cypress Creek High School** **Current enrollment: 2,360<sup>7</sup>**

Teachers and counselors at Cypress Creek High School facilitated Official SAT Practice outside of regular school hours. Students practiced at the school's College and Career Resource center, which is led by guidance counselors, as well as during after-school English and reading tutoring sessions and during extended Saturday library hours.

#### **Student Makeup:**

- 1% American Indian/Alaskan
- 10% Asian/Pacific Islander
- 14% Black
- 61% Hispanic
- 13% White
- 2% Two or More Races
- 71% Free or Reduced-Price Lunch Eligible

## **An open dialogue with students drives engagement.**

Talk to students about the importance of SAT practice, and why the skills they practice for college and career readiness are not just important for the SAT, but for a lifetime of opportunities. Make sure students understand the difference between practicing and cramming. Increase student engagement by asking for feedback from students to better understand the kinds of support they need. Teachers can use student feedback to understand and respond to student needs and identify instructional implications.

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*At Oak Ridge High School, students were regularly asked for feedback on their experience using Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy through reflection activities and surveys. This allowed students to take ownership of their progress. Both progress data (i.e., starting and ending levels, gained energy points, etc.) and personal accounts (i.e., creating goals and strategies to achieve those goals) were collected from students.*

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## **Parent outreach helps maximize student practice.**

Teach parents about Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy and how practice can continue when students are not in school. Use existing channels of communication to reach out to parents, such as a back-to-school night, an open house, and emails and letters to students' homes. Encourage parents to support students with their practice at home.

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*Cypress Creek High School held two events for students' families that focused on Official SAT Practice: Parent Night and Family Literacy Night. At Parent Night, students' parents were shown how their children could link their College Board and Khan Academy accounts to get personalized recommendations for instruction and practice. At Family Literacy Night, parents were given a tutorial on Official SAT Practice to get familiar with the platform.*

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## **Community partners can support students' use of SAT practice.**

Consider working with community organizations aligned with your school's needs. Community organizations can provide resources, such as volunteers, facilities, or even prizes to award students. Appoint a point person or program coordinator to work with the community organization and discuss ways the community organization can support practice. Organizations such as the Boys & Girls Club and local YMCAs or libraries can provide access and resources to support practice.

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*At Boone High School, educators worked with AmeriCorps volunteers to maximize College Board and Khan Academy account linking. By charging the volunteers with getting students' accounts linked, classroom teachers were able to focus on the instructional aspect of Official SAT Practice with their students. The district also established a partnership with the YMCA to start "Y Wednesdays," where students could go to their local YMCA after school to continue their practice.*

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## CHECKLIST

# Supporting Students Using Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy

### Create an account and get familiar

- ☐ Create an account and explore the resources that your students can access at **[satpractice.org](https://satpractice.org)**.
- ☐ Make sure students create and link their College Board and Khan Academy accounts to get personalized practice schedules, and find more resources available at **[satpractice.org/k12](https://satpractice.org/k12)**.
- ☐ Contact your regional College Board office (**[collegeboard.org/about/region-offices](https://collegeboard.org/about/region-offices)**) to request the SAT and state standards alignment document. Review the alignment document with teachers to draw connections between the SAT and classroom instruction.
- ☐ Learn how knowledge and skills are assessed on the SAT Suite of Assessments. Professional development modules focused on the SAT are available for free at **[sat.org/k12](https://sat.org/k12)**.

### Make a plan and track the progress

- ☐ Develop a school action plan with measurable goals for SAT practice for the school year.
- ☐ Plan teacher training on using Official SAT Practice — use an exploratory approach so that teachers will experience the platform the same way their students will.
- ☐ Use existing working groups of teachers. Encourage them to share their strategies with one another and troubleshoot issues together, then share with other groups.
- ☐ Track students' progress using journals, daily logs, surveys, or polls. Gather examples of data, such as energy points and completed practice sessions.

### Get everyone involved and make it fun

- ☐ Listen to students. Use surveys and reflection activities to encourage them to take ownership of their study plans and goals, and gather feedback on how to improve the program.
- ☐ Engage students' families to maximize awareness of the online practice site. Plan a tour of Official SAT Practice during a parent night or other event to ensure everyone is familiar with how to get started.
- ☐ Make practice fun and rewarding by encouraging learning, running a schoolwide event, or offering incentives for practice.
- ☐ Enlist the help of volunteers or community groups to emphasize practicing — even after school.



**“This free resource has made a huge difference in the lives of our kids.”**

**Dr. Leigh Ann Bradshaw**  
Principal, Oak Ridge High School

# Links to Resources

**Take advantage of these links for more tools to support Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy in your schools.**

- **[SATPRACTICE.ORG/K12](https://satpractice.org/k12)**

Go to **[satpractice.org/k12](https://satpractice.org/k12)** for flyers, sample tweets, and training resources to spread the word about Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy.

- **[SAT.ORG/STUDYGROUP](https://sat.org/studygroup)**

Visit **[sat.org/studygroup](https://sat.org/studygroup)** for a sample study plan and guidance for creating study groups.

- **[SAT.ORG/K12](https://sat.org/k12)**

Check out information, resources, and tools to help educators prepare students to take the redesigned SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9 at **[sat.org/k12](https://sat.org/k12)**.

- **[YOUTUBE.COM/COLLEGEBOARD](https://youtube.com/collegeboard)**

Watch helpful videos at **[youtube.com/collegeboard](https://youtube.com/collegeboard)** — including “how-to” videos on linking College Board and Khan Academy accounts and understanding SAT scores. See the principal, teacher, and students of Oak Ridge High School discuss how they’re using Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy to get ready for the SAT at **[bit.ly/ocps\\_sat](https://bit.ly/ocps_sat)**.

- **[SATPRACTICE.ORG](https://satpractice.org)**

Get started today with Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy and see what’s available for students. To watch a walk-through video, along with SAT tips and strategies, visit the “Tips and Strategies” tab after logging in at **[satpractice.org](https://satpractice.org)**.

$$3l - 6 \geq 8$$

Which of the following best describes the solutions to the inequality

☐  $l \geq \frac{2}{3}$

☐  $l \geq 2$

☐  $l \geq \frac{14}{3}$

☐  $l \geq 14$

$$3l - 6 \geq 8 + 6$$

and then we are going to be left with,

Solving linear equations and linear inequalities — Basic

#### ENDNOTES

1. The state of Florida's Department of Education provides information to help districts determine the concordant score for the FCAT 2.0 Reading graduation requirement, as well as the Florida Standards Assessment English Language Arts (FSA ELA) requirement. Seniors who have not met their FSA ELA graduation requirement may use their SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section score to satisfy the requirement instead.
2. Data from Florida PK–20 Education Information Portal (edstats.fldoe.org), accessed on July 14, 2016.
3. Interviews were conducted with school and instructional leads at four high schools: Dr. Phillips High School, William R. Boone High School, Oak Ridge High School, and Cypress Creek High School. The schools featured in this publication were identified through trainings conducted by the College Board on Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy.
4. School enrollment and demographics information are from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES); [nces.ed.gov](https://nces.ed.gov).
5. NCES ([nces.ed.gov](https://nces.ed.gov)).
6. NCES ([nces.ed.gov](https://nces.ed.gov)).
7. NCES ([nces.ed.gov](https://nces.ed.gov)).

# satpractice.org

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