



**SAT** School Day

**Spring 2025**

**SAT WITH ESSAY**

# Understanding Scores

**For Students and Families**



# SAT Score Resources

Congratulations to your student for taking the SAT® at their school. Included is information about scores that may be helpful for students and their families.

## What's Included

Your SAT score report contains more than just a number. In this document, you'll learn more about all the information in your score report, 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-related assessments to the SAT.
- 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

 [sat.org/inquiry](https://sat.org/inquiry)

 866-756-7346

### CUSTOMER SERVICE MAILING ADDRESS

 College Board SAT Program  
P.O. Box 025505  
Miami, FL 33102

# 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 and career appropriate ways. They work together to show college 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 SAT 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.

**NOTE:** *Students who are taking the Essay section of the SAT will do so after completing the Reading and Writing section and the Math section.*

## How the SAT 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.

# SAT Scores

SAT Score Reported	Details	Score Range
Section Scores	Reading and Writing (RW)	200–800
	Math (M)	200–800
Total Score	Sum of the 2 section scores	400–1600
Essay	Reported separately	See note below

## Accessing Official Student Scores

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

Students who took the SAT and provided a mobile phone number during testing can view their scores on the BigFuture® School app. For more information, see page 13 in this document or go to [satsuite.org/k12bigfutureschool](https://satsuite.org/k12bigfutureschool).

**NOTE:** *The BigFuture School app is available to U.S. students age 13 and over. See page 13 for more information.*

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

## Using SAT 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.

This common score scale means that a student who took the SAT and received a Math section score of 500 would be expected to also get a 500 on the PSAT/NMSQT, the PSAT 10, or the PSAT 8/9 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 took the PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10 last year and received a 500 Math section score, then took the SAT this year and earned 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.

**NOTE:** *The Essay section is scored separately. Two different people will read and score each response. Each scorer awards 1–4 points for each dimension (reading, analysis, and writing), and the 2 scores for each dimension are added together. Students then receive a score for each of the 3 dimensions. The dimension scores are not added together, so there is no composite SAT Essay score.*



# Overview of the Score Report PDF

In the official score report PDF, the student can view the 4 scores available from their SAT assessment—total score, Reading and Writing section score, Math section score, and Essay section scores.

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

- The range of possible scores: 400–1600 for total score, 200–800 for section scores, and 2–8 for Essay 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. There are no percentiles reported for the Essay.
- The total and section Average Score of all testers, based on all SAT 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 SAT in 12th grade, for tests completed anywhere in the world.

## 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.

## Score Sends Held

If you see **Score Sends Held** at the top of your score report, it means College Board was unable to confirm that a complete set of responses was available when the test was scored. Incomplete responses could negatively affect your scores, and we will not report them to colleges, universities, or scholarship programs unless you contact us to request otherwise.

## Knowledge and Skills

Students can view a graphic showing their performance on each of the 8 content domains measured on the SAT. 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 Information and Ideas 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 throughout 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

## SAT 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.

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS BENCHMARKS	
Reading & Writing	Math
480	530

Through the online K–12 score reporting portal, the SAT reports separate benchmarks for students in 11th grade and 12th 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 May Send Their Scores

Students will have the opportunity when they take the SAT to choose up to 4 colleges, universities, or scholarship programs to receive their scores from that day's test for free. We share with their school and district the names of the organizations they select for their 4 free score sends. Students may make their free selections during testing or within 3 days after testing. Students can also select additional institutions to share their score with later online, but they'll have to pay for each score report they send (unless they're eligible for a fee waiver).

In certain college and university systems, once a student submits their score to 1 school, other schools within that system will also have access to that score. Please note, however, that if they are applying to more than 1 school within a college or university system, it is still important for them to send their SAT scores to each individual school. If they are not sure whether the specific school they are applying to is part of such a system, they should contact the school's admissions office.

When a student requests that we send their scores to colleges or other organizations as directed by them during school day testing, we send their scores along with demographic information sufficient for identity matching to those colleges and organizations, who may then use it to support their applications to those organizations.

