

SAT Suite of Assessments

Fall 2024

Understanding Scores

FOR EDUCATORS

PSAT/NMSQT®
Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test

PSAT™ 8/9



Contact Us

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://collegeboard.org).

About National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC)

NMSC® is an independent, not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance. NMSC conducts the National Merit® Scholarship Program, an annual academic competition for recognition and college scholarships.

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) is the route of entry to the National Merit Scholarship Program. Requirements for participation, steps in the competition, and awards offered are explained in the [PSAT/NMSQT Student Guide](#) and on the NMSC website.

Questions about the scholarship program not answered in the published materials should be directed to:

- ✉ National Merit Scholarship Corporation
1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 200
Evanston, IL 60201-4897
- 📞 847-866-5100
- 💻 www.nationalmerit.org

About the PSAT/NMSQT

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) is cosponsored by College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation. The PSAT/NMSQT is a part of the SAT Suite of Assessments and is typically taken by students in grades 10 and 11. Structured similarly to the SAT, the PSAT/NMSQT measures the same knowledge and skills your child needs to succeed in college and career.

About the PSAT 8/9

The PSAT™ 8/9 is the first test in the SAT Suite of Assessments and is designed for 8th or 9th graders to take as they start their high school journey. The test measures the knowledge and skills students are learning in school that matter most for college and career readiness. More information is provided in the [PSAT 8/9 Student Guide](#).

Contacts for Students and Parents

💻 psathelp@info.collegeboard.org

📞 866-433-7728
+1 212-713-8105 (International)

Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–6 p.m. ET

✉ PSAT/NMSQT
P.O. Box 6720
Princeton, NJ 08541-6720

For Educators

💻 psat@info.collegeboard.org
k12reports@info.collegeboard.org

📞 +1 212-520-8600

Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–7 p.m. ET

PSAT-Related Assessments Score Resources

Thank you for administering the PSAT/NMSQT and/or PSAT 8/9 at your school. Included is information about scores that may be helpful for you, your students, and their families.

What's Included

This document delves deeper into the meaning of your students' 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 as a student progresses through the full SAT Suite of Assessments.
- A walk-through of sample score reports for the PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 8/9 so you can interpret your students' score reports.
- An explanation of the NMSC Selection Index score (shown on the PSAT/NMSQT score report) and how National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) uses it to determine entry into the National Merit Scholarship Program.

NOTE

The Selection Index applies to the PSAT/NMSQT only. Students who take the PSAT™10 or PSAT 8/9 will not receive an NMSC Selection Index score or be considered for entry to the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Related Resources

Visit our Understanding Scores page at satsuite.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt/scores/k12-educators

(PSAT/NMSQT) and satsuite.collegeboard.org/psat-8-9/scores/k12-educators

(PSAT 8/9) 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. Remind parents and students to access this resource for helpful information about scores.

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 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 Assessments Are 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 Assessments Are 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/NMSQT and PSAT 8/9 Scores

Score Reported	Details	PSAT/NMSQT Score Range	PSAT 8/9 Score Range
Section Scores (2)	▪ Reading and Writing (RW)	▪ 160–760	▪ 120–720
	▪ Math (M)	▪ 160–760	▪ 120–720
Total Score	Sum of the 2 section scores	320–1520	240–1440
Selection Index Score <i>PSAT/NMSQT only</i>	$\frac{2(RW) + M}{10}$	48–228	N/A

Accessing Official Student Scores

The online score reporting portal at k12reports.collegeboard.org offers you an array of powerful tools to assess your students' progress and plan instruction that delivers what they need. These tools include:

- Flexible reports that can be sorted and filtered by key demographics.
- Instructional planning support using specific content areas, benchmarks, information for cross-subject tasks, and data for prescribing interventions when students are behind or ahead.
- Access to the AP Potential™ tool to pinpoint students who are likely to succeed in more challenging courses.
- Ability to print a paper copy of the student score report, including total and section scores.

When scores for PSAT-related assessments are released, schools will need to let their students know there are multiple ways to view their scores. As part of school day testing, students will not be contacted by College Board directly unless they are using the BigFuture® School mobile app to receive their scores.

A downloadable score report PDF called Your Score Report is provided for every PSAT/ NMSQT and PSAT 8/9 test taker.

