



IowaCollegeAid.gov
Your Financial Aid Connection

NEWS 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., August 29, 2012 – With fall test dates for the ACT[®] and SAT[®] quickly approaching, Iowa high school students have access to a free resource to help them improve relevant skills, familiarize themselves with the test format, and get comprehensive practice on typical questions to help achieve their target scores. The ACT[®] and SAT[®] are two of the 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. Whether their test date is next month or next year, Iowa students can boost their test-taking confidence by taking advantage of free test preparation resources available from the Iowa College Student Aid Commission (Iowa College Aid).

The I Have A Plan Iowa[™] Test Prep, accessible online at www.IHaveAPlanIowa.gov, 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, which is 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 the Iowa College Student Aid Commission, the state agency administering the program. “By offering free test prep through I Have A Plan Iowa[™], Iowa College Aid is making that a reality. Last year, a total of 2, 558 Iowa students used the program. We hope that many more students will benefit from the program this year. 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.”

Students can proceed through the program at their own pace and schedule with individualized plans. 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.

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I Have A Plan Iowa™ Test Prep integrates content review, test-taking strategies and provides the practice students need to achieve their target scores. The program 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 feature 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 2012-2013 are listed below:

ACT®	SAT®
September 8, 2012	October 6, 2012
October 27, 2012	November 3, 2012
December 8, 2012	December 1, 2012
February 9, 2013	January 26, 2013
April 13, 2013	March 9, 2013
June 8, 2013	May 4, 2013
	June 1, 2013

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.