
STANDARDIZED TESTING PROGRAM

Lockport Township High School



*Understanding the Standardized Testing Program
ACT, SAT, EXPLORE, PLAN, PSAT, PSAT, PSAT, PSAT,
Work Keys, ASVAB, Advanced Placement
Exams, and Compass Test*

Testing

The following information is intended to provide a brief overview of the tests offered or recommended by Lockport Township High School. The information in this booklet is accurate as of the printing of this document and is subject to change. Exact test dates and registration deadlines are available in the Guidance Services office and will be announced during the morning announcements. The observance of deadlines is necessary for tests and preparation classes. Deadlines designated by LTHS are used to establish a roster in a timely manner, hire faculty, reserve rooms, and purchase materials in order to administer the exams.

If you have questions concerning the tests in this pamphlet, please call the Guidance Services office at the East campus at (815) 588-8350 or the Central campus at (815) 588-8250.

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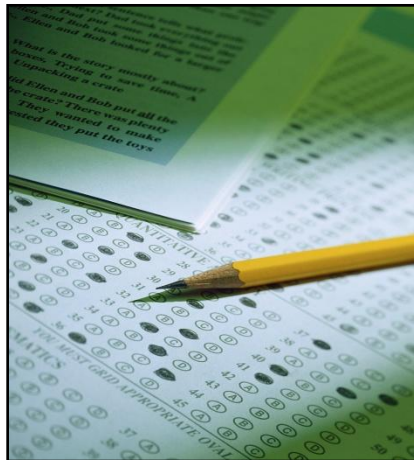
EPAS System

Lockport Township High School has adopted an assessment program called **EPAS** (Educational Planning and Assessment System). EPAS is a curriculum and standards-based system, which comprises three assessments for use at key transition points from grade eight through college entrance. These three assessments include: **EXPLORE** (during 8th grade year), **PLAN** (during 9th grade year), and **ACT** (during 10th and 11th grade years). These assessments include tests of English, mathematics, reading, and science. All of these tests measure the skills needed for success in college.

Designed for 8th grade, students who will be entering LTHS are required to take the **EXPLORE** test. The **EXPLORE** helps identify students' academic strengths and weaknesses and provides an early indication of college readiness. **EXPLORE** also helps students discover interests, abilities, and career paths. This test is given to 8th graders to help identify courses for registration for their freshman year.

A program for 9th graders, **PLAN** extends the academic and career guidance that begins with **EXPLORE**. Guidance tools, including the Interest Inventory and the World-of-Work Map, continue the process of educational and career planning. **PLAN** is a reliable predictor of performance on the **ACT**.

A program for 10th and 11th graders, the **ACT** is the college admissions test most preferred by colleges nationwide. It collects and reports a wide range of information on students' academic achievement, interests, and educational goals. In addition, the **ACT** is a comprehensive transition service, assisting colleges with recruitment, scholarship selection, and course placement. In addition to tests in English, mathematics, reading, and science, an optional writing test is available and administered on all national test dates.



The purpose of EXPLORE

EXPLORE is administered to eighth graders to provide information from which academic growth can be evaluated. This assessment helps students make decisions concerning high school classes and develop career goals. The content of EXPLORE is consistent with the PLAN and the ACT Assessments. EXPLORE includes achievement tests in English, mathematics, reading and science.

Who takes the test

Students take EXPLORE during their eighth grade year.

When and where the test is offered

EXPLORE is administered on a Saturday morning in late fall at the Freshman Center.

Cost and testing time EXPLORE

EXPLORE is administered to students at no cost to the family.

How to register

All eighth graders are automatically registered for this assessment.

Preparing for the test

Students should get a good night's sleep, carefully select their answers and review the test if time permits.

If the test is missed

If a student is absent on the day that the EXPLORE is administered, the student will need to attend the make-up session.

Number of times the test can be taken

Students may take EXPLORE only once.

How scores are received

Scores are sent to the school. The student report will be given to the families at 8th grade registration. Copies of the student report are kept by the guidance counselors.

Other resources

Go to www.act.org for more information about EXPLORE.

The purpose of the PLAN test

The PLAN test measures skills and abilities in English, math, reading and science and the test is a useful tool in career exploration. This test also includes an interest inventory and provides information about financial aid, scholarships and colleges. Results from the PLAN test can help a student correlate their interests and abilities with the World of Work Map which is included with the score report. An estimated ACT score will appear on the student score report.

