

2026 SHSAT Format Change

Computer-adaptive test | Rising Grade 8 summer prep

Parent summary

For fall 2026, NYC Public Schools says the SHSAT moves to a computer-adaptive format. Skills still matter, but students also need first-pass accuracy, pacing, and comfort with digital navigation.

What changed

- ☐ **Computer-adaptive format**
Difficulty can adjust as the student answers.
- ☐ **50 ELA + 50 Math questions**
Current NYCPS guidance lists 100 total questions.
- ☐ **No easy backtracking**
Math and stand-alone ELA items cannot be revisited after advancing.
- ☐ **TEI and digital tools**
Students should practice with NYCPS online tools, not only paper.

What to practice first

- ☐ **First-pass accuracy**
Answer carefully before moving on.
- ☐ **Weak-spot sorting**
Mark missed, guessed, and slow questions by skill.
- ☐ **No-backtracking pacing**
Use short sets where the student commits and moves forward.
- ☐ **NYCPS digital practice**
Use NYCPS tools to learn the actual platform behavior.

Recommended summer path

Read the format change -> take one skill diagnostic -> track weak spots -> practice short daily sets.

How to prep after the change

Use this as a planning page, not a score prediction.

1 Confirm the current rules

Check NYC Public Schools SHSAT pages before test day. Format details can change.

2 Take one skill diagnostic

Use a printable diagnostic to find ELA and math weak spots before fall pressure rises.

3 Practice adaptive-aware habits

Run short sets where the student answers, commits, and moves forward without relying on backtracking.

4 Use NYCPS online tools

Practice on the NYCPS platform resources so tools and navigation do not feel new on test day.

5 Build a weekly plan

Choose two weak spots per week. Review explanations before adding more full tests.

Original Practice Lab path

- Format guide: originalpracticelab.com/shsat-format-change-2026-computer-adaptive-test
- Free tracker: originalpracticelab.com/free-shsat-weak-spot-tracker
- \$1.99 diagnostic: originalpracticelab.com/shsat-grade8-paper-practice-test
- 4-week sprint: originalpracticelab.com/summer-shsat-confidence-sprint