



**PSAT™ 8/9**

**Fall 2024**

**PSAT 8/9**

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# Understanding Scores

**For Students and Families**



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# PSAT 8/9

## Score Resources

Congratulations to your student for taking the PSAT 8/9. Included is information about scores that may be helpful for students and their families.

### What's Included

This document delves deeper into the meaning of your student's scores, including what the assessment measures, how it is scored, and how students and their families can use the data to monitor their progress.

The document also provides:

- Information about estimating how much a score may change from the PSAT™ 8/9 to the PSAT™ 10 and PSAT/NMSQT®.
- A sample PDF score report walk-through so you can interpret your student's score reports.

### Related Resources

Visit [our website](#) to find information about:

- Score release dates
- Managing access to online scores
- Resources for online score reports
- Downloadable Understanding Scores for Students and Families documents in English and Spanish

### CONTACT US

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# The **PSAT 8/9** and the **SAT Suite** of Assessments

## How the SAT Suite of Assessments Works

The SAT® Suite of Assessments is an integrated system of tests that includes the SAT (for students in grades 11 and 12), the PSAT/NMSQT and the PSAT 10 (for grades 10 and 11), and the PSAT 8/9 (for grades 8 and 9). The tests measure the same skills and knowledge in grade-appropriate ways. They work together to show college and career readiness over time so educators, students, and parents can monitor student progress. Their content reflects the kind of meaningful, engaging, and challenging work that students find in middle school and high school courses taught today.

## How the PSAT 8/9 is Organized

The digital SAT Suite uses multistage adaptive testing (MST). Relying on MST means we can fairly and accurately measure the same things with a shorter, more secure test while preserving test reliability. Both the Reading and Writing section and the Math section are divided into 2 equal length and separately timed stages, each composed of a module of questions. The first module contains a mix of easy, medium, and hard questions. Based on how a student performs on the first module, the second module of questions will either be more difficult or less difficult. By adapting to a student's performance level, the responsive test will provide students with a more efficient assessment of their academic strengths.

## How the PSAT 8/9 Is Scored

The SAT Suite uses adaptive test design with item response theory (IRT) pattern scoring. Adaptive testing allows for fewer questions, in less time, than traditional paper tests. Pattern scoring allows for precise measurement of students' knowledge and skills. Students' scores are determined by whether they answer questions right or wrong, and by considering attributes of the questions, including difficulty level, the questions' ability to differentiate between students with various levels of content knowledge, and the probability that a student is guessing based on their pattern of responses. Every test includes a standardized set of question types and measures the same content domains, so all students have equitable opportunity to demonstrate their strengths. For most students who are trying their best on every question, it is better to guess than leave a question blank, especially if the student can eliminate 1 or 2 answer options before guessing.

# PSAT 8/9 Scores

PSAT 8/9 Score Reported	Details	Score Range
<b>Section Scores (2)</b>	Reading and Writing (RW)	120–720
	Math (M)	120–720
<b>Total Score</b>	Sum of the 2 section scores	240–1440

## Accessing Official Student Scores

Your student's school has access to a downloadable PDF called *Your Score Report* for every PSAT 8/9 test taker. Students can review this score report with educators at their school and share it with their families.

As always, students age 13 and older may use a personal College Board student account to view additional insights online.

## Using PSAT 8/9 Scores to Predict Scores on Other Assessments

The SAT Suite—from the PSAT 8/9 through the SAT—uses a common score scale for the total and section scores. The ranges reported for each assessment reflect grade-level appropriateness within the common score scale. Thus, while the total range for the SAT is 400–1600, the total range for the PSAT 8/9 is 240–1440.

This common score scale means that a student who took the PSAT 8/9 and received a Math section score of 500 would be expected to also get a 500 on the SAT, the PSAT/NMSQT, or the PSAT 10 if they had taken any of those tests on that same day; a score of 500 represents the same level of academic achievement on all 4 assessments.

This also means that student growth across the SAT Suite is easy to determine. If a student takes the PSAT 8/9 this year and receives a 500 Math section score, then takes the PSAT/NMSQT or the PSAT 10 next year and earns a 550 Math section score, that student has shown a growth of 50 points, which likely resulted from hard work both in and out of school.