Students can review this score report with educators at their school and share it with their families.

Students who took the PSAT/NMSQT and provided a mobile phone number during testing can view their scores on the BigFuture School app. For more information, see page 7 in this document, or go to satsuite.org/k12bigfutureschool.

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

NOTE

The BigFuture School app is available to domestic students 13 and over. Students taking the PSAT 8/9 are not eligible. See page 7 for more information.

Using Scores on PSAT-Related Assessments to Predict Scores Across the SAT Suite

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/NMSQT is 320–1520, and 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/NMSQT this year and receives a 500 Math section score, then takes the SAT 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 scores available from their PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 8/9 assessment—total score, Reading and Writing section score, and Math section score. On the PSAT/NMSQT, an NMSC Selection Index score is also available.

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

- The range of possible scores:
 - ♦ PSAT/NMSQT: 320–1520 for total score, 160–760 for section scores, and 48–228 for the NMSC Selection Index score.
 - ♦ PSAT 8/9: 240–1440 for total score and 120–720 for section scores.
- An average score of all testers in any grade who took this test during the last 3 years.
- 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.

All Tester Percentiles are based on the actual scores of the past 3 cohorts of students in their grade who took the same PSAT-related assessment, anywhere in the world.

Guidance Purpose Only

FOR PSAT 8/9

If Guidance Purpose Only appears in the top right corner of the PSAT 8/9 score report, this means that College Board was unable to confirm a complete set of responses. Scores should be used for educational guidance purposes only.

FOR PSAT/NMSQT

For the PSAT/NMSQT, a score may be reported as Guidance Purpose Only if the test was not administered in accordance with testing policies, or we cannot confirm a complete set of responses. Unlike the PSAT 8/9, this type of score is denoted by an asterisk next to the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) Selection Index score on a student’s PSAT/NMSQT score report. A note in the Eligibility Information section directs students to follow up with their school to learn more. These scores are not eligible for consideration in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Students who are otherwise eligible and who are interested in entering the National Merit Scholarship Program should

read the National Merit Scholarship Program section in the *PSAT/NMSQT Student Guide* to learn how to request information about another route of entry to the 2026 competition. College Board will forward all reports of misconduct or testing irregularities to NMSC, which reserves the right to make its own independent judgment about a student’s participation in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

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.

The table below shows approximate score ranges based on recent administrations of the PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 8/9.

Score Ranges		
	PSAT/NMSQT	PSAT 8/9
Total	±40 points	±40 points
Reading and Writing	±30 points	±20 points
Math	±30 points	±30 points

Selection Index

For PSAT/NMSQT only

NMSC uses a Selection Index score based on PSAT/NMSQT scores as an initial screen of students who enter its scholarship programs. To calculate an NMSC Selection Index score, double the Reading and Writing score and add it to the Math score. The Selection Index score is the sum divided by 10. See NMSC Selection Index on page 9 for more information.

This score is only available on the PSAT/NMSQT. Students who take the PSAT 10 or PSAT 8/9 will not receive an NMSC Selection Index score or be considered for entry to the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Knowledge and Skills

Students can view a graphic showing their performance on each of the 8 content domains measured on the PSAT-related assessments. 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 area 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.

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 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.

Introducing BigFuture School and Connections

BigFuture School is a free mobile app for students age 13 and older who take the PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, or SAT School Day in the United States. It's designed for students to use to get their test scores quickly, get help on planning for college and career, and learn about financial aid and scholarships. Students may also have the opportunity to opt in to Connections™—a feature that allows them to hear from nonprofit colleges, scholarship providers, and government agencies offering education programs that may be a good match. 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 that 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 planning information. Educators 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 to get additional insights about their scores and explore BigFuture. If your students provided a mobile phone number when they took the PSAT/NMSQT, they can download the BigFuture School mobile app and they'll get a notification in the app telling them when their scores are available to view.

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. Students who reach their grade-level benchmark in 12th grade have met the College and Career Readiness Benchmarks as well. The PSAT 8/9 reports separate benchmarks for 8th and 9th graders to help them understand their level of readiness for college and career training programs. Similarly, the PSAT/NMSQT reports separate benchmarks for 10th and 11th graders.

In the online K–12 score reporting portal, you'll see grade-level benchmarks based on how students grow from year to year toward the SAT benchmarks.

