

Counselor Connection

Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority P.O. Box 798 Frankfort, KY 40602-0798 Tel: 800.928.8926 www.alstudentaid.com publications@kheaa.com

May 2020



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SAT cancels June 6 test, to add September exam

The College Board has cancelled the June 6 SAT test in wake of the coronavirus pandemic. However, students will be able to take the SAT to make up for the lost exam dates this spring, including an added test date in September.

SAT exams already set for Aug. 29, Oct. 3, Nov. 7, and Dec. 5 will take place as scheduled unless public health concerns make them inadvisable.

To replace canceled SAT school day administrations this spring, the College Board will offer the SAT in schools this fall. Specific information about school day testing will be made available in the coming weeks so schools can create their testing plans for students.

If schools do not reopen this fall, the College Board will provide a digital SAT for home use. The College Board would ensure that at-home SAT testing is accessible to all and valid for use in college admissions. The digital version will measure what students are learning in school and what they need to know to be successful in college.

For national administrations, students can register beginning in May. Students who registered for June and those in the high school class of 2021 who do not have SAT scores will have early access to register for the August, September, and October exams. The College Board will communicate directly with students when the exact date is available. Eligible students will be able to take the test with a fee waiver.

To help students keep their college readiness skills sharp when many schools are closed, the College Board and Khan Academy continue to provide free resources online, including full-length practice tests and personalized learning tools at **khanacademy.org/sat**.



KHEAA publishes the Counselor Connection to share information about student financial aid, college preparation and college planning. Comments and suggestions are always welcome. Please send them to publications@kheaa.com.

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ACT offers date options, online tests at home

ACT will offer a flexible schedule for summer 2020 test dates and test-at-home options for fall and winter 2020 in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

As CDC and local guidelines for safety allow, ACT will offer its June and July national test dates as scheduled. It will also provide makeup test dates for June and July. The makeup test date for the June 13 national test date will be June 20, while the makeup test date for the July 18 test date will be July 25. ACT will work with individual national test centers should they need to reschedule to the makeup test date and students will be notified in advance.

Students may also make free test date changes from the June to the July national test date.

In addition to the three previously planned fall test dates on Sept. 12, Oct. 24, and Dec. 12, ACT will also offer a remote proctoring option for the ACT in late fall or early winter. This option will let students take the test at their home on a computer.

ACT will evaluate remote proctoring as a possibility in the future for state and district testing programs.

Also, ACT will offer an individual section retest option this fall for students who want to retake only one portion of the exam.

Scholarship Spotlight

Alabama AGC Foundation Scholarship

Contact: Alabama AGC Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 102066, Irondale AL 35210; www.alagc.org/ scholarships/

Eligibility: The applicant must:

- be a resident of Alabama.
- be enrolling in or attending a community college, technical school, or university in Alabama.
- be enrolled or enrolling in a construction-related curriculum.
- be recommended by an AGC member.

In addition, the applicant must submit:

- an application.
- a copy of the applicant's most recent transcript.
- proof of residency.
- at least 1 letter of recommendation.

Number: 1 *Award:* \$1,000 *Deadline:* Nov. 30



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For details or to apply, go to AdvantageEducationLoan.com

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KHEAA continues hosting social media outreach

KHEAA outreach counselors will continue to provide live help to students, parents, and counselors via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram throughout May and June. Although some sessions focus on Kentucky, others are suitable for students and parents in other states. The sessions that may be of help to Alabama students and parents are:

- May 20: Surviving Your First Year of College, Twitter
- May 21: College Admissions Game, Instagram
- May 26: Surviving College, Facebook
- May 27: The Impact of Covid-19 on Financial Aid, Twitter
- May 28: Making a College Budget, Instagram
- June 3: Making the Grade in College, Twitter
- June 4: Soft Skills/Mock Job Interview, Instagram
- June 10: Staying Healthy in College, Twitter
- June 17: The Influence of Social Media, Twitter
- June 18: FAFSA Dependency Questions and Issues, Instagram
- June 23: Gap Funding: When You Need More for College, Facebook
- June 24: Keeping Busy During Summer Break, Twitter
- June 25: Scholarship Rewind: A Refresher on Finding Scholarships, Instagram

All sessions begin at 3 p.m. Eastern, 2 p.m. Central.

The links are:

https://www.facebook.com/KHEAA/ https://www.twitter.com/KHEAA https://www.instagram.com/kheaaoutreach/?hl=en

Federal website adds and updates tools

The U.S. Department of Education added three new services to its **studentaid.gov** website on April 26. They are:

- •Annual Student Loan Acknowledgment, which educates borrowers about the impact of receiving a federal student loan. Student and parent borrowers can see how much they owe in federal loans and find tips on smart borrowing. Beginning with the 2021–2022 award year, borrowers will use this tool to acknowledge that they have reviewed their information.
- •Feedback Center, which lets users submit a complaint, report an issue, and provide feedback. In addition, customers can check on a case through the Status Center. The center can be accessed directly at studentaid.gov/feedback.
- •Status Center, which lets borrowers follow the status of their feedback cases.

The department has enhanced other functions.

The Master Promissory Note process has added the latest approved form. The update includes an MPN landing page that helps users determine which MPN they need to complete.

Users creating an FSA ID account now go to a landing page that provides clear information on who should create an account and what information they will need to provide.

The Notification Center has been updated to let borrowers see their notification history, see unread notifications, and dismiss notifications. Notifications were added for income-driven repayment plan recertification, aid overpayments, and TEACH Grant reconsideration.

The Loan Simulator now helps customers struggling to repay their student loans evaluate their options.