# Overview of the Score Report PDF

In the official score report PDF, the student can view the 3 scores available from their PSAT 8/9 assessment—total score, Reading and Writing section score, and Math section score.

For each score, the official score report PDF also includes:

- The range of possible scores: 240–1440 for total score, and 120–720 for section scores.
- The All Tester Percentile (formally called the “User Percentile”) of each score. For example, if a student’s score is in the 70th percentile, 70% of a comparison group achieved scores at or below that student’s score.
- The total and section Average Score of all testers, based on all PSAT 8/9 test takers across the last 3 years.

**All Tester Percentiles** are based on the actual scores of the past 3 cohorts of students who took the PSAT 8/9 in 8th or 9th grade, for tests completed anywhere in the world. Students in 8th grade are provided the 8th-grade percentile, and students in 9th grade are provided the 9th-grade percentile. Students testing outside of these grades are provided the nearest percentile to their grade (i.e. a 7th grader is provided the 8th-grade percentile).

## Guidance Purpose Only

If Guidance Purpose Only appears at the top of the score report, this means that College Board was unable to confirm that a complete set of responses was available when the test was scored and scores reflect only the responses available to us. While these scores are reported to the student, school, district, and state, they can be used for educational guidance purposes only.

## Individual Score Ranges

A student’s ability is better represented by score ranges than points. Score ranges are derived from the standard error of measurement and show how much a student’s scores would likely vary if they took a different administration of the test under identical conditions.

From recent administrations of the PSAT 8/9, these ranges are approximately:

- Total:  $\pm 40$  points
- Reading and Writing:  $\pm 20$  points
- Math:  $\pm 30$  points

## Knowledge and Skills

Students can view a graphic showing their performance on each of the 8 content domains measured on the PSAT 8/9. There are 4 content domains in Reading and Writing, and 4 in Math.

In each content domain, students can view:

- The approximate number of questions in the content domain and what percentage of the section that represents (e.g., 12–14 questions would be about 26% of the Reading and Writing section).
- A visual indication of how the student performed in each content domain and the associated score band.

Students can use this section to identify content domains they may want to focus on to practice and improve.

## Additional Support

The score report includes a Career Insights Snapshot, a list of growing careers in a student’s state that connect to their scores. These careers are examples, not recommendations, and can inspire career exploration earlier in high school.

The last section of the score report PDF focuses on next steps the student can take after reviewing their scores. A QR code or link will provide them more information on tools and services related to these next steps, which include reviewing additional insights on their scores, Official Digital SAT Prep on Khan Academy®, and college and career exploration.

# Benchmarks

## PSAT 8/9 Grade-Level Benchmarks

### WHAT THE BENCHMARKS MEAN

The College and Career Readiness Benchmarks for the SAT predict a 75% likelihood of achieving a C or higher in related first semester, credit-bearing college courses. The benchmarks are set at the section level, so there is a benchmark for Reading and Writing and a benchmark for Math. If students meet or exceed this benchmark in grades 8–12, they are considered on track to be college ready.

### PSAT 8/9 GRADE-LEVEL BENCHMARKS

	Reading & Writing	Math
8th grade	390	430
9th grade	410	450

Through the online K–12 score reporting portal, the PSAT 8/9 reports separate benchmarks for students in 8th grade and 9th grade to help teachers understand students' level of readiness for college and career training programs. Equipped with this information, teachers can address challenge areas for their students while there is still time for improvement. Teachers can also accelerate the progress of students who meet or exceed the benchmarks.

# How to Use Scores

## How Students and Families May Use Scores

The PSAT 8/9 student score report provides students and families with 3 ways to understand their scores.

- Help your student think of ways to develop each of the skills they have identified for focus and improvement. Khan Academy can help supplement this work, and when your student is ready, they can take practice tests on Bluebook™ and review the results on [My Practice](#).
- Use the career examples to talk about career interests and options with your student.
- Compare your student's scores to the grade-level benchmarks together.
  - ◆ If your student is meeting the benchmark for a section, remind them to continue to take rigorous courses and work hard to stay on track for college success.
  - ◆ If your student is not meeting the benchmark for a section, work with their teacher to connect them to classroom work that is focused on areas that need improvement.

