

# PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10: The Parent Perspective

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \_\_\_\_\_ For more information, contact: \_\_\_\_\_

## Frequently Asked Questions

### WHY SHOULD STUDENTS TAKE THE PSAT/NMSQT OR THE PSAT 10?

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) and the PSAT™ 10 offer great preparation for the SAT®, a globally recognized test that can help students stand out to colleges, including those that are test optional. Historically, students who took the PSAT/NMSQT scored higher on the SAT, on average, than those who didn't take the test. The PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10 not only help measure students' individual progress, but they also connect students to valuable scholarships and college readiness resources. Students who take the PSAT/NMSQT or the PSAT 10 will get an online score report at [studentscores.collegeboard.org](https://studentscores.collegeboard.org). They'll receive an overall test score (320–1520) as well as individual section scores, test scores, cross-test scores, and subscores. Students will also get information on how to improve their academic skills.

Students who take the PSAT/NMSQT in their third year of high school (11th grade) and meet other program entry requirements may enter the National Merit® Scholarship Program, an academic competition for recognition and college scholarships conducted by National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC®). For more information, visit NMSC's website at [www.nationalmerit.org](https://www.nationalmerit.org).

Students may also qualify for College Board National Recognition Programs. If a student is African American, Hispanic American, Indigenous, and/or attend school in a rural area or a small town, they can apply for academic recognition. For more information, see [psat.org/recognition](https://psat.org/recognition).

### WHO SHOULD TAKE THE PSAT/NMSQT?

Typically, students take the PSAT/NMSQT in grades 10 and 11. Taking the test allows them to start improving skills and knowledge needed for success in college and career. Students can take the test only once per year, but the student may take the test in multiple years. It's important that 11th-grade students take the PSAT/NMSQT to enter the National Merit Scholarship Program. Students who are not spending the traditional four years in high school can contact NMSC for more information about when to take the PSAT/NMSQT for program entry.

### HOW SHOULD STUDENTS PREPARE FOR THE TEST?

The best way students can prepare is by taking challenging courses and becoming familiar with the test and its format. Students should review the *PSAT/NMSQT Student Guide* or *PSAT 10 Student Guide*, along with a practice test for the test they're taking, to better understand all the directions and become familiar with the question types. Students can go to [satpractice.org](https://satpractice.org) for free, personalized practice from Khan Academy® to help them score their very best. They can use this practice to prepare for the SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, or PSAT 10.

## WHAT IS STUDENT SEARCH SERVICE, AND SHOULD STUDENTS CHOOSE TO PARTICIPATE?

When students take the PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10, they're asked if they would like to participate in Student Search Service™, a service that provides names of students to eligible educational organizations. The service is free to the student, but these entities pay College Board a license fee to use the service. College Board uses these license fees to support its mission-driven work. If students choose to participate, they allow colleges, universities, scholarship programs, and educational opportunity organizations to send information about the educational and financial aid opportunities they offer.

Students who opt in to Student Search Service will increase their access to millions of dollars in combined annual scholarship awards. Student information is strictly monitored and secure, and individual test scores are never shared with any outside entity.

## WHEN WILL STUDENTS RECEIVE SCORES?

Score reports will be available online for educators and students in December for the PSAT/NMSQT. For the PSAT 10, online scores will be available in April or May. To see their online score report, students will need to create a College Board account. College Board will email students (and parents who are opted in) when scores are available.

	PSAT/NMSQT Dates	Important Reminders
2022	September	Students should review the <i>PSAT/NMSQT Student Guide</i> and take the practice test inside. At <a href="https://satpractice.org">satpractice.org</a> , students can access free, personalized, online practice that can be used to prepare for the PSAT/NMSQT and the PSAT 10.
	October	PSAT/NMSQT administration: October 12, 15, or 25. Make sure your student eats breakfast and brings No. 2 pencils, an acceptable calculator, a watch (smartwatches and watches with audible alarms are not permitted), and their email address to the test administration. On test day, encourage your student to choose “Yes” for Student Search Service on the answer sheet to increase their access to millions of dollars in combined annual scholarship awards and to get information from colleges, universities, and scholarship programs.
	November	Talk with your student about programs of study that interest them. Students in grade 11 should research colleges and universities. Visit <a href="https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org">bigfuture.collegeboard.org</a> to help your student search for scholarships and learn more about paying for college.
	December	Student score reports are available at <a href="https://studentscores.collegeboard.org">studentscores.collegeboard.org</a> . Visit <a href="https://psat.org/scores">psat.org/scores</a> to access more information that will aid you in helping your student use their score report.
2023	January	Encourage your student to use free resources in the score reporting portal at <a href="https://studentscores.collegeboard.org">studentscores.collegeboard.org</a> .
	February	Students in grade 11 should consider registering for the SAT in the spring.
	March	Students should select four, preferably five, solid academic courses for next year. They should check with their counselor about potential participation in AP® courses. Review your student's AP Potential™ feedback at <a href="https://studentscores.collegeboard.org">studentscores.collegeboard.org</a> .
	April	Check with counselors about college summer programs designed to introduce high school students to college success.
	May/June	Have your student request a summer reading list from their English teacher.