## SATSuite of Assessments

## Understanding Scores FOR EDUCATORS



## 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 $S^{\circ} T^{\oplus}$ and $\mathrm{AP}^{\oplus}$ to expand opportunities for students and help them develop the skills they need. Our BigFuture ${ }^{\circledR}$ program helps students plan for college, pay for college, and explore careers. Learn more at cb.org.

## About National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC)

NMSC ${ }^{\circledR}$ is an independent, not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance. NMSC conducts the National Merit ${ }^{\text {® }}$ 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. Further information is provided in the Guide to the National Merit Scholarship Program.
Questions about the scholarship program not answered in the published materials should be directed to:

## National Merit Scholarship Corporation <br> 1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 200 <br> Evanston, IL 60201-4897 <br> 847-866-5100

www.nationalmerit.org

## About the PSAT/NMSQT

The PSAT/NMSQT is cosponsored by College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation. The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (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 ${ }^{\text {TM }} 8 / 9$ 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.

## FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

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## FOR EDUCATORS

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# PSAT-Related Assessments Score Report Resources 

## Thank you for administering the 2023-24 PSAT/NMSQT and/or PSAT 8/9 at your school. Included is information about student 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 you can use the data to monitor your students' 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 to the National Merit Scholarship Program. NOTE: 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 for educators
- Managing access to online scores
- Resources for online score reports
- Assessment-specific Understanding Scores brochures for students and families in English and Spanish. Remind parents and students to access this resource for helpful information about scores.


## The SAT Suite of Assessments

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 gradeappropriate 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.

## Going Digital

While the transition to digital brings a number of student- and educator-friendly changes, many important features of the SAT Suite have stayed the same. The SAT Suite continues to measure the knowledge and skills that students are learning in school and that matter most for college and career readiness. The digital SAT Suite is easier to take, easier to give, more secure, and more relevant. We haven't simply created a digital version of the former paper and pencil tests-we're taking full advantage of what digital testing makes possible.

This Understanding Scores document includes information about how to interpret and use scores on the PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 8/9 that will be administered starting in October 2023.

The PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 8/9 that schools will administer in 2023-24 will be delivered digitally. Both tests include the following sections:

## READING AND WRITING

The Reading and Writing section measures comprehension and reasoning skills and focuses on close reading of passages in a wide array of subject areas. It also measures a range of skills, including command of evidence, expression of ideas, and the use of standard English conventions in grammar and punctuation.

## MATH

This section includes multiple-choice and student-produced response questions, and students are permitted to use a calculator on all math questions. The Math section assesses skills in algebra, problem solving and data analysis, manipulation of complex equations, geometry, and trigonometry.

## How the Assessments are Scored

All test questions are first scored as correct or incorrect. There is no penalty for guessing. The difficulty level and other qualities of each question (such as how well it differentiates skill level or how easy it is to guess on a question) as well as whether the student got the question right or wrong are taken into account when calculating a student's score. This score is then converted to the reported scaled score of 160-760 for the PSAT/NMSQT and 120-720 for the PSAT 8/9 on each section. Every test conforms to a standardized specification of question types and qualities, so all students have equitable opportunity to demonstrate their strengths.

## What the Assessments Measure

The PSAT/NMSQT and the PSAT 8/9 measure the skills and knowledge that research shows are the most important for success in college and career. The Reading and Writing section measures comprehension and reasoning skills and focuses on close reading of passages in a wide array of subject areas. It also measures a range of skills, including command of evidence, expression of ideas, and the use of standard English conventions in grammar and punctuation. The Math section includes multiple-choice and studentproduced response questions, and students are permitted to use a calculator on all math questions. It also assesses skills in algebra, problem solving and data analysis, manipulation of complex equations, geometry, and trigonometry.

## How the Digital 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 and the Math sections are divided into two 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 result in a more efficient assessment of that student's academic strengths.

## Interpreting Scores

## Score-Reporting Features

Later in this document, you'll find annotated sample score reports (pages 10-11 for PSAT/NMSQT and pages 12-13 for PSAT 8/9) that include detailed explanations of the information that students receive about their college readiness skills.

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 ${ }^{\text {Tw }}$ 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.


## How You Can Use the Student Score Report

You can help students by reviewing their score reports and helping them understand what their scores mean. Here's how.

