

About the PSAT Test

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The PSAT/NMSQT is the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The PSAT is a great primer for the SAT, and even the ACT, but it's more than just a trial run. PSAT scores are used to identify National Merit Scholars and award merit scholarships. More than 3.4 million high school students (mostly juniors and sophomores) take this nationwide, multiple-choice test every year.

PSAT Quick Facts

Frequency	1 time/year
Duration	2 hours, 45 minutes
Sections	Math, Evidence-Based Reading & Writing
Cost	Fees are paid by schools
Max. Score	1520

What is the PSAT and why is it important?

Scholarships and college money

The biggest reason that students should take the PSAT is free college money! Juniors who take the PSAT during their fall semester can qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Corporation scholarship programs. This scholarship program offers awards based on academic performance and the PSAT score. When students take the exam in their junior year (and score well) they can lock in a scholarship to help pay for their college education. Some colleges even offer scholarships opportunities based on high PSAT scores.

Familiarization with the test format

Even an advanced online test prep software can't mimic the feeling of sitting down and taking the test. Taking the PSAT can help students adjust to the test format and the real world experience of taking the SAT without the fear of scoring poorly. The more a student practices, the more comfortable they'll be when the real test comes around.

Potential college-level AP courses

When students receive their PSAT/NMSQT results beginning in December, the score report will let them, their teachers, and their counselors know which specific AP courses are a good match for them. Research shows that all students who take AP Exams are more likely to graduate college on time in four years. And, students who score a 3 or higher on AP Exams can save time and money by earning college credit.

Advanced information from colleges

When students take the PSAT, they can opt in to receive information from colleges that are seeking out admission. This can help students understand their school choices and set goals for college admissions.

The PSAT test is very similar to the SAT, with a few key differences.

PPSAT

2 Hours long

2—25 minute Verbal Sections

2—25 minute Math Sections

1—30 minute Writing Skills Sections

SAT

3 Hours long

1 Math Section

1 Evidence Based Reading/Writing Section

The PSAT covers all of the same question types that are on the SAT. This gives students an opportunity to practice everything they'll need on the real test. Starting early with the PSAT can set students up for success on the real test, and help them focus their test prep.

Taking the PSAT in LCISD

Who & When

October 16, 2019 **No Charge to Students**
Grades 8 & 9 **PSAT 8/9**
Grades 10 & 11 **SAT NMSQT**

Please Note: The deadline for home school students that are permanent residents of LCISD to sign up for this administration is September 20, 2019.

For additional information please contact:

Research, Assessment, & Accountability Dept.
832-223-0136

Advanced Studies Department
832-223-0144

Test Preparation

College Board—www.collegeboard.com

Students are able to simulate test day by printing and taking official PSAT/NMSQT practice tests and viewing sample questions.

After the test

Students get PSAT/NMSQT scores December 10 . When your PSAT/NMSQT scores are ready online, you'll get an email with instructions on [creating your College Board account](#), going to your [online score report](#), and using your access code to view your scores.

A COLLEGE READINESS PARTNERSHIP



FREE practice that is...



Personalized to you

We'll create a tailored practice plan for you based on a diagnostic or your SAT or PSAT/NMSQT® scores



Official

8 full-length, real practice tests and content created in partnership with College Board



Interactive

Thousands of practice questions, videos, lessons, and hints plus study and test-taking tips and strategies



Instant

Get constant feedback and progress so you know where you stand

Linking College Board & Kahn Academy

Step 1

Log into or create your Khan Academy account at www.satpractice.org

Step 2

When prompted, agree to link your Khan Academy and College Board accounts

Step 3

Sign in or create your College Board Account and hit "Send" to send your scores

[Step by step instructions.](#)

Raising confidence and scores

20 hours of practice on Khan Academy is associated with an average 115-point score increase from the PSAT/NMSQT to the SAT, nearly double the average gain without Khan.

In 2017, Khan Academy and the College Board, the maker of the SAT, analyzed gains between the PSAT/NMSQT & the SAT and found a positive relationship between use of Official SAT Practice and score improvements on the SAT. Score gains are consistent across gender, family income, race, ethnicity and parental education level.