



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR
Michael Gianaris

Amid Covid-19 Spike And City's Switch To Remote Learning, Senate Deputy Leader Gianaris Calls For College Entry Exam To Change Process During Pandemic

MICHAEL GIANARIS November 20, 2020

| ISSUE: **COLLEGE ADMISSIONS, SAT EXAM, COLLEGE BOARD, COVID-19, CORONAVIRUS**



NEW YORK – Senate Deputy Leader Michael Gianaris called on the College Board, the corporation that administers the SAT exam for college entrance, to provide digital testing options for all students and waive fees that incur from in-person testing. In a letter to College Board CEO David Coleman highlighted the concerns of anxious parents and students across New York about going to crowded test sites.

“With remote learning now the norm for city students, the College Board needs to revisit the wisdom of requiring in-person testing and associated fees in the current environment,” said

Senate Deputy Leader Michael Gianaris. “While the priority here is the safety of our kids, this experience should also kickstart a broader discussion about the efficacy of standardized testing in the college admissions process.”

Just this week, all New York City public schools transitioned to remote learning due to spikes in covid-19 infections across the city.

Senator Gianaris’ full letter appears [here](#) and below.

November 20, 2020

David Coleman, CEO

*College Board
250 [Vesey Street](#)
[New York](#), New York 10281*

Dear Mr. Coleman,

I write with serious concerns about the administration of the SAT exam for students seeking college admission in the fall of 2021. Students and parents throughout New York are anxious about the dangers associated with holding the college entrance exam in large, crowded locations. As we experience a new wave of covid-19 infections, we need a different solution.

I urge you to consider alternatives such as digital administration of the SAT and the waiving of fees associated with in-person administration. While a broader reconsideration of the role of standardized testing in the college admissions process is warranted, we should at least protect the safety of test-takers while it is still a requirement for many schools. We must prioritize public health during this unprecedented time.

I hope you take this under serious consideration and ensure all students are provided with safe options during the covid-19 pandemic. I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely

Senator Michael Gianaris

Deputy Majority Leader