



LOW HANGING FRUIT

SAT Day

By Jeannie Standal

Idaho's 2019 SAT Day, April 9th, is just around the corner, and for many high school juniors, the hard work of studying is beginning in earnest. There may be different intensity levels for the big day—some kids hire private test prep tutors, while others' idea of test prep is sharpened No. 2 pencils. We don't supply the pencil sharpener, but there are some helpful tools available from ICfL at students' fingertips.

There is some debate over whether college preparation tests are relevant and useful any longer. About 800 colleges and universities across the country no longer require SAT or ACT scores to apply. For high school students in Idaho, it doesn't matter. Even if a university of choice does not require the SAT, it is a requirement to graduate from high school. It is fortunate, then, for students and parents that to encourage students to go on to post-secondary programs, the State of Idaho pays for all high school juniors to sit for the SAT.



LearningExpress
LIBRARY™

Idaho also provides high quality ACT, SAT, PSAT, and AP exam preparation materials with LearningExpress Library (LEL), one of the LiLI databases. LEL is available to all residents of Idaho and funded with tax payer dollars, and so, unlike other

services, there is no additional fee for Idahoans to use them. Students set up a free account to save their progress and away they go.

During test/college application season, there is often speculation about whether standardized tests are biased or fair, whether they measure the skills necessary to succeed in college or a narrow band of skills at which an equally narrow band of students excel, or are simply another way to separate students and parents from their cash. Whatever our opinion, they are a tool that is still used by the vast majority of colleges and universities for admissions. And so that brings us back to preparation. Quality test prep can be expensive—tutors, prep courses, books, and manuals all add up. But with tools available through LiLI.org, it doesn't have to be.

All of us at ICfL wish the best of luck to all Idaho students sitting for the SAT in April and hope their college admission dreams come true!



LINKS TO MORE LEARNING



PBS LearningMedia (formerly Scout Classroom)

Offers an array of free multimedia content to enhance classroom instruction, including SAT test prep materials:

<https://idahoptv.pbslearningmedia.org/search/?q=SAT>

Khan Academy

Offers free SAT prep materials for students, as well as coach tools for educators, and information for parents. It is necessary to create a free account to access these materials:

<https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>

Next Steps Idaho

Offers a roundup of SAT resources for further information and practice:

<https://nextsteps.idaho.gov/primary-topic/testing/>

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS



Learn about LearningExpress Library

Looking for some help getting started with LearningExpress Library, or wanting to become more familiar with this fantastic LiLI resource? Help is available! Visit our LibGuides: Get to Know the LiLI Tools (<http://guides.lili.org/LiLITools/LEL>); LiLI Tools for Schools (<http://guides.lili.org/c.php?g=442879&p=3028538>); and LiLI Tutorials (<http://guides.lili.org/LiliTutorials>) for all kinds of information, including tutorials and archived webinars. LEL's Help center (available on its landing pages) is also worth checking out.

DIGITAL TOOLS



LearningExpress Library

LearningExpress Library's College Admissions Test Preparation Center offers tutorials and practice tests for both the SAT and the PSAT. Users need to create a free account to access these resources. This can be done with or without an email address.

Find LEL and other great tools for educators at <http://lili.org/dbs/category/18!>



