

# GEARUP SCORES!

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## UPCOMING EVENTS at Cincinnati Public Schools

**Monday, April 13**  
Board of Education Meeting, 7p.m.  
2651 Burnet Ave., auditorium

**April 20-24**  
Ohio Achievement Tests, grades 3-8

**April 27-May 1**  
Midterm Week

**May 4-15**  
Advanced Placement (AP) Exams

**Monday, May 25**  
Memorial Day Holiday  
schools closed

## Did you know?

Many resources are available to help you prepare for the SAT and ACT. Start online—learn how the tests are structured, take sample tests, and read more tips and suggestions at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) (for the SAT) and [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) (for the ACT).

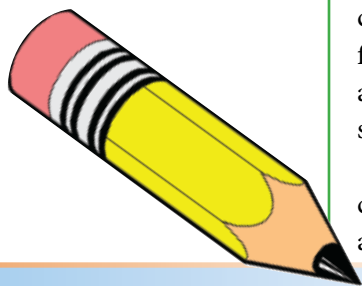
For additional help, ask your school counselor or **GEARUP SCORES** specialist.

## GEARUP



Guiding 4,000  
Cincinnati Public Schools students  
step by step to college

For more information:  
phone 513-556-3611  
or fax 513-556-1037



## Multiple Choice Test-taking Tips

1. Read the question carefully before you eliminate any answers. Read every answer, even if you're confident that the first or second one is correct.
2. Be on the lookout for the words "not," "never," or "always."
3. Cross through answers you know are incorrect.
4. If you're not penalized for guessing, and you are really unsure, one method is to choose the longest answer. Another method for guessing is to always choose the same answer for questions you're unsure of — such as answer "C" — unless of course, you know that particular answer is not correct.
5. Make sure the grammar of the question matches the answer you've chosen. For example, if the question is plural, singular answers can be eliminated.
6. If opposite answers are given as choices, one of those is often the right answer.

# step by step you can go to college

Like many students in high school and middle school, you may be wondering if college is for you. Well, college is *not* for other people. It is not an unreachable goal. It's for anyone willing to work hard and, even more importantly, it's for anyone willing to get help. Help can come from a lot of places—your family, your teachers, your community. And in 31 Cincinnati Public Schools, it comes from GEARUP SCORES, a partnership guiding CPS students, step by step, to college.

Jalisa Harris, a GEARUP grad and now a University of Cincinnati student, shares her "step by step" success story below—and proves that you *can* go to college!

*Jalisa Harris, who graduated sixth in her class at Western Hills University High School, says that GEARUP "opened doors" for her. She now plans to continue her education in law school, with the ultimate goal of becoming a judge.*



**Fast facts:** Jalisa graduated from Western Hills University High School. Currently, she is a first year student at UC, majoring in criminal justice and minoring in political science.

**An eye-opening experience:** For Jalisa, GEARUP was a "really helpful program." From her years in GEARUP, Jalisa remembers best her trip to the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, with college visits at prominent universities such as Howard and Georgetown. "GEARUP opens the door for so many opportunities!" she says.

**Motivated to excel:** GEARUP hosted dinners and banquets at Jalisa's high school to recognize academic achievements. Being recognized at these GEARUP-hosted events "makes you feel proud," she said. The recognition motivated her to keep up the good grades, and as a result, she graduated sixth in her class.

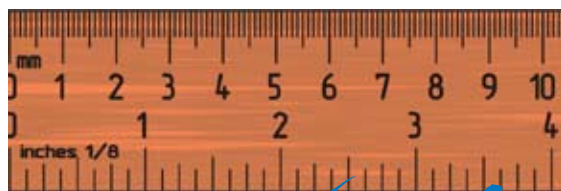
**The challenges of college:** "In some ways, college is the same as high school, but I have to discipline myself more to go to sleep on time and to go to classes," Jalisa says.

**Law and order:** After college, Jalisa plans to go to law school, practice law and then fulfill her "ultimate goal of becoming a judge."

**Words of advice:** Jalisa would advise any young student thinking about GEARUP to join. "Take advantage of every opportunity that you have!" she adds. "Even if something seems unrelated to your interests, try it!" After all, students never know who they might meet or what they might learn through GEARUP.

**For more information about GEARUP SCORES:**  
Stephanie Cappel, Executive Director  
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## Measure Up:



*prepare for tests!*

### What is the ACT/SAT?

While the SAT and ACT are different in structure and content, they serve similar purposes in the college admission process. They help admissions officers determine how well you might do in college, and they help compare students from varying high school backgrounds.

The SAT is a reasoning test that measures critical thinking skills. It shows how well you analyze information and solve problems. The ACT

tests knowledge in basic subjects you've studied in high school: English, math, reading and science. Depending on your strengths and thinking/learning styles, you may perform much better on one test than the other. That's why many schools require or suggest both tests—to give a balanced look at each student's performance.

Keep in mind that test scores are only one factor college admissions officers consider. Your transcripts, extracurricular activities,

references, essay and interview are all important factors in the acceptance decision.

### General test-taking tips

Good, common-sense advice applies to the taking the ACT and SAT. Getting a good night's sleep the night before, eating breakfast that morning, bringing everything you'll need with you and reading all questions carefully are some of the basics. In addition, the tips below are especially important to the ACT and SAT:

Budget your time wisely. Avoid spending too much time on hard questions or passages, or rushing through them too quickly. Answer the easy ones first, then go back over the section to work on the harder ones. If you have no idea of the correct answer to a question, skip it and come back later if you have time. (Often the second time around the answer will come to you.) This is especially important in the SAT, since all questions are worth the same number of points.

For multiple-choice questions, use the process of elimination. The correct answer is there, you just have to find it! Eliminate the choices you are confident are wrong, then make an educated guess.

For the ACT, answer every question. Your scores on multiple-choice sections are based on the number of questions you answer correctly, and there is no "penalty" for guessing.

Don't obsess over questions that completely stump you. Remember, the tests are *designed* to be difficult!