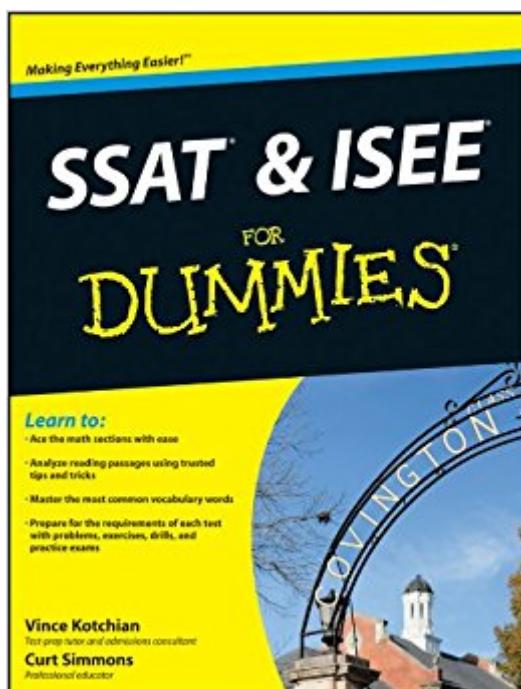


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# SSAT And ISEE For Dummies



## Synopsis

Your ticket to the private school of your choice The Secondary School Aptitude Test (SSAT) and Independent School Entrance Examination (ISEE) are the two most common standardized aptitude tests used in American private secondary schools. If you're a parent or student looking to apply for admissions at a private, military, or boarding school, SSAT & ISEE For Dummies is your family's ticket to success. Here, you'll get all the prep needed to score higher on the SSAT and ISEE exams, the most up-to-date information on the tests, hundreds of practice questions, thorough test-specific math and verbal workouts, six full-length practice tests (all with detailed answer explanations), and solid test-taking advice. Correctly answer difficult analogy and synonym questions without knowing what all the words mean Ace the math section by eliminating answers that are planted to fool test takers Apply the proven For Dummies step-by-step approach to combat the essay portion Analyze difficult passages using tips and tricks in the reading comprehension section Learn the most common vocabulary words tested on the SSAT and ISEE with an entire chapter devoted to vocabulary terms State-by-state "Private Schools at-a-Glance" chart with data on more than 1,000 private secondary schools SSAT & ISEE For Dummies provides students with the resources they need for test day preparation and gives parents sound, expert advice on selecting, applying, and paying for private school.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In preparation for my child's application to prep school, I grabbed copies of Kaplan's SSAT/ISEE prep book and this book, and sat down to compare the two so he uses the best resource in his

limited time. I was particularly interested in this one because the ad copy on said it had a "state-by-state "Private Schools at-a-Glance" chart with data on more than 1,000 private secondary schools [and that] SSAT & ISEE For Dummies ... gives parents sound, expert advice on selecting, applying, and paying for private school." Let me tell you this is totally false. There is no information in this book whatsoever about private secondary schools, or selecting, applying, and paying for private school. This is a pure test-prep book. So I was disappointed to see that this book was not quite what I thought it was. But looking at it strictly as a test-prep book, I can say that it is pretty good, and the writing section blows the Kaplan book out of the water. Honestly, the Kaplan book is weak on writing--just a single chapter with some vague suggestions and some sample writing prompts. The Dummies book has two chapters replete with sample essays, what works, what doesn't, etc. I love this about this book. The only negative to this book compared with the Kaplan that I can see is that the Kaplan has more practice tests. The Kaplan book has two SSAT Upper level (for students in grades 8-11), whereas the Dummies has only 1 at that level, and three lower-level SSATs to the Dummies 2. For the ISEE, they both had the same number for each level. I would recommend this book over the Kaplan book for the writing section alone. The other sections were very similar, and the advice given was virtually identical in the two books, as far as I could see.

First of all, in the interest of full disclosure, this book was co-written by Vince Kotchian, a close friend and colleague of mine at McElroy Tutoring. That being said, this book is clearly the best SSAT / ISEE book out there (and I've read them all, so this is not an uninformed claim). The "For Dummies" series of books is well-known for being easy to read and well-organized, and this book is no exception. The book begins with an overview of the structure and scoring systems of both tests, then transitions into an explanation of the strategy and study skills required for each test. It then systematically analyzes each section of the SSAT and ISEE, providing relevant tips, examples and practice drills along the way. The most helpful parts of the book, however, are the practice tests. The ISEE recently changed its structure to make the test more difficult, and the practice tests in most older ISEE books do not accurately reflect this higher degree of difficulty. The "Dummies" practice tests were written to resemble the actual thing as closely as possible, using real practice tests from the ERB and SSAT as templates. So other than the real thing, which can be obtained at the ERB and SSAT websites ([erblearn.org](http://erblearn.org) and [ssat.org](http://ssat.org)), these practice tests are as close to the real thing as you're going to get. And, unlike some other ISEE books which only offer upper and lower-level ISEE tests, the "Dummies" book offers ISEE tests in all three levels (upper, middle, and lower), as well as three SSAT practice tests (two lower-level and one upper). I've already had some of my students

take the ISEE practice tests, and can report that they are excellent imitations of the real thing.

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