



## New York Cares SAT Prep Program FAQs

Thank you for your interest in the New York Cares SAT Prep program. This school year, 397 tutors at 43 schools and community centers will provide 1,190 underserved New York City high school students with the help they need to improve their SAT scores and get into the college of their choice. In this program, trained volunteers work with students using SAT Prep curriculum materials for two hours a week from October through March. On average, students' scores increase 125 points.

### Who is eligible to participate as a tutor?

Every oriented New York Cares volunteer is eligible to attend tutor training. If you don't know your orientation status, please call Volunteer Relations at 212-228-5000.

### Do I need a certain SAT score or to have taken the SAT?

You do not need to have taken the SAT to participate in this program; we have numerous tutors that were born and educated in other countries. However, our successful tutors are college-educated and are comfortable with the basic math and English tested on the SAT.

### Is there training to be a tutor and what is it?

Yes, New York Cares provides comprehensive training for tutors. The in-person training covers working with the SAT Prep curriculum materials developed by Summit Educational Group, and with teens in order to foster productive projects. Please visit <http://newyorkcares.org/sat-prep> to sign up for your training. These occur on weeknights and on Saturdays.

You will also receive ongoing training support throughout the course of the school year to provide you with tutoring tools which you can use to refine your impacts on the students.

### What is the commitment? How much extra work is there outside of the project time?

Tutors meet with their students on the same day of the week, once a week for two hours, from October through March. In addition to this, tutors do prep work and/or grading off-site. Past tutors estimate one to two hours a week of additional prep time.

### What if I have to miss a week or two for work or vacation?

We ask that tutors miss no more than **one** session per semester, and that they arrive on time for **every** session. We know that emergencies happen or life circumstances may require you to take a session off; just make sure to inform your Team Leader in advance. The strength of the program depends on tutors and students respecting each other's hard work and commitment. If you anticipate being unable to fulfill these requirements, please consider joining a program with a less extensive time commitment.

### When do we start tutoring students?

Once you have completed your training, you will begin tutoring students in mid-October.

**Where do the projects happen? When will I know where I am going to be tutoring?**

Projects take place on weeknights usually between 6:00-8:00 p.m. or 6:30pm-8:30pm or Saturdays between 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. or 11:30am-2:30pm at high schools and community centers in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens. Once you complete training, you will select a site. Registration for all sites is on a first-come, first-served basis starting in early-September. Once you sign up for a site, you will receive a full schedule of dates for the rest of the school year. Projects do not take place during school vacations, so you won't meet during the holidays.

**Will there be experienced tutors on-site with me?**

You will be on a team of SAT volunteers led by one or two specially-trained Team Leaders. Many tutors have participated in the SAT program before and return to their sites year after year. Feel free to check out [this great news story](#) about one of our volunteer tutors in the Daily News.

**Who are the students? How do they get chosen?**

All SAT sites serve communities with low-income New York City high school students. New York Cares chooses their partner sites and provides a general student application, but each site individually selects the students invited to participate. The program is free to both the SAT sites and the students.

**What grade/ability level are the students?**

All students are in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Students will vary in their math and English abilities; some may perform below the national average for students of their age group.

**How many students will I tutor?**

You will work with the same 3 to 5 students throughout the year. Please be flexible as groups may need to change throughout the program.

**Do I need to undergo a background check?**

All SAT tutors must undergo a national criminal background check, during which New York Cares checks the validity of your social security number and any criminal history associated with your name, social security number and address. If you have any questions about this process please email [sat.prep@newyorkcares.org](mailto:sat.prep@newyorkcares.org).

**Can I tutor or contact the students outside of the project time?**

Volunteers may interact with students over email **only** if the school or community center at which you tutor allows it. They cannot, however, arrange to meet with students outside of the project time for extra tutoring.

**Is there a curriculum?**

The curriculum is based on the Summit Educational Group's materials. However, students' ability levels vary at each site, so you will tailor your tutoring to the needs and learning speeds of the students in your group. Your Team Leaders can assist you with this as you start planning your lessons.

**I'm not good at math; can I tutor in just English?**

At some of our SAT sites, tutors will have the option to tutor in either math or English. If a site is formally offering the option, the project will be posted with a specific subject (for example "SAT Prep at Kingsbridge Heights Community Center (Math)"). Single-subject tutoring can also be discussed with your site's Team Leader to best organize tutoring groups to fit your subject preferences.

**What do I do to become a tutor?**

If you are interested in being a tutor, sign up for a training at <http://newyorkcares.org/sat-prep>. You can also call 212-402-1149 or email [sat.prep@newyorkcares.org](mailto:sat.prep@newyorkcares.org) for more information on tutor training.