College Board Guidelines

Standardized Admissions Exams:
Statement of Responsible Use

1. Standardized test scores are one measure of a student's cognitive readiness for college.
2. Standardized tests provide a fair and reliable measure of cognitive readiness that substantial academic research demonstrates is a valid predictor of a student's grades in his or her freshman year in college. As such, standardized test scores can help admissions professionals make fair and informed decisions.
3. However, standardized test scores are just one source of data available for use by admissions professionals in the selection process and their value is contingent upon their appropriate usage.
4. Test scores should always be used in conjunction with other components of a candidate's portfolio, such as grades in rigorous courses, as well as the candidate's educational experiences and opportunities.
5. Test scores should only be used as a contemporary and approximate indicator of a student's preparation for college-level work rather than a fixed or exact measure.
6. Small differences in test scores should not be the basis for rejecting an otherwise qualified applicant.
7. Like all data used in an institution's admissions process, test scores should be regularly validated to confirm their meaning and relevance within that institution.
8. It is the responsibility of the test providers to prepare and distribute research-based guidelines outlining the proper use of their test scores. Training about the test and proper usage of scores should also be made available for admissions professionals.
9. It is the responsibility of admissions professionals to be knowledgeable of, and to follow, appropriate usage guidelines when using standardized test scores in the selection process.
10. Admissions professionals should review their institution's test use policies periodically to ensure adherence to appropriate usage guidelines.

CollegeBoard Advocacy
education comes first