Benchmarks shouldn't be used to assign academic tracks, to discourage students from pursuing college, or to keep students from participating in challenging courses. Rather, the benchmarks are intended to help all students better prepare for life after high school.

## How Schools May Use Scores

Through our K–12 score reporting portal, educators can access the official downloadable score report PDF for printing and sharing with the student. Educators can also see additional interpretive insights about the student's results. The PDF, titled *Your Score Report*, (sample shown on page 7) clearly summarizes a student's current achievement levels and encourages next steps to increase college and career readiness. Teachers can review the official score report PDFs with students to help them understand what their scores mean. Reviewing their scores can also help students see their strengths, which can increase their confidence and help them identify content domains in which they can handle more advanced coursework.

# The PSAT 8/9 Score Report

## A Case Study: Sample PSAT 8/9 Score Report

Take a look at the sample score report here and on the next page. Use the corresponding information to help you interpret your student's PSAT 8/9 score report.

### 1 WHAT ARE NORA'S SCORES?


Nora's Reading and Writing score is 620, and her Math score is 500, for a total score of 1120.

Below her individual scores, she can see a score range, which shows the range of scores she might expect to get if she took the PSAT 8/9 multiple times. She can also see an average score of all testers in any grade who have taken the PSAT 8/9 in the last 3 years.

### 2 WHAT ARE NORA'S SCORE PERCENTILES?

Since Nora is in 9th grade, the percentiles compare her scores with those of all 9th graders around the world who took the PSAT 8/9 in the last 3 years. Nora scored as well or better in Reading and Writing than 60% of all 9th-grade testers.

In Math, she scored as well or better than 70% of all 9th graders around the world who took the PSAT 8/9 in the last 3 years. Putting both scores together, Nora scored as well or better than 75% of students in her grade on the PSAT 8/9 as a whole.



Name: **Nora Notetaker**  
 Grade: **9**  
 Test administration: **PSAT 8/9 Fall 2024**  
 Tested on: **Oct 4, 2024**  
 Record Locator: **4561264**

## Your Score Report

### PSAT 8/9 Scores

**TOTAL SCORE**

**1120** | 75th\*

Score Range: 1080-1140 | 1st-1440  
3 Year Average Score (all testers): 1100

**SECTION SCORES**

**Reading and Writing**

**620** | 60th\*

Your Score Range: 600-640  
3 Year Average Score (all testers): 600

**Math**

**500** | 70th\*

Your Score Range: 470-530  
3 Year Average Score (all testers): 530

\* Percentiles represent the percent of 9th grade test takers from the past 3 years who scored the same as or below you.  
Score range: This is the range of scores you could possibly get if you took the PSAT 8/9 multiple times on different days.

**Knowledge and Skills**

View your performance across the 8 content domains measured on the PSAT 8/9. For more information on performance score bands, visit [satsuite.collegeboard.org/skills-insight](https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/skills-insight).

**Reading and Writing**

**Information and Ideas**  
(26% of test section, 12-14 questions)  
Performance: 685-900

**Craft and Structure**  
(26% of test section, 13-15 questions)  
Performance: 550-600

**Expression of Ideas**  
(26% of test section, 8-12 questions)  
Performance: 550-600

**Standard English Conventions**  
(26% of test section, 11-15 questions)  
Performance: 420-460

**Math**

**Algebra**  
(42.5% of test section, 16-18 questions)  
Performance: 610-670

**Advanced Math**  
(20% of test section, 7-9 questions)  
Performance: 420-460

**Problem Solving & Data Analysis**  
(25% of test section, 9-11 questions)  
Performance: 420-460


**Geometry & Trigonometry**  
(12.5% of test section, 4-6 questions)  
Performance: 420-460

### Career Insights Snapshot


Your skills are in demand! Consider exploring these growing careers in your state that need skills like yours. **These are examples, not recommendations,** to help jump-start your career exploration.

INTEREST AREA*	CAREER EXAMPLES	MEDIAN YEARLY INCOME IN MI	NUMBER OF JOBS	JOB GROWTH IN MI**	MOST COMMON EDUCATION LEVEL
Doers	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$59,000	25,600	+10%	Certificate
Persuaders	Wind Energy Operations Managers	\$63,000	24,300	+10%	Associate degree
Creators	Graphic Designers	\$46,000	8,900	+9%	Bachelor's degree
Helpers	Critical Care Nurses	\$77,000	107,000	+3%	Bachelor's degree
Thinkers	Mechanical Engineers	\$92,000	33,900	+3%	Bachelor's degree
Organizers	Treasurers and Financial Controllers	\$124,000	21,100	+12%	Bachelor's degree

\* For more information about career insights, including interest areas, visit [satsuite.org/whatsnext](https://satsuite.org/whatsnext).  
\*\*Number of reflects the expected number of new job openings in 2028. Percentage reflects the expected growth in new job openings between 2023 and 2028. Data source: Lightcast.io



**Don't see a career you're interested in?**  
**Learn more about almost 1,000 careers for free.**



[satsuite.org/whatsnext](https://satsuite.org/whatsnext)

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Score Report

PSAT 8/9 Understanding Scores

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### 3 WHAT CAN NORA LEARN FROM THIS KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS SECTION?

This section tells Nora how she scored across the 8 content domains measured on the test. Under the content domain's name, Nora can see the percentage and number of questions in that domain on her test. The progress bars represent Nora's level of mastery in that content domain, not her actual score. The Performance range below each filled section shows Nora's score band for that domain. For more information about content domains, visit [satsuite.collegeboard.org/practice/content-domains](https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/practice/content-domains).

### 4 WHAT CAN NORA LEARN FROM THIS CAREER SNAPSHOT?

Since she is based in the U.S., Nora's score report includes Career Insight examples — helpful information about growing careers in her state that connect to her scores. Whether Nora sees a career she's curious about or not, the examples can spark her interest in learning more about what careers are out there and provide key information like median yearly income, expected growth rate for new job openings in her state over the next 5 years, and the most common education level for people in that career. While these might be careers worth watching in Nora's state, she can learn more about careers that reflect her interests at [satsuite.org/whatsnext](https://satsuite.org/whatsnext).


### 5 HOW CAN NORA LEARN MORE ABOUT HER SCORES?

If she's under age 13, Nora can talk to her school counselor to see her full score report and learn how to prepare for future assessments in the SAT Suite. If Nora is age 13 or older, she can also choose to visit [psat.org/myscore](https://psat.org/myscore) to personally find out this information.

### HOW CAN NORA MEASURE HER PROGRESS?

When she becomes a 10th grader, Nora can take the PSAT/NMSQT or the PSAT 10 to measure the progress she's made since she took the PSAT 8/9.

Nora can continue to take advantage of practice resources by visiting [sat.org/digital-practice](https://sat.org/digital-practice).



Name: **Nora Notetaker**  
 Grade: **9**  
 Test administration: **PSAT 8/9 Fall 2024**  
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 Record Locator: **4561264**

## Your Score Report

### PSAT 8/9 Scores

**TOTAL SCORE**

1120 | 75th\*

Score Range: 1000-1180  
3 Year Average Score (all test-takers): 1100

**SECTION SCORES**

**Reading and Writing**

620 | 72th\*

Your Score Range: 600-640  
3 Year Average Score (all test-takers): 600

**Math**

500 | 70th\*

Your Score Range: 470-530  
3 Year Average Score (all test-takers): 530

\* Percentiles represent the percent of 9th grade test takers from the past 3 years who scored the same as or below you.  
Score range: This is the range of scores you could possibly get if you took the PSAT 8/9 multiple times on different dates.

### 3 Knowledge and Skills

View your performance across the 8 content domains measured on the PSAT 8/9. For more information on performance score bands, visit [satsuite.collegeboard.org/skills-insight](https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/skills-insight).

**Reading and Writing**

Information and Ideas (26% of test section, 12-14 questions)

Performance: 600-600

Craft and Structure (28% of test section, 13-15 questions)

Performance: 550-600

Expression of Ideas (20% of test section, 8-12 questions)

Performance: 550-600

Standard English Conventions (26% of test section, 11-15 questions)

Performance: 420-460

**Math**

Algebra (42.5% of test section, 16-18 questions)

Performance: 610-675

Advanced Math (20% of test section, 7-9 questions)

Performance: 420-460

Problem Solving & Data Analysis (25% of test section, 9-11 questions)

Performance: 420-460

Geometry & Trigonometry (12.5% of test section, 4-6 questions)