## 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" (samples shown on pages 14-15 (PSAT/NMSQT) and 16-17 (PSAT 8/9) clearly summarizes a student's current achievement levels and encourages next steps to increase college and career readiness. Teachers can go over 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 show them content areas in which they can handle more advanced coursework.

## TALK WITH STUDENTS ABOUT COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

In the online K-12 score reporting portal, you'll see an indicator that shows whether the student's score meets the grade-level benchmark. These benchmarks allow students and educators to understand how students are progressing toward college readiness.

- If a 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 a student is not meeting the benchmark for a section, connect them to classroom work that is focused on areas that need improvement.
- Work with your students to think of ways to develop each of the skills you have identified for focus and improvement.
- Encourage students to review their score report.

For further guidance on interpreting score reports, see the Professional Development modules for K-12 educators at sat.org/educators.

## EXPLORE CAREER OPTIONS

When reviewing scores with students, educators may be asked about Career Insights, a new feature on the score report that can inspire career exploration conversations. See page 19 for more information.

# PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 8/9 Scores 

## Total Scores

The total score is the sum of the two section scores. Total scores for the PSAT/NMSQT range from 320-1520. Total scores for the PSAT 8/9 range from 240-1440.

## Section Scores

Students receive scores for each of two sections.

- The Reading and Writing section
- The Math section

For the PSAT/NMSQT, section scores range from 160-760. For the PSAT 8/9, section scores range from 120-720.

## Accessing Official Student 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 ${ }^{\oplus}$ 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 their PDF score report with educators at their school. Schools have access to the downloadable score report PDFs for their students through the online K-12 score reporting portal.
Students who took the PSAT/NMSQT and chose to participate in BigFuture School by providing a mobile phone number during testing can also view their scores on the BigFuture School app. For more information, see page 6 in this document, or go to satsuite.org/k12bigfutureschool.

NOTE: The BigFuture School app is available to domestic students 13 and over. Students taking the PSAT 8/9 are not eligible. See page 6 for more information.

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

## Information About Scores

In the official score report PDF, the student can view the three 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 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.
- 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. The All Tester Percentile ranks for the first digital administrations in 2023-24 are reported on tests completed anywhere in the world.

## 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 | $\pm 40$ points | $\pm 40$ points |
| Reading <br> \& Writing | $\pm 30$ points | $\pm 20$ points |
| Math | $\pm 30$ points | $\pm 30$ points |

## Selection Index

For PSAT/NMSQT only
National Merit Scholarship Corporation (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.

## Information About Knowledge and Skills

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

- There are 4 content areas in Reading and Writing, and 4 in Math.
- In each content area, 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 area.
- Students can use this section to identify content areas they may want to focus on to practice and improve.


## Additional Support

The score report PDF also includes information on next steps the student can take after reviewing their scores. A QR code or link will provide them with more information on tools and services related to these next steps, which include reviewing the additional insights on their scores, Official Digital SAT Prep on Khan Academy ${ }^{\circledR}$, 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 ${ }^{\text {TM }}$-a feature that allows them to hear from nonprofit colleges and scholarship 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 log 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.

## Score Scales and Score Changes

## Using Scores on PSAT-Related Assessments to Project Other Scores in 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 scale. Thus, while the total range for the SAT is 400-1600, the total range for the PSAT/NMSQT is 320-1520, and 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 four 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.

## Differences Between Scores on Digital and Paper and Pencil Assessments

The two formats of the SAT Suite of Assessments—digital and paper and pencil—measure similar, but not identical, content, so a score on the paper and pencil test is not a perfect predictor of how a student would perform on the digital test (and vice versa).

College Board is conducting a psychometric analysis to determine the relationship between scores on the paper-based and digital versions of the PSAT-related assessments to enable students to compare their scores more directly in the future.

The total scores and section scores have been vertically scaled to allow the accurate measurement of growth from test to test. Encourage students to focus on the section scores if they are curious about the growth they can expect to see in their scores over the next year. They should look at the set of projected score ranges we have provided for students that reflect typical growth. Of course, a student's individual growth will be shaped by the courses taken and by the practice the student undertakes between assessments.

