

Singley Collegiate Academy

Understanding the ACT, SAT, and TSIA2

SINGLEY COLLEGIATE ACADEMY
AT DALLAS COLLEGE NORTH LAKE CAMPUS

Meeting Objectives…

- Explain what the ACT, SAT, and TSIA2 measure.
- Highlight similarities and differences.
- Help families understand which test(s) their student may need to take and when.
- Share tips for preparation and next steps.

Overview of ACT, SAT, and TSIA2

TEST	PURPOSE	COMMON USE
ACT	College Readiness	College Admission (Nationwide), Scholarships
SAT	College Readiness	College Admission (Nationwide), Scholarships
TSIA2	Course Placement (Texas)	Determines readiness for college level coursework (not admissions)

Similarities Among the Tests

- All measure academic readiness for college-level work.
- All are accepted by Texas college and universities.
- All can qualify students for dual credit (depending on score).
- All offer accommodations for eligible students.
- All provide score reports with strengths and areas for improvement.

Who takes each test?

TEST	GRADE LEVEL	FREQUENCY Administered by Irving ISD
PSAT	10th	Once (October)
SAT	11th	Once (March)
ACT	12th	Once (December)
TSIA2	9th- 12th	Varies

ACT Structure

English (Grammar, Usage, Mechanics)

Math (Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry/PreCalculus)

Reading (Passage Comprehension)

Science (Data Interpretation, Scientific Reasoning)

Optional Writing Section (Essay)

SAT Structure

Reading & Writing (Combined Section)

- Vocabulary in Context
- Grammar and Editing
- Reading Comprehension

Math

- Algebra (Heart of Algebra)
- Advanced Math
- Problem-Solving and Data Analysis

Digital Format

TSIA2 Structure

ELAR (English Language Arts & Writing)

- Reading Comprehension
- Writing Skills
- *Essay*

Math

- Algebraic Reasoning
- Geometry and Measurement
- Data Analysis

Digital/Adaptive Format/Untimed
Diagnostic Test (if student does not meet College-Ready Benchmark)

Key Differences at a Glance...

Feature	ACT	SAT	TSIA2
Purpose	Admissions	Admissions	Placement
Length	2 hrs 55 mins	2 hrs 14 mins	Untimed (Adaptive)
Subjects	English, Math, Reading, Science	Reading/Writing Math	ELAR (Essay), Math
Cost	$68/$98 (on your own) Fee waiver available	$68 (on your own) Fee waiver available	$0
Score Range	1-36	400-1600	College-Ready/Not Yet Ready

Test Preparation Tips...

Use free online practice tools (Khan Academy, ACT , SAT, TSIA2 Practice-Accuplacer/IXL).

Find Apps for your phone.

Take practice tests to build stamina.

Review math formulas and grammar rules.

Ask your current English and math teachers for help/guidance.

Grade-Level Planning...

9th- 10th Grade:

- Academic Foundation (Advanced/Honors, AP Courses)
- Career Exploration
- AVID Elective
- PSAT (10th grade)
- Create College List

11th Grade:

- Attend College Fairs/College Visits
- Take the SAT
- Narrow College List

12th Grade:

- College/Scholarship Applications
- Early Action or Early Decision
- Take the ACT
- Re-take the SAT or ACT, if needed

How Parents Can Support...

Help your student set a testing timeline for preparation and testing.

Ensure they get adequate sleep before test day.

Encourage practice and review.

Discuss college and career goals.

Celebrate progress, not just scores!

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