



SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2024.** Please include this submission form with the electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: _____

Program Title: _____

Program Category: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Title: _____

Department: _____

Telephone: _____ Website: _____

Email: _____

SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

Student Equity with College Access Tools
(Customer Service Category)

Executive Summary:

Chesterfield County Public Schools through a partnership with the College Board began offering the PSAT and SAT during the school day for all eighth through eleventh graders in Fall of 2019. During the first year of implementation approximately 24600 students were eligible to take the PSAT and SAT in their school settings. This allowed students to participate in a setting where they are comfortable without the barriers of transportation or costs. The multiple years of test information allows schools to support students with our strategic plan metric of increasing the number of students who take Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment or International Baccalaureate courses prior to graduation.

Problem or need addressed by the program:

Success on college entrance exams such as the SAT helps students showcase their ability to be successful at the college level and also opens doors to scholarship opportunities. Many students who lack access to transportation to take the test on a Saturday or the financial means to afford the test costs are left behind their more affluent peers. This inequity impacts their ability to apply to particular colleges and access to the scholarship opportunities. Moving the test to the school removes those barriers. Additionally, since students perform better when they have experience with a test format, the multiple times they are able to experience it benefits them. This became especially powerful as the College Board converted their tools from a paper-based traditional test method that had been used for decades to a computer-based delivery.

Program Description:

Upon Dr. Merv Daugherty's, the current superintendent, arrival there was a review of how CCPS is meeting students' needs and can they be better served by additional supports or programs. Upon review, Dr. Daugherty recognized that not all students within the eleven high schools were participating

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in the Saturday SAT testing for a myriad of reasons: some families could not afford the assessment, while others could not find transportation to a school site. Oftentimes, the school site was not the same as their home school, so families had to navigate the College Board website to locate, find, sign-up, and participate in the traditional Saturday morning assessment. In order to ensure every student had an equitable opportunity to sit for the assessment, Dr. Daugherty asked our CCPS school board to eliminate the barriers that kept students from participating in this assessment, and the board voted a resounding “YES.” By providing a SAT testing day during the school week and financing the assessment, every family had an opportunity to participate and showcase their learning.

The College Board SAT Suite of Assessments include the PSAT 8/9 which allows students, families, and schools to see the students college readiness baseline, the PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT which continues to prepare students for the SAT and gives updates on student progress and finally, the SAT which is the test which students use for college entrance and scholarships. The PSAT/NMSQT holds an opportunity for students to qualify as a National Merit Scholarship. This opportunity provides financial support that students can use to finance their education at a university or college of their choosing. While many colleges have become score optional since COVID-19, many academic scholarships are rooted in student performance on the SAT. The suite of SAT assessment, including PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10, scores open opportunities to more than \$300 million in college scholarships. In addition, the BigFuture Scholarships program provides a simple path to college with the chance to earn \$40,000 and \$500 scholarships for each step in the assessment cycle. As the College Board states, “approximately half --\$1.5 million--will be awarded to students whose families earn less than \$60,000 per year” (College Board, 2022). By assessing students through the SAT suite of assessments, students become more comfortable with the assessment and build their confidence to provide the best opportunity possible for future success.

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In order to bring this experience to life for our students, this was a true cross-team effort under Dr. Daugherty's leadership. First, the division had to communicate this experience to families through a series of thorough communications. Then, the division assessment office and each schools' assessment team collaborated to ensure students could be assessed in a safe and secure environment. Teachers supported the initiative by unpacking the purpose of the assessment, the structure of the assessment, the content of the assessment, and the scoring of the assessment. After the testing day, students received a personalized score report that highlights areas of strength and improvement. Similarly, students have an opportunity to connect with free resources that can improve their reading, writing, and mathematics skills. For example, Khan Academy provides personalized support to meet individual student needs. The school division has also worked in collaboration with the College Board to understand how to use individual score reports to support students in their reading and math progress.

Responding to Economic Downturn:

A commitment from the County was essential to help provide access for all students, especially those without the personal economic means to pay for the test or the resources to provide the logistics needed with transportation to a weekend test site.

Advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:

Success on college entrance exams such as the SAT helps students showcase their ability to be strong at the college level and also opens doors to scholarship opportunities. Many students who lack access to transportation to take the test on a Saturday or the financial means to afford the test costs are left behind their more affluent peers. This inequity impacts their ability to apply to particular colleges and access to the scholarship opportunities. Moving the test to the school removes those barriers.

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Additionally, since students perform better when they have experience with a test format, the multiple times they are able to experience it benefits them.

