



The Role of Standardized Tests in the Admission Process

Standardized tests can be a common concern for many applicants. It's important to note that different schools place varying levels of importance on these tests. At Solebury, we are test-optional. We've never believed that standardized tests truly reflect a student's potential or predict how they will thrive at our school. If you choose to submit a test score, we consider it as one data point among many. However, we have never based an admission decision solely on test scores. Your grades, recommendations, and other application materials provide a much more comprehensive view of who you are as a student than any test taken on a single morning.

For us, standardized test scores are just one small piece of the puzzle. It's the entire picture—your academic record, personal qualities, and potential for growth—that helps us understand who you are and, perhaps more importantly, who you could become as a student at Solebury.

If you do decide to take the SSAT or the ISEE, here are a few tips to help you feel prepared

1. **Practice Problems:** Both the SSAT and ISEE websites offer free practice problems. These are a great way to familiarize yourself with the types of questions you might encounter.
2. **Test Strategy:** Understand that these tests involve strategy. In some cases, it may be better to leave a question unanswered than to guess. You can find detailed information on this on their websites.
3. **Rest and Nutrition:** We can't stress this enough—get a good night's sleep and eat a solid breakfast before the test. It makes a huge difference in how you feel and perform.
4. **Stay Calm:** Remember, no one performs their best when they're overly stressed. Try to stay relaxed and trust the process. The right school will appreciate you for who you are, and ultimately, you want to attend the school that's the best fit for you—one that values all aspects of who you are.

Good luck on these, and remember, get a good night's sleep and eat a good breakfast!

