

# Taking the ACT or SAT – Minnetonka ACADEMIC Talent Search FAQ

## 1. Why should a student take this exam at such early age?

- Many students have reached the ceiling on the standardized test they take each year (NWEA). Taking the ACT or SAT may give you and your child a more comprehensive picture of their achievement level.
- If a student takes the exam in Gr. 7 and the same exam in Gr. 8 they will see growth which is a positive experience.

## 2. What are the benefits?

- Expose students to the college entrance exam they will take in the future.
- Establish a baseline.
- Practice for when they have to take it for real - the more times a student's take this test the better at it they become.
- Practice for the ACT given in 11<sup>th</sup> grade as a state requirement.
- Practice for the PSAT given in 11th grade, which determines National Merit Scholarships.
- ACT has an additional test that SAT does not have – Scientific Aptitude/Reasoning
- Familiarize with test items and formats.
- More accurately measure achievement strength and weak areas.
- Recognize those who perform at a high level by awarding them the Minnetonka Scholar Award.

## 3. What are the disadvantages?

- Anxiety - test anxiety can be managed by positive self-talk and an attitude that this experience will be difficult. The rationale in taking on the challenge is to learn and gain experience. To practice anything one has to begin for the first time. Each time after the initial time the anxiety is lessened.
- Over testing – while some students would like to take both tests, for most students one is best. Students can be over tested and can develop a casual attitude towards high stakes tests.

## 4. What if my child is unavailable when the test is scheduled at the Minnetonka site?

There are alternate dates and sites available.

To determine other **dates** available:

**ACT** - <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration.html#dates>

**SAT** - <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/dates-deadlines>

To determine **locations** available:

**ACT** - <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration/test-center-locator.html>

**SAT** - <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/find-test-centers>

## 5. Is there financial aid available?

Yes, students may receive a financial aid if they qualify and are receiving free and reduced lunch.

The process is as follows:

1. You must complete a registration on-line. PLEASE NOTE: the registration order number.
2. On Step #5 indicate you are requesting financial aid.
3. On Step #6 verify the information is correct and then you will see a window that says the fee is waived.
4. The next window will indicate the registration is incomplete until they receive the **fee waiver letter**.
5. Contact Jane Bender, Director of Food Services, at: [jane.bender@minnetonkaschools.org](mailto:jane.bender@minnetonkaschools.org) request to send a **fee waiver letter** to NUMATS. Give her your child's Order ID Number when you make this request.
6. Jane Bender will email the necessary information to NUMATS and copy you on that message.
7. Then you should receive an email that the registration is complete.

**Please note:** fee waivers do not cover fees associated with registration changes.

## 6. My child has an IEP or 504. Can they apply for special accommodations?

Yes, please follow this process:

1. Inform Margaret or Deb you are requesting special accommodations. This enables us to start the school process.
2. Complete a registration on-line by following the instructions on green Registration Instruction sheet.
3. Complete Step # 3 **Special Requests**: check **documented disability**.
4. Complete NUMATS registration.
5. NUMATS will send confirmation to you (with 24 hours).
6. NUMATS will send you via U.S. mail the Student Eligibility Form to fill out.
7. This link may be helpful: <https://www.collegeboard.org/students-with-disabilities>
8. Fill out the following form and send it along with your paperwork:  
[Consent Form for Accommodations](#)
9. When packet is received in the US Mail, complete the parent section
10. Bring form to Margaret McDonald (MMW) or Deborah Zachman (MME). We will work with your child's case manager, counselor and teachers to fill out the school portion. DO NOT DELAY.
11. Do not fill out the requested accommodations portion but you can inform the school as to what accommodations you are requesting.
12. The Margaret/Deborah will make copies and send original with all documentation to College Board.
13. College Board reviews 'application' and approves or declines and communicates to family.
14. IF APPROVED: College Board will assign student with SSD # (Services for Students with Disabilities).
15. When you have received confirmation of the approval or denial of Request for Special Accommodations, please notify your child's school official.

The approved accommodation and SSD number will stay with the student throughout their high school career and apply towards all College Board exams (SAT, PSAT and AP exams). There will be no need to reapply.

## 7. How do I register if my child has been approved for special accommodations?

**SAT:**

- When registering your child, check the box in STEP #3 documented disability.
- When packet is received, make a copy of the eligibility letter, which indicates the student's SSD #.
- Send the Eligibility letter and child's registration # in the Addressed envelope provided in the packet.

## 8. How do I change my child's registration after registration is closed?

**SAT:** The link gives instruction on how to do this <http://sat.collegeboard.org/register/registration-changes>

**Incorrect information:** (name, address, DOB, sex) can be changed without fee.

**VERY IMPORTANT** to do this. We cannot admit a student with erroneous information.

**Test Date and Test Site:** There is a fee of \$29

Call 866-756-7346 You will need the registration number.

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/policies-requirements/changes>

**ACT:** **Incorrect information:** (name, address, DOB, sex) can be changed without fee Call 319.337.1270

**Test Date and Test Site:** There is a fee of \$26.00 If it is during the late period you also pay a late fee of \$29.50

## 9. What if my child is absent the day of the test?

**SAT:** see #15 same information applies.

**ACT:** see #15 same information applies.

## 10. What does my child need the day of test?

- Admission Ticket
- Student ID Form – found in your NUMATS Tool Box or Click here: [SAT Student ID Form](#)  
[ACT Student ID Form](#)
- #2 Pencils with erasers – no mechanical 2-3 pencils
- Calculator – the one used for school is appropriate Adhere to Calculator Policy [SAT Calculator Policy](#)  
[ACT Calculator Policy](#)
- Water
- Snack

## 11. Whom should I contact if I do not receive my admission ticket before the exam?

**SAT Customer Service** Call 866-756-7346 #4 your registration number will be helpful

**ACT Customer Service** Call 319-337-1270 #3 by Feb. 1 your registration number will be helpful

## 12. Should my child study for these exams?

Studying is not necessary or recommended. However, we recognize that some students enjoy this kind of intellectual endeavor. There are a number of websites that will help:

- **SAT** <http://sat.collegeboard.org/practice/>
- **ACT** <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation.html>
- **Both** My CTD Tool Box: #2 Guides for both the SAT and ACT  
Practice Questions for both the SAT and ACT
- **Both** Khan Academy <https://www.khanacademy.org/>
- **Both** Princeton Review <https://www.princetonreview.com/> test prep tab – choose test

## 13. What happens to my child's scores?

- The scores will serve as information for you and your child to learn about their achievement level.
- The school uses them determine if a student would qualify for the Minnetonka Scholar award.
- The scores are NOT used for placement purposes.
- All scores before gr. 9 are eliminated from a student's record.

## 14. What calculators are acceptable?

- **SAT** <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/taking-the-test/calculator-policy>
- **ACT** <http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/ACT-calculator-policy.pdf>

## 15. What are some general test taking tips?

- Carefully read the instructions for each test.
- Read each question carefully.
- Pace yourself – don't spend too much time on any one single passage or question.
- Answer easy questions first, then go back and answer the more difficult ones.
- On difficult questions, eliminate as many incorrect answers as you can and the make an educated guess.
- Pay attention to the announcement of five more minutes remaining.
- Completely fill in the oval. If you change your mind about an answer completely erase without smudging before selecting another answer.
- If you complete a test before time is called, recheck your work on that test. DO NOT go back to a previous test or you will be disqualified from the exam.