**Are you (or is your child) preparing to take the ACT or SAT and wanting some pointers on how to obtain your best-possible scores?** Below is practical advice for students and parents on College Admissions Testing.

**The Basics of Preparing for the ACT or SAT**

 **The Importance of Coursework in Preparing for the Tests:** The best way for a student to prepare for success on the ACT or SAT is to take academically rigorous and challenging courses in middle and high school.

 **ACT vs. SAT:** The best test for the specific student is the one on which he or she performs the best. Colleges treat the ACT and SAT equally. Students and parents should review testing results from EXPLORE, PLAN, PSAT, and ACT/SAT with a school counselor to determine which assessment may be the better choice.

 **Who Should Take the ACT or SAT?** All students DO NOT need to take the ACT or SAT. Students that are planning to apply to a two-year college (such as Spartanburg Technical College) can save time and money by taking one of the FREE college admissions assessments such as the COMPASS or ASSET assessments.

 **Frequency of Testing:** Students should make a minimum of two attempts on the ACT and/or SAT in order to achieve the best score possible.

 **Timing of Testing:** Students should make their first attempt on the ACT or SAT no later than the spring of the 11th grade.

 **Preparing for Free:** FREE practice and preparation opportunities are available through your high school. **(See Page \_\_\_).**

 **Testing & the IGP Process:** Parents, please attend your child’s Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) conferences in grades 8 through 12. These sessions are crucial in ensuring that you and your child are knowledgeable about the ACT and SAT testing processes.

**Before You Take the ACT or SAT, You Should:**

 **Successfully Complete or Be Enrolled in the Following Classes:**

 English Courses: English 1, 2, 3 (concurrent)

 Math Courses: Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, Algebra 3 or Pre-Calculus

 **Take Practice Tests** to become familiar with the test structure, content, and directions.

 **Enroll in ACT or SAT Preparation Courses or Workshops** at your high school.

**ACT or SAT Preparation Opportunities**

 **EXPLORE** (Practice ACT)—8th grade

 **PLAN** (Practice ACT)—10th grade *(student may need to pay an exam fee)*

 **PSAT** (Practice SAT)—10th and 11th grade *(student may need to pay an exam fee)*

 **ACT and SAT Preparation Courses and Workshops** offered in-school and/or

 after school at all high schools

 **ACT** [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org/)

 **SAT** [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.actstudent.org/)