Who takes the test

All freshman at LTHS take the PLAN test.

When and where the test is offered

The PLAN test is taken during one school day in the spring at LTHS.

Cost of the PLAN test

PLAN is administered to students at no cost to the family.

How to register

All freshman are automatically registered to take the PLAN test.

Preparing for the test

Students should be well rested for the test day and closely follow all directions. It is important that they carefully answer each question and review their answers if time permits.

If the test is missed

If a student is absent on the day that the PLAN is administered, the student will not receive scores for the areas tested on that day.

Number of times the test can be taken

The PLAN test is offered once each year for freshman only.

How scores are received

Scores are sent to school. The student report is given to students at school. Copies of the student report are kept by the guidance counselors.

Other resources

Go to www.act.org for more information about PLAN.



The purpose of the PSAT

The Preliminary SAT measures a student's skills in critical reading, mathematics, and writing. These scores may be used to determine a student's acceptance into college and eligibility for grant scholarships. The PSAT is also the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT) for juniors.

Who takes the test

Sophomores and juniors who plan on going to college should take the PSAT. The test is practice for sophomores and is the NMSQT for juniors. Juniors will be notified of their National Merit standing when scores are reported.

When and where the test is offered

The PSAT is offered on a Wednesday and a Saturday in October. LTHS administers the test on the Saturday date. Only students who have a school related conflict may take the test at another school on the Wednesday test day with prior permission from the Guidance Services office.

Cost and testing time of the PSAT

Please contact the East Campus Guidance Office at 815-588-8350 for the cost of the PSAT. Checks are to be made payable to LTHS.

How to register

Registration is handled through the Guidance Services office. Announcements will be made in the fall when registration forms are available.

Preparing for the test

LTHS hosts the PSAT 240, a prep class offered by ExcelEdge, Inc., for academically motivated juniors. Information and registration forms are sent home during the summer.

If the test is missed

If a sophomore misses the PSAT, the student may take the test the following year. Juniors who miss both dates that the test is offered may not retake the PSAT.

Number of times the test can be taken

Students can only take the PSAT once their sophomore year and once their junior year.

How scores are received

For College Board to release the student's score, the student must include the LTHS high school code (**142655**) on the registration sheet. Two copies of the score report will be sent to the school. The student receives one copy and the guidance counselor keeps the other copy of the score report.

Other resources

Go to www.collegeboard.org for more information on the PSAT and the NMSQT.

The purpose of the ASVAB

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery helps students identify and understand their interests, abilities and preferences. Students can then match careers with their personal characteristics. The test is used to determine eligibility for military service.

Who takes the test

Sophomores, juniors or seniors who are interested in military service should take the ASVAB test. Counselors also recommend the ASVAB test as an excellent career exploration instrument which demonstrates different work skill areas than the EPAS system: Electronics, Mechanical, and Shop areas are explored in addition to more traditional areas.

When and where the test is offered

The ASVAB is offered once each year through LTHS. The test is also administered at local military branches. Call the Guidance Services office or the U.S. Military Entrance Processing Command at 1-847-803-6111 for more information.

Cost and testing time of the ASVAB

The test is offered by the Department of Defense at no charge. The test takes approximately three hours.

How to register

Students can register for the ASVAB by contacting a local military branch or the Guidance Services office.

Preparing for the test

As with all tests, a good night's sleep and eating a healthy breakfast can help increase awareness and concentration. In addition, there are practice tests available at www.military.com.

If the test is missed

Contact a local military branch for information on when the next test will be offered.

Number of times the test can be taken

ASVAB scores are valid for up to two years. Students may retake the test only under certain circumstances. Contact the U.S. Military Entrance Processing Command at 1-847-803-6111 for guidelines on retaking the ASVAB.

How scores are received

Scores will be sent to the school. Students and counselors will receive copies of the score report. With the student's permission, scores may also be sent to the local military branch.

The purpose of the AP Exams

The Advanced Placement exams are offered to students enrolled in the following classes: AP English, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, AP Statistics, AP US History, AP Psychology, AP European History, AP Macroeconomics, AP U.S. Government and Politics, AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics, AP Studio Art, AP Music Theory, and Foreign Language (Limited Subject Area). Students at Lockport Township High School must take the AP course in order to sit for the exam. AP exam scores may be used to earn college credit. Detailed information about minimum scores and college participation is available on the college website for the college your child is choosing.

