

HSPT Overview and Background

The *High School Placement Test (HSPT)* is a five-part multiple choice test of verbal, quantitative, reading, mathematics, and language arts skills. The exam includes 298 questions and takes 3 hours to administer. This includes two short breaks and 30 minutes for distributing and collecting the answer sheets and test booklets. Subtests and standard testing time limits are as follows: 16 minutes for verbal ability; 30 minutes for quantitative ability; 25 minutes for reading achievement; 45 minutes for mathematics achievement; and 25 minutes for language arts.

Students completing the HSPT are ranked in percentiles and scored in relation to two normed groups: those taking the test on the same date nationally and those taking the test in the greater Washington area. Standard scores range from 200-800, with 500 as the mean. The Cognitive Skills Quotient for the combined verbal and quantitative ability scores is interpreted the same way as with the IQ test, with the average being 100. Scoring summaries include Total Cognitive Skills, Total Basic Skills and a composite score based on the five subtests.

Scholastic Testing Service, Inc. (STS) first developed the HSPT in 1955. Since that time, STS has revised the HSPT annually in order to ensure its effectiveness for the schools using the test. The HSPT scores are one factor that 11 of the Catholic high schools in the Archdiocese of Washington consider when reviewing students' applications to their schools, although schools elsewhere also use this test to assist with educational diagnosis and awarding of scholarships. The Archdiocese of Baltimore and the Diocese of Arlington both utilize the HSPT for admissions purposes, and we have worked closely to align materials and procedures with these dioceses. For more information about STS and the HSPT, please visit the STS website *Getting to Know STS* at www.ststesting.com. For information about preparing for the HSPT, see the subsequent section of this guide titled *HSPT Preparation Recommendations and Resources*.

Registration Process for Students Attending Archdiocese of Washington Catholic Schools Administering the High School Placement Test

All students attending a Catholic elementary school must register to take the HSPT through their elementary schools by completing the *online HSPT Registration Form*. Only students applying to Catholic high schools that require the HSPT are required to register to take the test.

Principals in Archdiocese of Washington schools share the web link to the *online HSPT Registration Form* with the parents/guardians of 8th grade students. Parents/guardians complete registration and payment for the test online, and a confirmation letter is sent to the parent/guardian's email address.

Online test registration opens on **Tuesday, September 4, 2018**. Test registration and payment must be submitted by **Friday, October 26, 2018**. The registration fee is:

- **\$45:** test scores are sent to up to three schools in the Archdiocese of Washington; **OR**
- **\$60:** test scores are sent to up to three schools in the Archdiocese of Washington **PLUS** one school in the Archdiocese of Baltimore or the Diocese of Arlington.

Accommodations

Students requiring testing accommodations must have appropriate documentation on file with the school. This documentation must include a current (within three years) diagnosis of an existing disability that was derived from a comprehensive evaluation conducted by certified professionals. This documentation should be available for review by the Director for Special Education, upon request.

High School Choice(s)

The *online HSPT Registration Form* identifies the Catholic high schools in the archdiocese that use the HSPT as part of their admissions process. Students and their parents/guardians select the high schools to receive the results of the HSPT online. The High School Choice(s) window opens on **Monday, November 19, 2018**.

Principals also give 8th grade students an *Authorization to Release Records* form. Parents/guardians must:

- Indicate the schools on the form to which their child intends to apply for admission in fall, 2018;
- Sign the form authorizing the elementary school to release their child's records to the schools; and
- Return the form with the HSPT registration confirmation letter to the child's 8th grade teacher by **Monday, November 26, 2018**.

Changes to high school selections must be made online before the close of the High School Choice(s) window on **Sunday, December 9, 2018**. If changes are made to high school selections, the *Authorization to Release Records* form must be updated and resubmitted to the child's 8th grade teacher.

Test Date and Make-Up Testing

Students take the HSPT, the official entrance test published by Scholastic Testing Service, Inc., at their schools on **Wednesday, November 28, 2018**.

To reschedule due to illness, parents/guardians must contact the school principal. The make-up test may be scheduled on or before December 4, 2018. For an extended illness, parents/guardians must call 301-853-5387 or send a request to HSPT@adw.org, to register for the January make-up test.

Registration Process for Students Not Attending Catholic Schools-Administering the High School Placement Test

All students must register to take the HSPT. **No walk-ins are permitted.** Registration deadlines are noted below.

Students attending schools that do not administer the HSPT may (1) register and pay for the HSPT online at www.adwcatholicschools.org or (2) complete the *HSPT Registration Form* available online or from any Catholic high school in the archdiocese, and mail the form with a **\$60** registration fee (check or money order) to have a student's test scores sent to up to three schools in the Archdiocese of Washington, or **\$75** to have a child's test scores sent to up to three schools in the Archdiocese of Washington plus one school in the Archdiocese of Baltimore or Diocese of Arlington.

Mail-in registrations: For the Saturday, December 1, 2018 test date, the completed HSPT registration (including payment) **must be received by Friday, November 16, 2018**. For the Saturday, December 8, 2018 test date, the completed HSPT registration (including payment) **must be received by Friday, November 23, 2018**. The *unpublicized* 3rd test date is Saturday, January 5, 2019. The completed HSPT registration (including payment) **must be received by Friday, December 21, 2018**.

Mail-in registrations must be addressed to: