



IowaCollegeAid.gov
Your Financial Aid Connection

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Free ACT[®], SAT[®] and GRE[®] Test Prep Provides Personalized Study Plans

Students can prepare for free at www.IHaveAPlanIowa.gov

Des Moines, IA., February 9th, 2012 – Spring test dates for the ACT[®] and SAT[®], the two most commonly taken college admissions exams in the United States, are fast approaching. Whether taking an exam for the first time or retaking an exam for an improved score, students in Iowa don't have to be intimidated. 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[®] – students can strengthen their knowledge in four subject areas: English, math, reading, and science reasoning.
- SAT[®] – students can build or refresh skills for the exam's verbal and math sections.
- GRE[®] – students can test their 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 – students can expand and improve their word power which is useful for all college admissions exams.

“We want to ensure that students are prepared for sustainable future careers in Iowa, and that requires additional education beyond high school,” stated Karen Misjak, executive director of the Iowa College Student Aid Commission. “College admissions exams, and the ACT[®] in particular, measure academic skills taught in schools and are deemed important for success in first-year college courses. Approximately 60 percent of Iowa's high school graduates have taken the ACT and we want that number to continue to grow,” said Misjak. “By offering free test prep through I Have A Plan Iowa[™], cost is no longer a factor for students seeking every opportunity to prepare for these important exams.”

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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.

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®
February 11, 2012	March 10, 2012
April 14, 2012	May 5, 2012
June 9, 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.