Who takes the test

Sophomores, juniors and seniors will have an opportunity to take the AP exam.

When and where the test is offered

LTHS offers the AP exams during school hours in May which are pre-determined by the College Board and available on their website. www.collegeboard.com.

Cost and testing time of the AP Exam

The cost of each test depends on a set price determined by the College Board each year, but is also partially subsidized through the district to support the district's strong belief in a successful AP Program. The testing time varies for each exam.

How to register

Students enrolled in advanced placement classes will be provided with registration information. All registration is completed during school with the assistance of the program coordinator.

Preparing for the test

The curricula of the AP classes at LTHS correlate with the material on the AP exams. The syllabi and curriculum are available on the College Board website. Additionally, some AP classes require summer reading which is provided to students in May and also posted on the LTHS website.

How scores are received

Students receive AP scores in July. They are mailed directly to the student. As students accumulate more AP tests, an AP transcript is sent to the house by College Board. There is also a toll free number available for grades by phone. This number is available in the Student Parent Bulletin distributed in October.

Other resources

Contact Mrs. Conway, LTHS Gifted Coordinator, at 815-588-8557, visit www.lths.org under Academics, or www.collegeboard.org/ap for more AP information.

The purpose of the ACT

The ACT measures a student's skills in English, math, reading and science. These scores are often used to determine a student's acceptance into college and for grant scholarships. The information in this section refers to National ACT dates. The State ACT is offered in conjunction with the PSAT. See the PSAT section in this booklet for more information.

Who takes the test

Any student who is considering going to college should take the ACT. ACT recommends taking the test second semester of the student's junior year.

When and where the test is offered

The ACT is offered at LTHS on a Saturday morning in September, October, February and June. The test is offered at other area schools during the months of December and April. For exact dates, visit the Guidance Services office or check online at www.act.org.

Cost and testing time of the ACT

Please refer to the ACT website, www.act.org, for current costs of the ACT test. There is an additional fee if a student chooses to take the writing portion of the ACT. The ACT takes approximately four hours.

How to register

The quickest and recommended way is to simply visit the ACT website, www.act.org. Otherwise, you may pick up an ACT Registration packet in the Guidance Services office. The booklet in the packet explains how to fill out the registration sheet. Lockport's school code is **142655**.

Preparing for the test

LTHS also offers an ACT Prep Class during second semester. Juniors will receive information about this prep class in their English classes at the beginning of second semester. ACT also offers a CD-ROM package which includes retired tests. The LTHS Media Center and www.act.org have information about the CD-ROM. For more information on web-based prep programs and other classes offered in the Lockport area, visit the Guidance Services Office.

If the test is missed

If a student must miss the test, ACT has guidelines on how to document the absence. The test can be taken the next time it is offered. A test date change fee will be assessed by ACT.

Number of times the test can be taken

The test can be taken each time it is offered. If a student requests that ACT send a report to a college, ACT will release only the scores from specified test dates.

How scores are received

Scores are sent to both home and school four to seven weeks after the test date. Scores for National Test dates can also be viewed via the web at www.act.org for a small fee before the official score reports are mailed.

The purpose of the PSAE/Work Keys

The Prairie State Achievement Examination tests students in English, mathematics, reading, and science skills. There is also a writing component. This test measures students' progress toward meeting the Illinois Learning Standards and recognizes the achievement of individual students who receive a Prairie State Achievement Award for excellent performance. A portion of the PSAE will be a State testing date ACT assessment. This is considered a regular ACT and students have the option to use the scores for college admission. Work Keys measures skills that are required in the workplace. These skills include applied math, applied technology, listening, locating information, reading for information, teamwork and writing. Students can use their results from Work Keys to identify careers for which they are qualified and to show employers their abilities. **The PSAE is a requirement for graduation.**

Who takes the test

Juniors take the PSAE. Juniors with an IEP may take an alternate assessment.

When and where the test is offered

The PSAE is administered during two school days in late April.

Cost and testing time of the PSAE

The PSAE is offered at no cost to the student.

How to register

Students do not need to register to take the PSAE through ACT. All preliminary registration paperwork will be done in school.

Preparing for the test

The curriculum at LTHS is in alignment with the Illinois Learning Standards. Mastering the skills set by the state is the best way for students to prepare for the PSAE. LTHS also offers an ACT Prep Class during second semester. Juniors will receive information about this prep class in their English classes at the beginning of second semester. The LTHS Media Center and ACT have information about a CD-ROM. For more information on web-based prep programs or other classes offered in the Lockport area, visit the Guidance Services office. The Work Keys assessment measures basic skills that students cannot study or memorize for the test. Sample questions are available at www.act.org.

