

# COLLEGE BOARD NEWS

*College Entrance Examination Board, 425 West 117 Street, New York 27, N. Y.*

FOR USE ON OR AFTER MARCH 4, 1959

The Trustees of the College Entrance Examination Board today announced that the Board has decided on two courses of action, one immediate and the other long range, in response to the concerns expressed by schools and colleges over the rapidly growing problems of college admission.

The College Board, as it is known to educators and the hundreds of thousands of boys and girls who take college entrance examinations each year, is a nonprofit association of school and college members established in 1900 to facilitate the transition of students from school to college. The membership now consists of 250 colleges which require the examinations for admission and 37 educational associations representative of school interests throughout the nation.

## PRELIMINARY SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST ANNOUNCED

The first move authorized by the Trustees will be the introduction of a new test, to be known as the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test, designed especially to assist schools in advising their college preparatory students early in the junior year.

The test will be given nation-wide in October at every school wishing to obtain for its college-bound juniors information which will provide (1) a forecast of their performance in the senior year on the Scholastic Aptitude Test when it is taken for college admission, and (2) an advance indication of their college capability which will be particularly helpful in arriving at a good and realistic choice of college.

It is estimated, on the basis of current trends toward earlier guidance, that the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test will be taken by approximately 500,000 students in some 15,000 public and private schools. The combination of economies achieved through this large volume and



the cooperation of schools in administering the test to their students will make possible a fee of one dollar per student.

Replaces Scholarship Qualifying Test: The test will also be open to seniors who hope to qualify for scholarship programs conducted by sponsoring businesses, educational societies, and fraternal organizations which will require the test as part of their selection procedures. In 1958 over 1,600 scholarships were awarded to seniors taking the College Board's Scholarship Qualifying Test, which will be discontinued this year in favor of the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test. Information on participating scholarship sponsors will be sent to schools this spring and in the fall.

In deciding on the new program the Trustees cited several benefits to students and schools in addition to the primary goal of encouraging earlier and better informed guidance efforts. Among these, it was noted that the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test will in a very large number of cases take the place of two tests—the Scholarship Qualifying Test in the case of seniors and the Scholastic Aptitude Test in the case of a great many juniors who now take the latter for guidance.

There is abundant evidence that, if present conditions continued, more and more students would take both the Scholarship Qualifying Test and the Scholastic Aptitude Test twice, the first time for guidance as juniors and the second time for scholarships and admission as seniors. The number of juniors taking the Scholastic Aptitude Test has increased six-fold during the last five years while the number of seniors taking it has increased less than threefold. The fact that 126,000 juniors took this test in 1958 and that 172,000 juniors took the Scholarship Qualifying Test last October was regarded by the Trustees as a clear indication of school interest in testing for guidance and of the desirability of a low-cost test for this purpose.

"The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test will do more than continue to fill the need of sponsors for a nationally available scholarship screening instrument," it was pointed out by Board President Frank H. Bowles. "It will also forestall the alternative development of multiple scholarship testing by individual sponsors, a possibility that rightfully dismays schools which find it hard enough to disrupt their class and activity schedules for one or two extracurricular tests. Moreover, it is a matter of considerable satisfaction to the College Board, and we hope to the students and

their parents, that the PSAT will provide an excellent one dollar substitute for juniors who would otherwise take the seven dollar SAT for guidance purposes. The six dollars saved could be much better applied against college expenses."

Detailed information on the test: The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test will be a two-hour version of the three-hour Scholastic Aptitude Test, using the same kinds of multiple-choice questions and measuring the same verbal and mathematical abilities. It will yield separate verbal and mathematical scores on a scale ranging from 20 to 80, a gradation parallel to that of the College Board's standard admissions test scale of 200 to 800. This will make it a simple matter for guidance officers to relate the preliminary test scores directly to admissions test score information. Interpretive information will be sent to schools with the scores.

The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test will be given on two dates in 1959: Tuesday, October 20, and Saturday, October 24. A school may choose either date, but all students of the school must register only for the one date chosen. A different form (edition) of the test will be used on each date in order to maintain the security of the test in a manner which will make it equally fair to students of every school. The school must agree to administer the form for which it has registered on the designated date.

The test may be given at any secondary school in the United States and its territories and possessions. It will be administered by the school principal or his designated representatives. Arrangements for registration will be made through the Educational Testing Service (Box 589, Princeton, N.J.), which will operate the program for the College Board. Additional information and early registration materials will be sent to schools in May. Complete information on the test and scholarship sponsors will be mailed early in September, at which time schools will be asked for their final registrations. The test scores will be reported in December to schools and to the scholarship programs specified by senior candidates.

#### COMMITTEE ON ENTRANCE PROCEDURES CREATED

The second action taken by the Trustees was the creation of a permanent Committee on Entrance Procedures "to study the problems in the area of



college entrance procedures, to initiate and oversee the collection and dissemination of information relating to these problems, and to develop for consideration possible solutions to these problems."

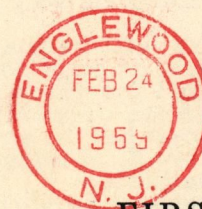
It is expected that the 17-member Committee, working under the chairmanship of Sidney B. Bennett, Secretary of Admissions of Hamilton College, will investigate all educational and administrative aspects of an increasingly complex situation. Involved are such factors as the growing number of young people who wish to go to college, the confusions and costs resulting from their uncertainties about admission, the multiplication of these difficulties through the practice of applying to more colleges than necessary, and the growing diversity of admissions methods and schedules.

The Committee is broadly representative of schools and colleges. Its members, in addition to Mr. Bennett include: G. Grenville Benedict, Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass.; Mary E. Chase, Wellesley College; H. Westcott Cunningham, College of William and Mary; Virginia Deane, North Shore Country Day School, Winnetka, Ill.; Burton W. Dunfield, Denison University; C. William Edwards, Princeton University; Robert L. Foose, Westfield (N.J.) High School; O. W. Hascall, University of Colorado; and Joe Jefferson, Columbia University.

Also, Brother Brendan Joseph, Manhattan College; Richard W. Mechem, Walnut Hills High School, Cincinnati, Ohio; Kenneth L. Peters, Beverly Hills (Calif.) High School; Rixford K. Snyder, Stanford University; Ann Splitstone, Hollins College; and Harold Zuckerman, Board of Education of the City of New York.



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**FIRST CLASS**

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