



IowaCollegeAid.gov
Your Financial Aid Connection

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Free ACT[®], SAT[®] and GRE[®] Test Prep Helps Iowa Students Build Test-Taking Confidence *Iowa Students can prepare for free at www.IHaveAPlanIowa.gov*

Des Moines, IA., October 11, 2011 –The ACT[®] and SAT[®] are the two most commonly taken college admissions exams in the United States. Achieving a high score on these exams can help improve chances of students getting admitted to their top college choices as well as help them qualify for more scholarships. With fall test dates for the ACT[®] and SAT[®] quickly approaching, the Iowa College Student Aid Commission would like to remind Iowa parents and students of free resources available to help facilitate success on these high-stakes tests. Whether their test date is next month, or next year, students can boost their test-taking confidence by taking advantage of free test preparation resources available online at www.IHaveAPlanIowa.gov.

I Have A Plan Iowa[™] Test Prep includes the following:

- ACT[®] –strengthen knowledge in four subject areas: English, math, reading, and science reasoning.
- SAT[®] – build or refresh skills for the exam’s verbal and math sections.
- GRE[®] – test core abilities in verbal, quantitative, and analytical reasoning to prepare for this exam used by many graduate and business schools to evaluate readiness for graduate-level work.
- Vocabulary Builder – expand and improve word power which is useful for all college admissions exams.

“We believe all Iowans should have the same opportunities to prepare for college admission exams,” said Karen Misjak, executive director of Iowa College Aid. “By offering free test prep through I Have A Plan Iowa[™], Iowa College Aid is making that a reality. Iowa families who take advantage of the free test preparation at www.IHaveAPlanIowa.gov can save a significant amount of money by avoiding costly proprietary prep programs and testing fees for retaking exams in hopes of improving scores.”

By entering the date of the approaching exam, I Have A Plan Iowa[™] Test Prep will personalize a study plan designed to make the most of the time available. I Have a Plan Iowa[™] Test Prep adapts to the skill level of each student, provides personal tutoring with immediate feedback on incorrect answers, and sends emails to the student about what to study next. A status page enables students to monitor their progress by tracking what and how much they have studied and how well they are doing.

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Another unique benefit of the I Have A Plan Iowa™ Test Prep is the ability for each student to designate a test prep coach. “Students can designate someone as their test prep coach. That person can be a parent, teacher, older sibling, friend, or anyone with whom they have a good relationship,” stated Misjak. “Coaches receive email updates and are able to view the student’s progress so they can provide extra support and motivation.”

Tests are held throughout the year for the ACT® and SAT® exams. Students can register online for the ACT at www.actstudent.org and for the SAT at www.collegeboard.com. Upcoming exam dates for 2011-2012 are listed below:

ACT®	SAT®
October 22, 2011	November 5, 2011
December 10, 2011	December 3, 2011
February 11, 2012	January 28, 2012
April 14, 2012	March 10, 2012
June 9, 2012	May 5, 2012
	June 2, 2012

For more information about the free test prep and other resources available through www.IHaveAPlanIowa.gov, students and families can contact Iowa College Aid at 877-272-4456. In addition, more information to help Iowa families plan, prepare and pay for college is available on Iowa College Aid’s website, www.IowaCollegeAid.gov.

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About the Iowa College Student Aid Commission

Iowa College Aid provides college access, financial literacy, and outreach services to Iowa’s students and families as they prepare, plan and pay for college. Iowa College Aid also administers state scholarship, grant, work study, and loan forgiveness programs totaling nearly \$60.0 million annually, administers the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) program, provides borrowers with assistance to avoid the serious consequences of default, conducts research and distributes higher education data, and offers Iowans assistance in obtaining student financial aid and college-related information. Through its role, Iowa College Aid also serves as the state-designated administrator of the U.S. Department of Education’s College Access Challenge Grant, which is designed to increase the college-going culture in Iowa. Additionally, Iowa College Aid is the administrator of the Federal GEAR UP Grant, a multi-year state-wide grant which is being used to provide early awareness programming and outreach initiatives to thousands of Iowa’s students and families. More information is available at www.IowaCollegeAid.gov.