



 InHouse Test Prep

A low-angle, dark blue-tinted photograph of a graduation ceremony. Numerous black graduation caps are being tossed into the air, and several hands are visible at the bottom, reaching up. The background shows the facade of a large, classical-style building with many windows and columns. The text "SSAT/ISEE PLANNING GUIDE" is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

SSAT/ISEE

PLANNING GUIDE

Preparing for the SSAT or ISEE has become serious business. It's no longer sufficient for students to spend a few hours flipping through a practice book and then show up to test day, pencil in hand.

But the process can be confusing, for both parents and students.

There are so many things to consider: Should your child take the SSAT or the ISEE, or maybe both? Do some schools prefer one test over the other? When's the right time to take the test? Can a test be taken more than once? It's easy to get lost in the confusion, and that lack of clarity can lead to procrastination and loss of valuable preparation time, or even worse, not taking action to help secure your child's future. It's tempting to put it off, but the test dates and application deadlines will be here before you know it.

And let's face it. Your child is busy. There's school and sports and volunteering, and who has time to fit in yet another thing? You might have even bought your child a test prep book, and they might have even promised to study it, but the real truth is: they're not going to do it. They simply won't. And then you will get locked in an endless cycle of asking them to study, they will promise they will, and then they won't. That's just the nature of being a child. At that age, they may not be able to see the bigger picture yet of what's really at stake.

But you know what's at stake here. There's all the obvious factors, of course. Lower scores may prevent your child from getting into their dream school, and there might always be that small lingering sense of doubt of what "could have been" with a different testing outcome. Or, your child might miss out on obtaining thousands of dollars in scholarships that are based solely on test scores.

The good news about all of this is that your family doesn't have to go through this process alone. Individual test prep tutoring can help set up your child for success. There are so many advantages that working with an individual tutor can provide over trying to muddle through things without guidance. Individual tutoring allows for a truly customized experience, where everything can be carefully crafted to provide the optimal learning experience for your child.

Something I firmly believe in as a test prep teacher is spending exactly the amount of time needed to do the things that need to be done, and then moving on to the next thing. The test prep process can drag on and on without focused guidance, but there's no reason for it to extend indefinitely. Not all students need to know all the things, because not every question is intended for every student. Beyond straight content, I help students laser-focus in on only the things that they really need to know to maximize their scores. After two decades of teaching these tests, I know precisely what it is that students need to know to achieve the score of their dreams.



Which test should my child take?

Once you decide which schools your child is going to apply to, check the admissions page website to determine which test is preferred. Some schools may offer a choice, but other schools will have a firm requirement.

If the school offers a choice of the SSAT or ISEE, the easiest way to determine which test to take is to complete a practice SSAT and ISEE and compare the scores. If one is significantly better than the other, that is the test that should be pursued. If they are similar, your child can choose which test he or she prefers. Your child should prepare for and take the test that will likely yield the best results.

What is the difference between the SSAT and the ISEE?

• SSAT

The Middle Level SSAT is given to current 5th, 6th and 7th graders. The Upper Level is given to current 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th graders.

The SSAT has five sections: Writing Sample, Quantitative (2 sections), Reading Comprehension, and Verbal.

The Writing Sample is not scored, but a copy of the essay is sent to the admissions committee for review.

The SSAT Verbal Section contains both synonyms and analogies.

The SSAT has a guessing penalty, which means that points are deducted for incorrect answers. The best strategy is to leave questions blank when the answers are not known.

• ISEE

The Lower Level ISEE is given to current 4th and 5th graders. The Middle Level is given to 6th and 7th graders, and the Upper Level is for 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th graders.

The ISEE has five sections: Writing Sample, Verbal Reasoning, Mathematics Achievement, Reading Comprehension, and Quantitative Reasoning.

The Writing Sample is not scored, but a copy of the essay is sent to the admissions committee for review.

The ISEE Verbal Section contains both synonyms and sentence completions.

The ISEE does NOT have a guessing penalty, which means that no points are deducted for incorrect answers. The best strategy is to answer all questions with a unified guessing technique.

