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## Report: Colleges Shouldn't Use SAT As Requirement



BALTIMORE (WJZ) — Many college-bound students struggle with the SAT test, and improving scores has become a billion dollar industry.

**Reporting Suzanne Collins** Suzanne Collins explains how a new report that encourages colleges not to require the SAT is getting a lot of attention.

A team of top admissions officers are recommending that colleges stop counting on the SAT test as key to admission.

The study, led by the Harvard Dean of Admissions William Fitzsimmons says there are better ways to gauge success.

Baltimore's Goucher College is one of the 280 schools to recently drop the requirement.

"The original purpose of the SAT was to predict how well a student would do in the first year of college. We don't think it does that anymore," said Sanford Ungar, Goucher President.

Ungar says a student from a more educated or affluent family may do better on the test but not necessarily do better freshman year.

Twenty-five percent of Goucher's freshmen asked their SAT not be considered. Stevenson University still requires it like most colleges, but much more weight is given to other factors.

"One of the biggest reasons is student success more so is predicated on the courses they're taking in high school, the strength of that curriculum. How they're challenging themselves," said Bob Herr, Stevenson's admissions director.

A handful of students told **Eyewitness News** they'd love to see the SAT go away.

"The college really doesn't get a feel for the type of person you are. I love talking to people, meeting new people and you can't tell that from my math test scores," said Jessica Brent, student.

There is concern that students of lesser means won't do as well on the test because they can't afford a prep class, expensive prep books or afford to take the test multiple times.

"It's a whole money-making scheme. I mean, a lot of the tactics my prep course teacher taught me was that the SAT is designed to almost trick students," said Jen Chantranapichate, student.

The report says if juniors and seniors spent less time worrying about the SAT, they may learn more in high school That would then help them in college.

It also recommends that National Merit Scholars not be chosen on PSAT scores alone.  
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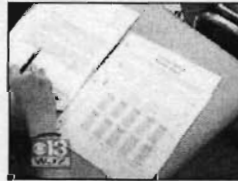
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A new report that encourages colleges not to require the SAT is getting a lot of attention.  
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