Grade-Level Benchmarks		
	Reading and Writing	Math
8th Grade PSAT 8/9	390	430
9th Grade PSAT 8/9	410	480
10th Grade PSAT/NMSQT	430	480
11th Grade PSAT/NMSQT	460	510

The benchmarks help educators better understand how many students and also which students are on track to have the skills necessary for college entry, credit-bearing courses. 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.

NMSC Selection Index

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an annual academic competition among high school students for recognition and college scholarships. The program is conducted by National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance.

The NMSC Selection Index

NMSC uses a Selection Index score based on PSAT/NMSQT scores as an initial screen of students who enter its scholarship programs. The Selection Index score is reported on a scale ranging from 48 to 228. To calculate an NMSC Selection Index score, double the Reading and Writing section score and add it to the Math section score. The Selection Index score is the sum divided by 10. For example, a Reading and Writing section score of 620 and a Math section score of 500 would result in a Selection Index score of 174, as shown below:

$$\frac{2(620) + 500}{10} = 174$$

How NMSC Uses the Selection Index


NMSC uses the Selection Index score to designate groups of students to receive recognition in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Entry to the NMSC competition for scholarships to be offered in 2026 is determined by students' responses to program entry questions on the 2024 PSAT/NMSQT exam. Both the downloadable score report PDF and the online report show the student's Selection Index score, the student's responses to entry items, and whether the student meets participation requirements. Currently, about 1.3 million test takers meet requirements to enter the NMSC competition each year. Almost all entrants are in their third year (grade 11, junior year) of high school.


Of the 1.3 million NMSC program entrants, about 50,000 will earn 2024 PSAT/NMSQT scores high enough to qualify them for recognition. These students will be notified of their standing through their high schools in September 2025. Students who qualify to continue in the competition for scholarships to be offered in 2026 must then meet academic and other requirements specified by NMSC to be considered for awards.

A detailed description of the National Merit Scholarship Program is published in the [PSAT/NMSQT Student Guide](#) and at www.nationalmerit.org.

For inquiries about any aspect of the National Merit Scholarship Program—including entry requirements, the selection process, and awards to be offered—contact NMSC directly:

 www.nationalmerit.org

 847-866-5100

 National Merit Scholarship Corporation
1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 200
Evanston, IL 60201-4897

How to Use Scores

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 11) 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 areas in which they can handle more advanced coursework.

How Students and Families May Use Scores

Families can:

- Help their 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 the student is ready, they can take practice tests in Bluebook™ and review the results on My Practice.
- Use the career examples to talk about career interests and options with their student.
- Compare your student’s scores to the grade-level benchmarks together to understand what those scores mean.
 - ◆ If their 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 their 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.

The PSAT/NMSQT Score Report

A Case Study: Sample PSAT/NMSQT Score Report

Take a look at the sample score report below and on the next page. Use the corresponding information to help you interpret your student’s PSAT/NMSQT score report.

1 WHAT ARE PARKER’S SCORES?

Parker’s Reading and Writing score is 620, and his Math score is 500, for a total score of 1120.

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 PSAT/NMSQT multiple times. He can also see an average score of all testers in any grade who have taken the PSAT/NMSQT in the last 3 years.