Performance: 420-460


### 4 Career Insights Snapshot

Your skills are in demand! Consider exploring these growing careers in your state that need skills like yours. **These are examples, not recommendations, to help jump-start your career exploration.**


INTEREST AREA*	CAREER EXAMPLES	MEDIAN YEARLY INCOME IN MI	NUMBER OF JOBS IN MI**	JOB GROWTH	MOST COMMON EDUCATION LEVEL
Doers	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$59,000	25,600	+10%	Certificate
Perseverers	Wind Energy Operations Managers	\$63,000	24,300	+10%	Associate degree
Creators	Graphic Designers	\$46,000	8,900	+9%	Bachelor's degree
Helpers	Critical Care Nurses	\$77,000	107,000	+3%	Bachelor's degree
Thinkers	Mechanical Engineers	\$92,000	33,900	+3%	Bachelor's degree
Organizers	Treasurers and Financial Controllers	\$124,000	21,100	+12%	Bachelor's degree

\* For more information about career insights, including interest areas, visit [satsuite.org/whatsnext](https://satsuite.org/whatsnext).  
\*\*Number of reflects the expected number of new job openings in 2028. Percentage reflects the expected growth in new job openings between 2023 and 2028. Data source: Lightcast.io

### 5



Don't see a career you're interested in?  
Learn more about almost 1,000 careers for free.



[satsuite.org/whatsnext](https://satsuite.org/whatsnext)

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# Additional PSAT 8/9 Insights

Students age 13 or older who already have a personal College Board student account can get additional insights into their performance on the PSAT 8/9 in the online student scores portal at [studentscores.collegeboard.org](https://studentscores.collegeboard.org).

## Putting Scores in Context

### SCORE COMPARISONS

Students can gain additional insights into their scores by meeting with their school counselor to review their score report. They can also see more contextual comparisons of their scores in the student scores portal. Students can compare their total and section scores to the average scores of all testers across the last 3 years in their:

- School (as applicable)
- District (public schools, as applicable)
- State (U.S.-based and territories)
- All Testers (domestic and international)

### PERCENTILES

The additional insights provided online include percentiles not provided in the downloadable score report PDF. The percentile ranks include:

- Country (all testers in the student's country)
- State (all testers in the student's state, available for U.S. and U.S. territories only)
- All Testers (domestic and international)

For the percentiles above, the student's score is ranked among testers from the last 3 years, i.e., students that took the PSAT 8/9 in 8th or 9th grade in the last 3 years.

## Total Score Comparisons

Compare your score to the average scores of the following 11th grade student groups who tested when you did.

### Your Score

1120

### Your School (Avg.)

1000

3-year average score of 300 test takers from your school

### Your District (Avg.)

1050

3-year average score of 5,000 test takers from your district

### Your State (Avg.)

1190

3-year average score of 15,000 test takers from your state

### Your Country (Avg.)

1200

3-year average score of 200,000 test takers from your country

### All Testers (Avg.)

1000

3-year average score of 300,000 test takers worldwide


**TOTAL SCORE 1120**  
Score Range 1090-1170

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## Section Scores

The PSAT 8/9's Reading and Writing section and Math section both focus on the necessary skills for college and career success. View your section scores and compare them against our readiness benchmarks. [Learn more about benchmarks.](#)

### Reading and Writing



You've met the Reading and Writing benchmark (410)! [Learn which Reading and Writing skills can help you improve.](#)

Your Score Range 590-650

The Reading and Writing benchmark for the PSAT 10 is 430. If you plan to take the PSAT 10 next year, we estimate you'll score between 590-700.

Online score insights

## More About Knowledge and Skills

Based on our Skills Insight™ tool, we provide students with a deeper dive into the knowledge and skills measured by the PSAT 8/9. Students may view a breakdown of their knowledge and skills across 4 content domains in Reading and Writing and 4 content domains in Math.

The online insights go further by helping students view their performance across 7 defined performance score bands to get a sense of how they did in each domain.

Students can click **View Skills and Example Questions in Next Score Band** to access the Skills Insight tool and see skills and example questions that students in the next performance score band are typically able to demonstrate, as well as examples of the kinds of questions that these students are likely able to answer correctly.