Students who wish to improve their performance on the SAT Suite should follow these guidelines:

- Develop academic skills through challenging coursework.
- Read extensively and develop strong writing skills.
- Engage in deliberate practice in the math areas that are emphasized the most in the assessments.
- Take full-length practice tests in the digital testing app, Bluebook ${ }^{\text {TM }}$, review results in MyPractice, and use Official digital SAT Prep on Khan Academy for free, personalized practice of the skills they need to improve. To learn more, go to psat.org/practice.


## Benchmarks

## Grade-Level Benchmarks for PSAT-Related Assessments

The SAT Suite offers grade-level benchmarks that can be used to gauge whether students are on track for becoming college ready each year in grades 8-12. Gradelevel benchmarks represent the section scores on each assessment that students should meet or exceed to be considered on track to be college ready.

The PSAT 8/9 reports separate benchmarks for eighth and ninth 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. 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, educators can support students who need extra help while there is still time for improvement. Teachers can also accelerate the progress of students who meet or exceed the benchmarks.

## WHAT THE BENCHMARKS MEAN

The College and Career Readiness Benchmarks for the current 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.

In the online K-12 score reporting portal, you'll see gradelevel benchmarks based on how students grow from year to year toward the SAT benchmarks. Below are the PSAT 8/9 and PSAT/NMSQT benchmarks for 8th-11th grade:
$\left.\begin{array}{|ccc}\hline & \text { Grade-Level Benchmarks } \\ \text { Reading and Writing }\end{array}\right)$ Math

## RECOMMENDED USES

Grade-level benchmarks can help educators:

- Identify students who are on track for success in college and career readiness.
- Identify students who may need extra support while there is still time for improvement.
- Find students who may be ready for more challenging coursework.

Grade-level 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.

## 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 the National Merit Scholarship Program. (Note: The PSAT 10 and PSAT 8/9 will not be considered for entry to the competition.)

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 score of 620 and a Math 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 2025 is determined by students' responses to program entry questions on the 2023 PSAT/NMSQT exam. Both the printed PSAT/NMSQT student score report 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 2023 PSAT/NMSQT scores high enough to qualify them for recognition. These students will be notified of their standing through their high schools in September 2024. Students who qualify to continue in the competition for scholarships to be offered in 2025 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 Guide to the National Merit Scholarship Program, mailed to high school principals each fall. For students and parents, information about the competition is given 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:

룦www.nationalmerit.org<br>[- 847-866-5100<br>$\square$ National Merit Scholarship Corporation 1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 200<br>Evanston, IL 60201-4897

## 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 the PSAT/NMSQT score report.


Score Report

## 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 . By reviewing his performance on the content domains in each subject, Parker can see where his knowledge and skills are already strong and identify areas where he can improve.

## What are Parker's score percentiles?

Since Parker is in the 11th grade, the percentiles compare his scores with those of all 11th graders in the nation. Parker scored as well or better in Reading and Writing than 60\% of a nationally representative group of 11th-grade students. In Math, he scored as well or better than $70 \%$ of a nationally representative group of juniors. Putting both scores together, Parker scored as well or better than 75\% of students in his grade on the PSAT/NMSQT as a whole.

## What can Parker learn from this career snapshot?

Since he is based in the U.S., Parker's score report includes Career Insights, helpful information about growing careers in his state. Parker can review the median yearly income of each career, the expected growth rate for new job openings in his state over the next five years, and the most common education level for people in that career. The list might include a career Parker 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 Parker's performance on the PSAT/NMSQT. However, if Parker is thinking about different paths to take after high school, he can explore tailored options that match his interests and skills at satsuite.org/whatsnext.

## Will Parker be able to enter the National Merit Scholarship Program?

Parker has an NMSC Selection Index score of 174 (on a scale of 48-228), which was determined by first doubling his Reading and Writing section score (620) and adding that value to his Math section score (500). The sum of those two numbers divided by 10 is his Selection Index score. NMSC uses the Selection Index score to determine which students will receive recognition in the National Merit Scholarship Program. If an asterisk had appeared next to Parker's score, it would mean he did not meet entry requirements for the program or his score was provided for guidance purposes only and would not be considered in the National Merit Scholarship Program. In the sample score report, Parker meets entry requirements and will be recognized if his score places him among the 50,000 high scorers. For entry requirements and information on the steps in the competition, see the 2023 PSAT/NMSQT Student Guide or visit www.nationalmerit.org.