2 WHAT ARE PARKER’S SCORE PERCENTILES?

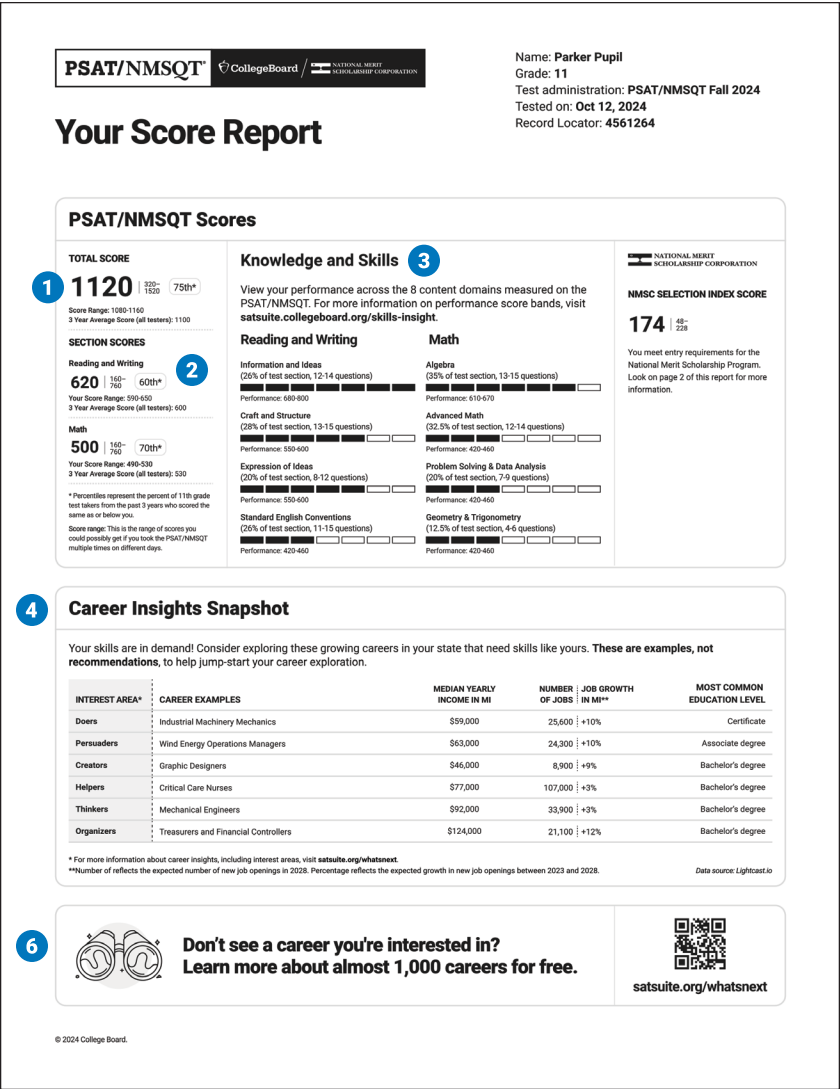
Since Parker is in 11th grade, the percentiles compare his scores with those of all 11th-grade students around the world who took the PSAT/NMSQT in the last 3 years. Parker scored as well or better in Reading and Writing than 60% of 11th grade students taking the test worldwide. In Math, he scored as well or better than 70% of 11th-grade students. Putting both scores together, Parker scored as well or better than 75% of students in his grade on the PSAT/NMSQT as a whole.

3 WHAT CAN PARKER LEARN FROM THIS KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS SECTION?

This section shows Parker a graphical progress bar in each of the 8 content domains (subject areas) measured on the PSAT/NMSQT. The filled in part of each progress bar represents Parker’s level of mastery in that content domain, not his actual score. Under each content domain, Parker can also see what percentage of the test and number of questions cover that domain. For more information about content domains, visit satsuite.collegeboard.org/practice/content-domains.

4 WHAT CAN PARKER LEARN FROM THIS CAREER INFORMATION?

Since he is based in the U.S., Parker’s score report includes Career Insight Snapshot—helpful information about growing careers in his state that connect to his scores. Whether Parker 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 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 Parker’s state, he can learn more about careers that reflect his interests at satsuite.org/whatsnext.



Score Report

A Case Study: Sample PSAT 8/9 Score Report

1 WHAT ARE NORA'S SCORES?

2 WHAT ARE NORA'S SCORE PERCENTILES?

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

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 300-1500 **750***

Scores Range: 1080-1160
3 Year Average Score (all test-takers): 1100

SECTION SCORES

Reading and Writing

620 120-780 **600***

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

Math

500 120-780 **700***

Your Score Range: 470-530
3 Year Average Score (all test-takers): 500

* Percentiles represent the percent of 8th 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 3

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.

Reading and Writing

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

Performance: 640-800

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

Performance: 580-600

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

Performance: 590-600

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

Performance: 420-440

Math

Algebra
(42.8% 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
(28% of test section, 9-11 questions)

Performance: 450-480

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	107,200 +3%	Bachelor's degree
Thinkers	Mechanical Engineers	\$92,000	39,900 +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.
**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

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

satsuite.org/whatsnext

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PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 8/9 *Understanding Scores for Educators*

4 WHAT CAN NORA LEARN FROM THIS CAREER SNAPSHOT?

Since she is based in the U.S., Nora's score report includes helpful information about growing careers in her state. Nora can review the median yearly income of each career, the 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. The list might include a career Nora is curious about—or maybe none of the options feel like a great fit. It's okay! The goal is to just start thinking about potential career paths. This snapshot is based on state-specific information and isn't tied to Nora's performance on the PSAT 8/9. However, if Nora is thinking about different paths to take after high school, she can explore tailored options that match her interests and skills at satsuite.org/whatsnext.