If the test is missed

If any portion of either day is missed, the student will make up that entire day in May.

Number of times the test can be taken

The PSAE is offered once each year for juniors only.

How scores are received

PSAE scores will be sent to the school and recorded on students' transcripts. Scores for the ACT component will be sent directly to the students' homes in late May or June. Counselors will receive copies of the PSAE and ACT score reports.

Other resources

For more information, visit the Illinois State Board of Education web site at www.isbe.state.il.us

The purpose of Work Keys

Work Keys measures skills that are required in the workplace. These skills include applied math, applied technology, listening, locating information, reading for information, teamwork, business writing, workplace observation, and writing. Students can use their results from Work Keys to identify careers for which they are qualified and to show employers their abilities.

Who takes the test

All juniors will automatically take Work Keys as part of the PSAE.

When and where the test is offered

Work Keys will be administered to all juniors during the school day in April along with the PSAE at LTHS. See page 7 for more information about the PSAE.

Cost and testing time of the Work Keys

The Work Keys assessment is provided at no cost to the student. The testing time is approximately 90 minutes and is part of the PSAE.

How to register

Students do not need to register for Work Keys.

Preparing for the test

The Work Keys assessment measures basic skills that students cannot study or memorize for the test. Sample questions are available at www.act.org.

If the test is missed

If any portion of the day is missed, the student will make up that entire day in May.

Number of times the test can be taken

The Work Keys are offered once each year for junior students.

How scores are received

Work Keys scores are part of the PSAE score report. Scores are sent to the school. The student report is mailed home and given to students at school. Copies of the student report are kept by the guidance counselors.

Other resources

Go to www.act.org for more information about Work Keys.

The purpose of the SAT

The SAT measures a student's math and verbal reasoning skills. Colleges use the scores to compare students regardless of the high school curricula.

Who takes the test

Students who are planning to attend an East or West coast college should take the SAT. To find out what other colleges prefer the SAT, stop by the Guidance Services office. Schools that use the SAT may require both the Reasoning Test (SAT I) and Subject Tests (SAT II). The ACT is now used as a substitute for the SAT Subject Tests at many colleges. You should contact the college directly.

When and where the test is offered

LTHS does not offer the SAT, but registration packets are available in the Guidance Services office. To see when other local schools may offer the test, please visit the College Board website, www.collegeboard.com.

Cost and testing time of the SAT test

Please refer to the College Board website, www.collegeboard.com for current costs of the SAT test.

How to register

You can register online at www.collegeboard.com or registration packets are available in the Guidance Services office. Lockport's school code is **142655**.

Preparing for the test

Information on SAT prep classes and test preparation material can be found on their website at www.collegeboard.com.

If the test is missed

If a student must miss a test, the SAT packet and College Board website explains the absence guidelines. The test can be taken the next time it is offered.

How many times the test can be taken

The test can be taken each time it is offered.

How scores are received

Scores are sent to both home and school approximately three weeks after the test date. Scores can also be viewed online for free at www.collegeboard.com.

Other resources

Go to www.collegeboard.com for more information or to register online.

The purpose of the Compass Test

The Compass Test is a comprehensive computer-adaptive testing system that helps place students into appropriate college-level courses. It offers placement in mathematics, reading and writing, and includes placement testing for English as a Second Language (ESL) students. Community or junior colleges such as Joliet Junior College, College of DuPage, or Moraine Valley all use this test.

Who takes the test

Seniors who plan to attend a community or junior college full or part time must take the Compass Test.

When and where the test is offered

Students can take the Compass Test at JJC by visiting the Academic Skills Center. You must bring a photo ID and the admission application must be on file before a student can take the Compass Test. LTHS may offer the Compass Test on campus. Contact the Guidance Services office for more information.

Cost and testing time of the Compass Test

The first Compass Test is free and only one retake is permitted. The cost of the retake is \$10. (Prices subject to change.) The Compass Test takes approximately three hours to complete.

Preparing for the Test

Review questions are available at the Joliet Junior College website (www.jjc.cc.il.us)

Other resources

For more information, visit www.jjc.cc.il.us or call JJC's Office of Admissions at (815) 729-9020 ext. 2231.

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