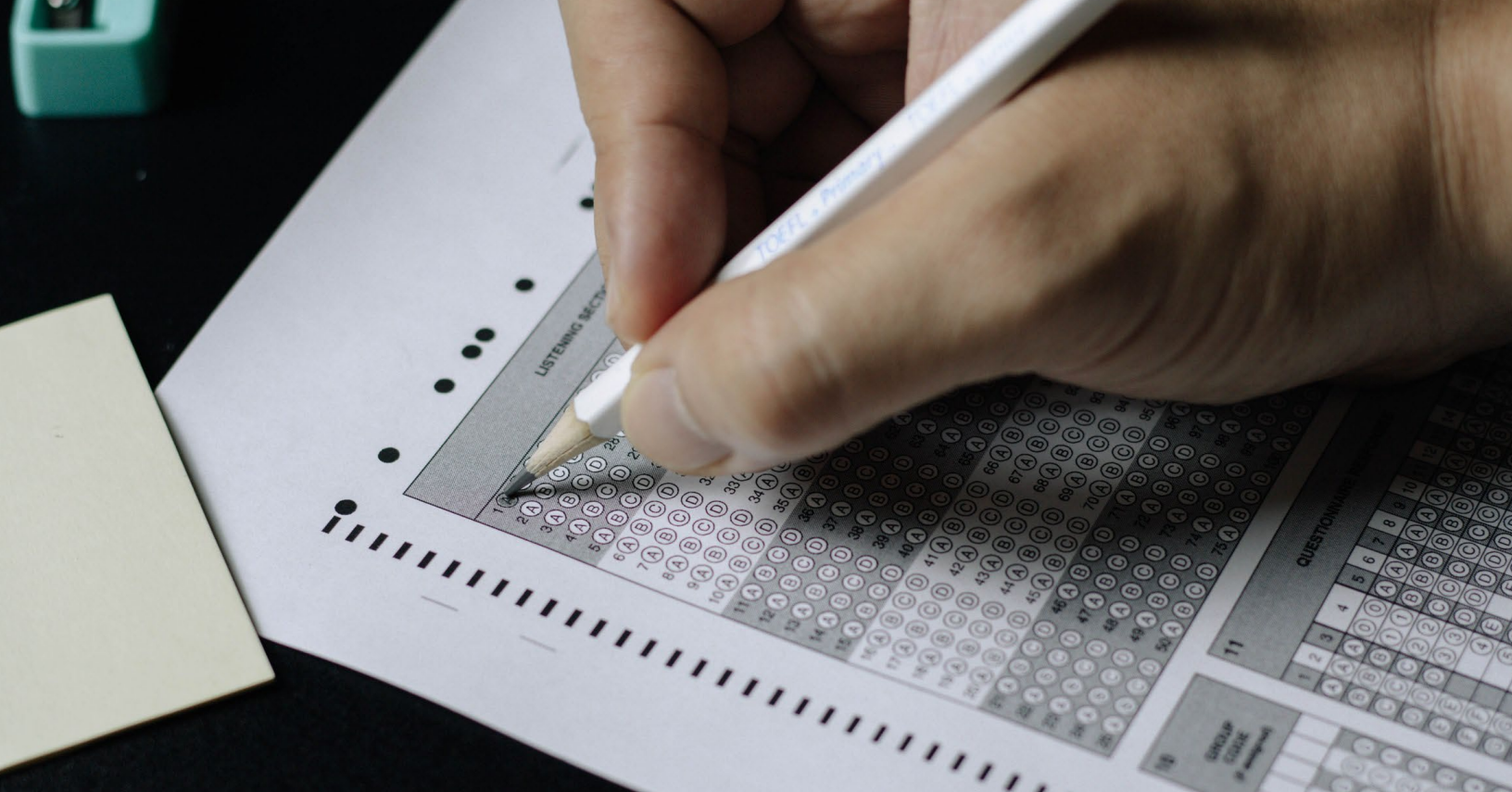
When should my child take the test?

Before your child begins preparing, determine the admissions deadlines for the schools they are applying to. It's wise to leave time to take a test a second time, or to leave the opportunity to take the other test if needed.

Test dates typically start around early October and generally run through around the end of January.

The SSAT can be taken on multiple test dates, but only 1 Flex test administration is allowed per testing year. Flex test administration can be scheduled on an individual basis.