Students can navigate to any other performance score band in the Skills Insight tool, including their current performance score band.

## Section Benchmarks

Another set of insights students can view in the online scores portal are the section-level readiness benchmarks. We will indicate if the student has met the section benchmark or not, providing links to resources to help them analyze what skills to focus on for improvement.

Additionally, we show students their score range and provide a link to information about how a score range more accurately reflects their level of knowledge and skills than a single score.

### Knowledge and Skills

Dig deeper into your PSAT 8/9 section performance.

Reading and Writing      **Math**

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#### Math Knowledge

**Your Math Score**  
**500**

#### Math Skills Performance

View your performance across three Math content domains measured in the PSAT 8/9. Each content domain has a performance score band showing how you did.


**Algebra** (42.5% of test section, 16-18 questions)

120  720

Performance: 610-670

[View skills and example questions in the next score band](#)


**Advanced Math** (20% of test section, 7-9 questions)

120  720

Performance: 470-540

[View skills and example questions in the next score band](#)

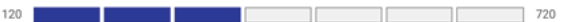
**Problem Solving & Data Analysis** (25% of test section, 9-11 questions)

120  720

Performance: 420-460

[View skills and example questions in the next score band](#)

**Geometry & Trigonometry** (12.5% of test section, 4-6 questions)

120  720

Performance: 420-460

[View skills and example questions in the next score band](#)

Online score insights

## Career Exploration

To expand on the information in their downloadable score report PDF, students can:

- View even more potential careers online at [bigfuture.org](https://bigfuture.org).
- Explore careers tailored to their interests with Career Quiz.
- Find free resources to help them take the next steps down their career path.

### Career Insights Snapshot

Your skills are in demand! Consider exploring these growing careers in the U.S. that need skills like yours. **These are examples, not recommendations**, to help jump-start your career exploration. Don't see a career you're interested in? Learn more about almost 1,000 careers for free on [bigfuture.org](https://bigfuture.org).

#### CAREER EXAMPLES

Maintenance and Repair Workers	
Median Yearly Income in MI	\$46,566
Interest Area*	Doers
Number of Jobs/Job Growth in MI**	1,753,196/+6.6%
Most Common Education Level	High school diploma or less
<a href="#">See Career Details</a>	

Separating, Filtering, Clarifying, Precipitating, and Still Mach...	
Median Yearly Income in MI	\$47,782
Interest Area*	Doers
Number of Jobs/Job Growth in MI**	60,741/+8.4%
Most Common Education Level	High school diploma or less
<a href="#">See Career Details</a>	

Data source: Lightcast.io






\* For more information about career insights, including interest areas, visit [bigfuture.org](https://bigfuture.org).

\*\* Number of reflects the expected number of new job openings in 2028. Percentage reflects the expected growth in new job openings between 2023 and 2028.

[Explore Careers](#)

Online score insights

## Next Steps

-  Practice and Improve >
-  Retake the SAT >
-  Help Colleges Find You >
-  Send Your Scores >
-  Get Your Personalized AP Course Recommendations >

Online score insights

## Further Guidance

Students can view next steps with linked resources to do more with their score, including:

- Finding practice resources to improve their score.
- Learning more about the SAT Suite of Assessments.
- Planning for their future using their PSAT 8/9 score on BigFuture.

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# Next Steps for Students and Families

View a video walk-through of the score report: [satsuite.collegeboard.org/psat-8-9/scores/understanding-scores/your-score-report-explained](https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/psat-8-9/scores/understanding-scores/your-score-report-explained)

Learn more about understanding and using scores: [satsuite.collegeboard.org/psat-8-9/scores](https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/psat-8-9/scores)

Connect to scholarships: [collegeboard.org/sat-suite-scholarships](https://collegeboard.org/sat-suite-scholarships)

Practice for the SAT Suite of Assessments: [satsuite.collegeboard.org/practice](https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/practice)

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# About College Board

College Board reaches more than 7 million students a year, helping them navigate the path from high school to college and career. Our not-for-profit membership organization was founded more than 120 years ago. We pioneered programs like the SAT® and AP® to expand opportunities for students and help them develop the skills they need. Our BigFuture® program helps students plan for college, pay for college, and explore careers. Learn more at [cb.org](https://cb.org).