

ACT vs SAT

	ACT	SAT	BOTH
When	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February April* June* July September October December* <p>*These are the testing dates when you can order a copy of your tests and see every question.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> March* May* June August October* November December 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test-Optional is not the same as Test-Blind. Take at least one test for real by spring of 11th grade. Do not bother ordering the “score report” for any testing date. They are worthless.
Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calculator allowed on entire math section. You don’t have to know any science for the Science section. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test is familiar: all FCPS students take the PSAT so you have a baseline. Math is highly coachable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You do not need to sign up for the optional Essay sections. English section is highly coachable. Taking the test multiple times is effective: you can <i>Superscore</i>!
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Math section is broader: includes topics not on the SAT. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verbal is harder than the ACT, especially the Reading section. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expectations are unreasonable right now. Even large score increases frequently disappoint students.
The Verdict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More straightforward test. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The “default” test for FCPS students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both tests accepted everywhere Scores from one test can be converted to the other: <p>1600 SAT = 36 ACT 1000 SAT = 19 ACT</p>