The ISEE can be taken once per testing season. The testing seasons are Fall (August through November), Winter (December through March) and Spring/Summer (April through August). Please note that if you plan to have your child take the ISEE more than once, the first testing MUST be completed by November.



When should my child begin preparing for the test?

This is somewhat dependent on individual factors, including the math class your child is currently taking, as well as extracurricular activities that may need to be scheduled around. Some students start in the summer before their test date in the late fall. Other students prefer to start around February or March of the prior school year and take the first round of tests in the early fall.

What can my child be working on now?

Your child should make sure to stay on top of basic math skills, including knowing basic math facts such as formulas, times tables, and division facts. These skills have sometimes been underdeveloped during the school year, but they are critical to scoring well.

There is also a significant amount of vocabulary on both tests, and studying vocabulary will also be an important factor in preparing for the tests. High frequency vocab word lists are available in both paper and digital formats.

Does my child qualify for extended time?

If your child has a 504 plan or an IEP, it is likely that he or she will qualify for extended time on the tests. A current psychoeducation report that has been written in the past three years is usually required. An application process is required to request extended time. The process can take some time to be completed, so it's important to initiate it early. The SSAT and ISEE have separate processes for applying for extended time.

Sometimes during the course of test preparation, parents find that their child is having unexpected difficulties with the materials or testing procedures. In these circumstances, parents sometimes choose to have their child complete psychoeducational testing to determine if there might be some type of learning difference that has gone undetected. If that's the case, it may be possible to apply for and be granted extended time.

What does your program entail?

This is an intensive test preparation program that is designed for students taking the SSAT, the ISEE, or both. The program includes individual sessions, digital study materials, practice tests, and a customized study plan.

Prior to beginning the program, we will have a family meeting to develop a personalized studying strategy based on test dates, extracurriculars, school, and other factors.

Your child will generally meet for individual sessions once a week, though sometimes individual meetings might occur twice a week depending on circumstance. Appointments are usually available in the afternoons and evenings on weekdays, and earlier in the day on weekends. Sessions can be scheduled through the online scheduling system, and all appointments are currently being held over Zoom.

In addition to one-on-one lessons, the curriculum also has an online component, which includes digital course material and databases of practice problems. Your child will continue to have access to these materials after the course has ended.

Your child will also be assigned homework each week to reinforce the skills that have been learned during each lesson. It's critically important that these assignments be completed each week.

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During the course, your child will also take several timed practice tests. This will allow your child to practice under simulated testing conditions, and provide us with information about which areas still need focus.

What is your background?

I've been teaching test prep since 2001. I originally started with The Princeton Review and then worked for several private companies in Florida. In 2007, I started my business InHouse Test Prep in Austin, TX, and I now work with students all over the country. I have a BA in Psychology from Trinity University and a Ph.D. in Public Health from The University of Texas Health Science Center.

I am an absolute expert in teaching these tests. It's what I do day-in and day-out, every day. I can help you and your child cut through the clutter to focus on the things that matter the most.

What's Next?

The test prep process can feel overwhelming, but it doesn't have to be that way.

You and your child don't have to go through this process alone. I can help.

I've guided hundreds into getting accepted to their dream schools over the past two decades, and I can get your child there, too.

This isn't just test-prep "tutoring" - this is an exclusive, high-end package of support to get your child to their goals quickly.

I run a boutique-type practice, and I deliberately keep my student base relatively small, so that I have enough time for each of my students.

Don't waste your child's time with self-guided online programs or a packed class at one of the large test prep mills. It turns out that the "one-size-fits-all" test prep approach actually doesn't.

Ready to set your child on the path to success?

All you need to do...

Is to book a free call with me or someone from my team.

[Book a Free Call](#)

On this call, we'll dive deep into your child's current "sticking points" to determine how to overcome those obstacles.

Before scheduling a call, consider these questions:

1. Are you ready to help your child achieve the score of their dreams?
2. Is your child coachable and willing to put in the work?

If you answered Yes! to both questions and you're ready to get started, click the link below and schedule a free call to talk with my Expert Team.

We'll show you how to take the stress and uncertainty out of the testing process for the best results. Don't leave your child's fate to chance - schedule a call today!



[Book a Free Call](#)

Sincerely,

Dr. Kelly

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