



Commentary

Re: Home-schooled students and College Board standardized testing

Home schools do not have access to the PSAT/NMSQT, AP, or any other secure College Board tests. As a result, when their students need to take College Board school-based tests, their only option is to join in the administration at their local high school. For the vast majority of students this is a simple process. They, or their parents, call the local high school (as far in advance as possible) and the arrangements are made. If the school needs additional tests, College Board will supply all that are needed.

The College Board's position is that it is best to assist ALL students and provide a friendly and welcome environment in which they can benefit from the opportunities provided by the PSAT/NMSQT and other assessment programs. And our experience has shown that it is the rare school that does not agree and accept home-schooled students. Schools exist to better student opportunities, to help all students reach their potential, regardless of background. It would be unusual for the student-oriented school system to believe, or behave, differently.

Unfortunately, we occasionally hear of school systems that will not allow home-schooled students to take part in the College Board testing experience at their local public high school. At times like this we have to suggest that the parent go beyond the high school and contact the superintendent or the school board, and it may even require intervention by town officials. The governing body that oversees the school system recognizes the parents' rights as taxpayers, and can intercede on the student's behalf.

We encourage schools to do what is right by all children, not just those under their daily care. This is especially true for all children residing within their town or community. Improving the educational opportunities for all community members can only enrich the community and its quality of life.

So please join us in helping all students find and reach their potential for making a positive contribution to society.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Negroni".

Peter Negroni  
Vice President, Teaching and Learning