Program Cost:

The costs of offering the College Board Suite of Assessments - PSATs and SATs is dependent upon the number of students who take the tests. In Chesterfield County Public Schools eighth through eleventh graders take the test annually with eleventh graders taking two tests in one school year, the PSAT/NMSQT in the fall and the SAT in the spring. There are approximately 4,200 students in each grade level. In FY2023, CCPS paid \$278,965 for PSAT tests for 8th-11th graders and \$213,559.50 on SATs for eleventh graders during the same fiscal year.

The shift to the computer-based format readiness achieved as a part of this initiative was made possible by the previous infusion of chromebooks for all students (a separate initiative) allowing utilization of an individual student testing tool in each of the eleven high school locations served by Chesterfield County Public Schools.

Program Results/Success:

This program is meeting the objective of having all Chesterfield County Public School students participate in multiple PSATs and SATs as they move forward to possible college applications. This allows schools to review student growth on the test and determine appropriate Advanced Placement (AP) coursework options during their high school career while allowing students to practice the testing environment multiple times. When the data is reviewed, students' mean scores increase every year showcasing their expansion of knowledge. In grade 8 the mean score on the PSAT is 807, for grade 9 it is 852, grade 10 - 875 and grade 11 - 933. The reality that this allowed for students from economically

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disadvantaged households to have access on a school day (versus the traditional weekend test date) meant that students could participate when families may not have been able to transport their student to a site or that would have required a student to not work on a weekend date where that income may have been critical for their family.

An additional benefit for the students was that they had wrap-around supports built in ready to assist them as the College Board changed from a paper-based test format to a computer-based model. With the change, students would have had to navigate this process on their own. This would have created additional barriers for students who were more challenged or did not have household tools to support them, hence, providing another obstacle to access of this college gateway opportunity for students with lower economic means for private support or for students who needed the read-aloud version due to a disability. In turn, the structure developed within Chesterfield County helped students overcome these challenges and provided access in a manner that supported all students with the opportunity for success.

Worthiness of an award:

Post high school student success is, of course, the key goal of k-12 schools. Allowing all of our students multiple opportunities to participate in PSAT and SAT testing without worrying about costs or transportation needs is a major piece of this goal. This allows students to showcase their knowledge, review their Advanced Placement (AP) coursework potential, and most importantly, see themselves as capable of college level work. The push has truly helped the community experience access to key tools for advancing into and within higher education circles and assisted at reaching young people who may never have considered a college-based future before they have found success in this testing domain. Again, without this initiative in place, the logistics and costs may have prevented this opportunity from

Chesterfield County, VA

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ever becoming a core part of our economically disadvantaged population's lives. This initiative has helped reduce barriers for children who may not have been able to participate and now have a new pathway for access to higher education.

Supplemental Materials:

- Articles enclosed

Supplemental Materials:



The Foundation Front Page

August 2019

Opening Doors for our Students



Starting this school year almost 20,000 CCPS middle and high school students (grades 8th - 11th) will take the PSAT test in October while in the spring, all high school juniors will have the opportunity to take the SAT test in their own high school during school hours at no cost to the student or their family. This new initiative of Chesterfield County Public Schools will open the door to the college application process for EVERY CCPS student participating in the PSAT/SAT for ALL program.

Community support for this initiative is already gaining momentum. Dominion Energy Foundation, Genworth, Altria, Shamin Hotels, West Cary Group, and ChamberRVA have all pledged support for this ground breaking program. Individual support has also been pledged with a leading contribution coming from Mrs. Sue Fulghum in honor of her late husband and former CCPS Superintendent Mr. Thomas Fulghum.

You can show your support for this life-changing program with a designated contribution to Chesterfield Education Foundation.

DONATE NOW to open the door to higher education for a CCPS student.

CCPS is committed to paying for the SAT test for all juniors as well as expanding the administration of the PSAT to all 8th and 9th grade students (two years earlier than most school systems) by the 2021-2022 school year. In the meantime, Chesterfield Education Foundation has been asked to raise \$107,000 per year to help cover the cost of providing the tests to over 19,000 students.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about the need, the program and anticipated outcomes.

The Foundation Front Page

October 2019

Support for PSAT/SAT for ALL

Donor Spotlight: Virginia Credit Union



Virginia Credit Union, the 2019 CCPS Business Partner of the Year, has pledged \$7,500 in support of the new game-changing initiative PSAT/SAT for ALL. Under the direction of CEO Chris Shockley, the Virginia Credit Union is committed to helping to ensure the overall health of its members shared community. Members of the Virginia

Credit Union recognize the benefits of being part of a local, member-owned organization, and who expect their credit union to be active in the community.