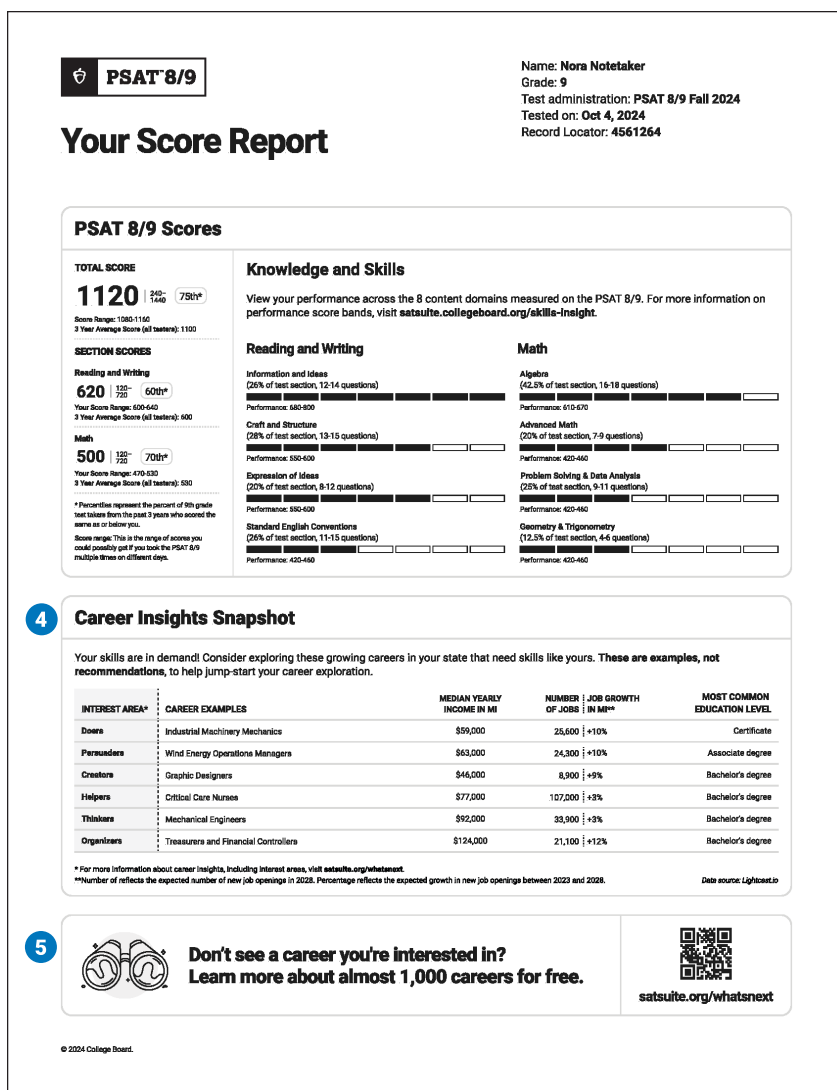
5 HOW CAN NORA LEARN MORE ABOUT HER SCORES?

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 the SAT. If Nora is age 13 or older, she can also choose to visit 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. She can continue to take advantage of practice resources by visiting sat.org/digital-practice.

Nora can continue to take advantage of practice resources by visiting sat.org/digital-practice.



15

PSAT/NMSQT Sample Score Report (continued)

NMSC Selection Index Score Details



NMSC SELECTION INDEX SCORE

174 48-228

SELECTION INDEX SCORE CALCULATION

Your Reading
& Writing Score

Your
Math Score

2 (620) + 500

10

= 174

NMSC® uses a Selection Index score based on PSAT/NMSQT scores as an initial screen of students who enter its scholarship programs. To calculate your NMSC Selection Index score, double your Reading and Writing score and add it to your Math score. Your Selection Index score is the sum divided by 10.