The scores the student receives and the score reports received by colleges and their high school contain total and section scores. Additional score sends include all their available scores unless they choose otherwise, as explained further in the [SAT School Day Student Guide](#). College Board doesn't use their reported scaled score by itself or in combination with any other information to predict their individual future academic performance at specific postsecondary institutions. However, College Board does help individual colleges and universities use and interpret SAT scores.

## How Students and Families May Use Scores

Families can:

- 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](#) to understand what their practice scores mean.
- 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 8) 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 SAT Score Report

## A Case Study: Sample SAT 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 SAT score report.

### 1 WHAT ARE ELI'S SCORES?

Eli's Reading and Writing score is 620, and his Math score is 500, for a total score of 1120. His Essay scores (6 in Reading, 4 in Analysis, and 5 in Writing) are reported separately.

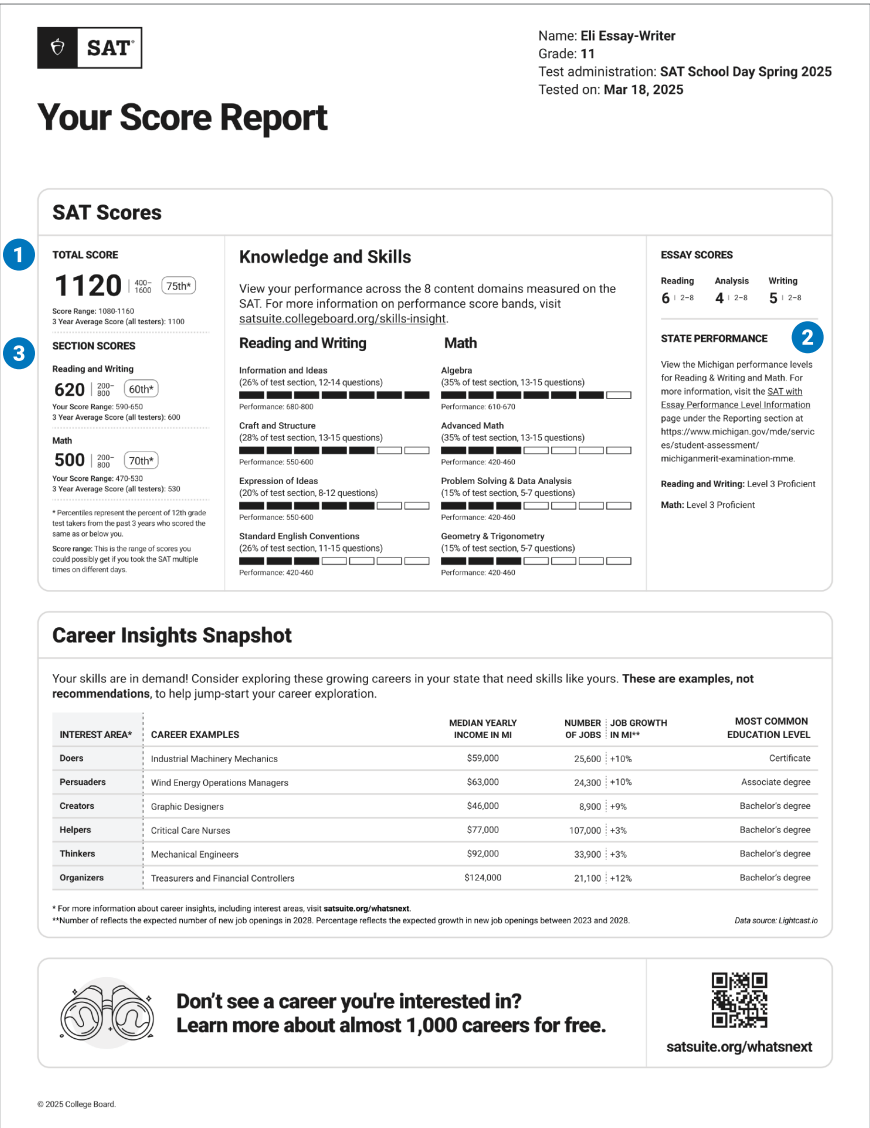
Below his individual scores, he can see a score range, which shows the range of scores he might expect to get if he took the SAT multiple times. He can also see an average score of all testers in any grade who have taken the SAT in the last 3 years.

### 2 WHAT ARE ELI'S PERFORMANCE LEVELS?

This section looks different on a student's score report depending on the state. College Board works with our state partners to report Eli's performance level in each applicable section of the test. Performance levels are set by the state and provide insight into his achievement of state content standards.

### 3 WHAT ARE ELI'S SCORE PERCENTILES?

Eli is in 11th grade, but the percentiles compare his scores with those of SAT testers in 12th grade from the last 3 years, including all SAT Weekend and SAT School Day administrations. Eli scored as well or better in Reading and Writing than 60% of all 12th-grade test takers around the world. In Math, he scored as well or better than 70% of all 12th-grade test takers. Putting both scores together, Eli scored as well or better than 75% of students in 12th grade on the SAT as a whole.



Score Report

#### 4 WHAT CAN ELI LEARN FROM THIS KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS SECTION?

This section shows Eli a graphical progress bar in each of the 8 content domains measured on the SAT. The filled-in part of each progress bar represents Eli's level of mastery in that content domain, not his actual score. Under each content domain, Eli can also see what percentage of the test and number of questions cover that domain. The Performance range below each filled section shows Eli'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).

#### 5 WHAT CAN ELI LEARN FROM THIS CAREER SNAPSHOT?

Since he is based in the U.S., Eli's score report includes Career Insights Snapshot examples — helpful information about growing careers in his state that connect to his scores. Whether Eli sees a career he's curious about or not, the examples can spark his 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 his 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 Eli's state, he can learn more about careers that reflect his interests at [satsuite.org/whatsnext](https://satsuite.org/whatsnext).

#### 6 HOW CAN ELI LEARN MORE ABOUT HIS SCORES?

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

#### HOW CAN ELI MEASURE HER PROGRESS?

As a student in 11th grade, Eli may choose to take the SAT again at his school or on a weekend test date if he wants to improve his score.

Eli can continue to take advantage of practice resources by visiting [satsuite.collegeboard.org/practice](https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/practice).

Name: Eli Essay-Writer  
Grade: 11  
Test administration: SAT School Day Spring 2025  
Tested on: Mar 18, 2025

## Your Score Report

### SAT Scores

**TOTAL SCORE**  
**1120** (400-1600) (75th\*)  
Score Range: 1080-1180  
3 Year Average Score (all test-takers): 1100

**SECTION SCORES**

**Reading and Writing**  
**620** (200-800) (60th\*)  
Your Score Range: 590-650  
3 Year Average Score (all test-takers): 600

**Math**  
**500** (200-800) (70th\*)  
Your Score Range: 470-530  
3 Year Average Score (all test-takers): 530

\* Percentiles represent the percent of 12th 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 SAT multiple times on different days.

### Knowledge and Skills

View your performance across the 8 content domains measured on the SAT. 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: 580-600

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 (35% of test section, 13-15 questions)  
Performance: 610-670

Advanced Math (35% of test section, 13-15 questions)  
Performance: 420-490

Problem Solving & Data Analysis (15% of test section, 5-7 questions)  
Performance: 420-490

Geometry & Trigonometry (15% of test section, 5-7 questions)  
Performance: 420-490

### ESSAY SCORES

Reading: 6 | 2-8  
Analysis: 4 | 2-8  
Writing: 5 | 2-8

### STATE PERFORMANCE

View the Michigan performance levels for Reading & Writing and Math. For more information, visit the SAT with Essay Performance Level Information page under the Reporting section at <https://www.michigan.gov/mde/services/student-assessment/michiganmerit-examination-rme>.

Reading and Writing: Level 3 Proficient  
Math: Level 3 Proficient

### 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

### 6

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



# Additional SAT Insights

Students age 13 or older who already have a personal College Board student account can get additional insights into their performance on the SAT 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 SAT testers in 12th grade from the last 3 years, including all SAT Weekend and SAT School Day administrations. There are no percentiles reported for the Essay.

### Total Score Comparisons

Compare your score to the average score of the following students groups that tested.

#### 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 from all testers

Online score insights

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.

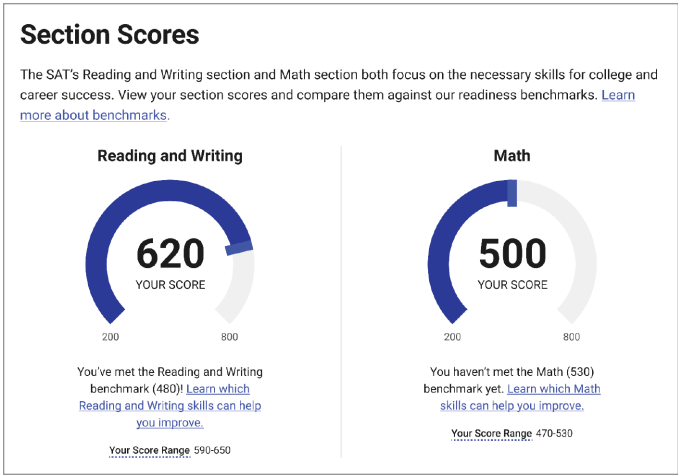
More About Knowledge and Skills

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

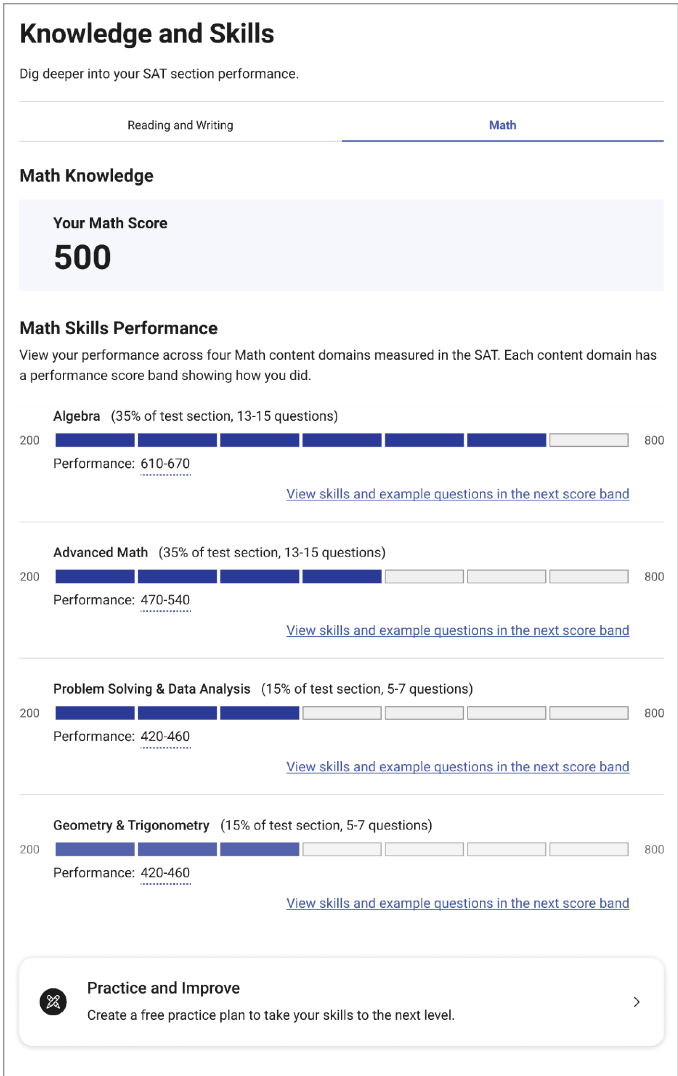
The online insights go further by helping students view their performance across 7 defined performance score bands to get a sense of how they did in each domain.

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.



Online score insights



Online score insights

### 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

[See Career Details](#) ➔

##### 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

[See Career Details](#) ➔

##### Graphic Designers

Median Yearly Income in MI	\$55,620
Interest Area*	Creators
Number of Jobs/Job Growth in MI**	284,442/+4.4%
Most Common Education Level	Bachelor's degree

[See Career Details](#) ➔






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.

## 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:

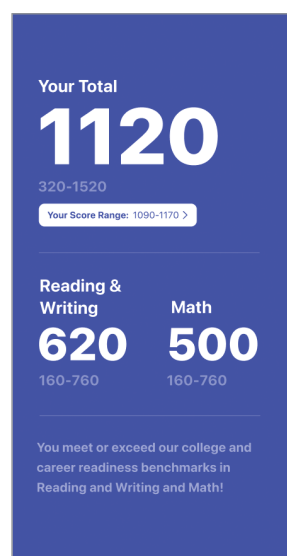
- Finding practice resources to improve their score.
- Learning more about the SAT Suite of Assessments.
- Planning for their future with their SAT score using BigFuture School if they have access or at [bigfuture.org](https://bigfuture.org).

# BigFuture School and Connections

BigFuture School is a free mobile app for students age 13 and older who take the PSAT 10, PSAT/NMSQT, or SAT School Day in the United States. It's designed for students to use to get their test scores quickly, get guidance on college and career planning, and learn about financial aid and scholarships. Students may also have the opportunity to opt in to Connections™—a program that allows them to hear from nonprofit colleges, nonprofit scholarship providers, and government agencies administering education programs. Connections puts privacy first. No personal information is shared with institutions unless a student directly chooses to do so. Please know that your school, district, or state may choose to not provide access to Connections for its students or students who test at their schools.

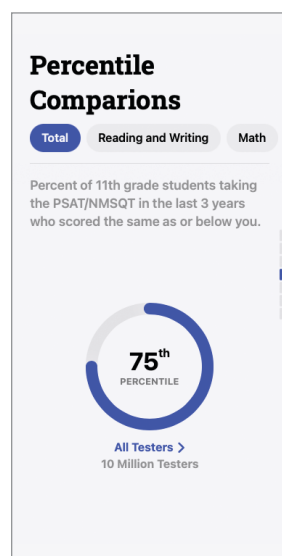
Students who choose not to download the BigFuture School app or who don't have a mobile phone can still access their scores and guidance for future planning. Schools will continue to receive PDF score reports for all assessments they administer, which can be shared with students. And, as always, students can sign in to their personal College Board accounts at [studentscores.collegeboard.org](https://studentscores.collegeboard.org) to get additional insights about their scores and explore BigFuture.

If your student provided a mobile phone number when they took the SAT, they can download the BigFuture School mobile app and they'll get a text notification telling them when their scores are available to view.



## Total and Section Scores

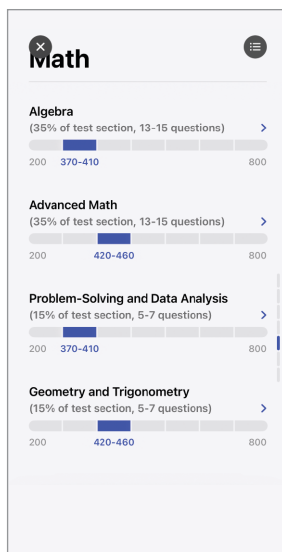
The first thing students will see in BigFuture School is their total score, which is a combination of their scores on the Reading and Writing and Math sections.



## Percentile Comparisons

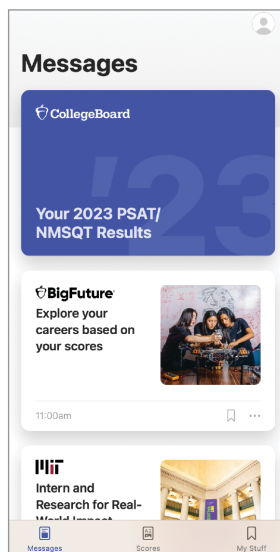
Students will be able to see percentile comparisons that help them understand the percentage of students scoring the same or lower than they did.

For example, 75th percentile means that their score was the same or higher than 75% of other students.



## Performance Score Bands

This information corresponds with the Knowledge and Skills section on the score report PDF. It shows students their performance on each content domain measured on the test. Students can use our [Skills Insight tool](#) to see examples of the kinds of questions students in any score band, including their own, are able to answer correctly.



## Customized College and Career Messages

While students are in the BigFuture School app, they can explore messages about financial aid, scholarships, and guidance to help them plan for college and explore careers.



## Connections

Eligible students may also have the option to hear from nonprofit colleges, nonprofit scholarship providers, and government agencies running education programs by opting in to a program called Connections.



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# Next Steps for Students and Parents

View a video walk-through of the score report: [satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/scores](https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/scores)

Learn more about understanding and using scores: [sat.org/scores](https://sat.org/scores)

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

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