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

You meet entry requirements for the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program and your Selection Index score will be considered among 1.3 million program entrants.

If your Selection Index score places you among the 50,000 high scorers who qualify for National Merit Scholarship Program recognition, you will be notified next September when qualifying Selection Index scores will be made available.

ENTRY REQUIREMENT QUESTIONS

Information you provided during exam set up:

Are you enrolled as a high school student (traditional or homeschooled)?
Yes

When will you complete or leave high school and enroll full-time in college?
2026

How many total years will you spend in grades 9–12?
3 years

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) conducts the National Merit® Scholarship Program, an academic competition for recognition and college scholarships.

To designate students who qualify for recognition in its 2026 competition, NMSC will consider the 2024 PSAT/NMSQT® Selection Index scores of some 1.3 million test takers (usually high school juniors) who meet program entry requirements. For more information, please visit: www.nationalmerit.org.

If any of your responses to NMSC's "Entry Requirement Questions" are inaccurate or there has been a change in plans that may affect program entry, write immediately to:

National Merit Scholarship Corporation
Attn: Scholarship Administration
1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 200
Evanston, IL 60201-4897

Include your name, home address, and Record Locator number along with your high school name, address, and six-digit code number. If you have any questions, please contact NMSC at (847) 866-5100.

Name: Parker Pupil
Grade: 11
Test administration: PSAT/NMSQT Fall 2024
Tested on: Oct 12, 2024
Record Locator: 4561264
School Code (AI/CEEB): 123456



PSAT 8/9 Sample Score Report



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 | 240-1440 | 75th*

Score Range: 1080-1160
3 Year Average Score (all test-takers): 1100

SECTION SCORES

Reading and Writing

620 | 120-720 | 60th*

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

Math

500 | 120-720 | 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 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.

Reading and Writing

Information and Ideas
(26% of test section, 12-14 questions)
Performance: 680-800

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: 610-670

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.
**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

IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING SCREENSHOTS

Although the screenshots used on pages 18–20 are from the PSAT/NMSQT online student score reporting portal, the information on these pages applies to both PSAT 8/9 and PSAT/NMSQT.

Additional PSAT/NMSQT and 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 PSAT-related assessments in the online student scores portal at 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 in their:

- School (as applicable)
- District (public schools, as applicable)
- State (U.S.-based and territories)
- Nation and internationally (referred to as All Testers)

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 who took the same PSAT-related assessment.

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

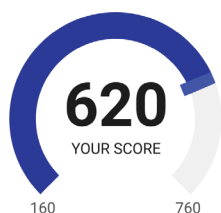
Online score insights

TOTAL SCORE 1120
Your Score Range 1090-1170

Section Scores

The PSAT/NMSQT'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 (460)! [Learn which Reading and Writing skills can help you improve.](#)

Your Score Range 590-650

The Reading and Writing benchmark for the SAT is 480. If you plan to take the SAT 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/NMSQT and 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/NMSQT section performance.

Reading and Writing

Math

Math Knowledge

Your Math Score

500

Math Skills Performance

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

Algebra (35% of test section, 13-15 questions)



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

Advanced Math (32.5% of test section, 12-14 questions)



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

Problem Solving & Data Analysis (20% of test section, 7-9 questions)



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

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.






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/+5.6%	
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

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

Career Exploration

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

- View even more potential careers online at bigfuture.org.
- Explore careers tailored to their interests with Career Quiz.
- Find free resources to help them take the next steps on their career path.

See page 7 of this document for more information on how the BigFuture School mobile app and Connections feature support career exploration for students taking the PSAT/NMSQT.

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/NMSQT or PSAT 8/9 score on BigFuture.

Next Steps for Students and Families

Educators can share this information with students and their families to provide more information about scores on the PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 8/9.

Learn more about the National Merit Scholarship Program: www.nationalmerit.org

View a video walk-through of the PSAT/NMSQT score report: satsuite.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt/scores/understanding-scores/your-score-explained

View a video walk-through of the PSAT 8/9 score report: satsuite.collegeboard.org/psat-8-9/scores/understanding-scores/your-score-report-explained

Learn more about understanding and using scores: psat.org/scores

Connect to scholarships: collegeboard.org/sat-suite-scholarships

Practice for the SAT: satsuite.collegeboard.org/practice