## How can Parker learn more about his scores?

Parker can talk to his school counselor to see his full score report, discuss how to prepare for the SAT, and learn his potential for AP coursework. If Parker is age 13 or older, he can also choose to visit psat.org/myscore to personally find out this information.

## How can Parker measure his progress?

In the spring, Parker can take the SAT to measure the progress he's made since he took the PSAT/NMSQT. He can continue to take advantage of practice resources by visiting sat.org/digital-practice.

| NMSC Selection Index Score Details |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\xrightarrow{\square}$ NATIONAL MERIT <br> NMSC SELECTION INDEX SCORE 48- <br> SELECTION INDEX SCORE CALCULATION $\frac{2(620)+500}{10}=\mathbf{1 7 4}$ <br> NMSC ${ }^{\oplus}$ uses a Selection Index score calculated from PSAT/NMSQT section scores as an initial screen of students who enter its scholarship programs. To calculate the Selection Index score, multiply the Reading and Writing section score by 2, add the Math section score, and divide the sum by 10 . | ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION <br> You meet entry requirements for the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program and your Selection Index score will be considered among 1.3 million program entrants. <br> 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. <br> ENTRY REQUIREMENT QUESTIONS <br> Information you provided on test day: <br> Are you enrolled as a high school student (traditional or homeschooled)? Yes <br> When will you complete or leave high school and enroll full-time in college? <br> 2025 <br> How many total years will you spend in grades 9-12? <br> 4 | NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION <br> National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) conducts the National Merit ${ }^{\text { }}$ Scholarship Program, an academic competition for recognition and college scholarships. <br> To designate students who qualify for recognition in its 2025 competition, NMSC will consider the 2023 PSAT/NMSQT ${ }^{\text { }}$ 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. <br> 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: <br> National Merit Scholarship Corporation Attn: Scholarship Administration 1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 200 Evanston, IL 60201-4897 <br> 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
est administration: PSAT/NMSQT Fall 2023
ested on: Oct. 10, 2023
Record Locator: 4561264
School Code (AI/CEEB): 123456

PSAT/NMSQT


# The PSAT 8/9 Score Report 

## A Case Study: Sample PSAT 8/9 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 8/9 score report.


## 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. By reviewing her performance on the content domains in each subject, Nora can see where her knowledge and skills are already strong and identify areas where she can improve.
## What are Nora's score percentiles?

Since Nora is in the ninth grade, the percentiles compare her scores with those of all ninth graders in the nation. Nora scored as well or better in Reading and Writing than $60 \%$ of a nationally representative group of ninth-grade students. In Math, she scored as well or better than 70\% of a nationally representative group of first-year students. 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.

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## 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 five 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.

## 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 sophomore, 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.


## PSAT/NMSQT <br> 

## Your Score Report

Name: Parker Pupi
Grade: 11
Test administration: PSAT/NMSQT Fall 2023
Tested on: Oct. 10, 2023
Record Locator: 4561264
School Code (AI/CEEB): 123456

| PSAT/NMSQT Sc |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| TOTAL SCORE $1120$ <br> Score Range: $1090-1170$ Average Score (all testers): 1100 <br> SECTION SCORES <br> Reading and Writing <br> $\left.620\right\|_{760} ^{160-} 60$ th ${ }^{1}$ <br> Your Score Range: $590-650$ Average Score (all testers): 600 <br> Math <br> $\left.500\right\|_{760} ^{160-} 70$ th $k$ <br> Your Score Range: 520-540 Average Score (all testers): 530 $\qquad$ $\qquad$ <br> could possibly get if you took the PSAT/NMSQ multiple times on different days. | Knowledge and Skills <br> View your performance across the 8 content domains measured on the PSATNMSQT. | NATIONAL MERT <br> NMSC SELECTION INDEX SCORE 174 $\qquad$ National Merit Scholarship Program. information |

## Snapshot of Growing Careers in Michigan



Build your future, your way with free personalized tools

- Career quiz, 1,000 career profiles, and career recommendations based on your interests
- Profiles of $3,000+$ colleges in the U.S. and worldwide
- $\$ 4$ billion in scholarship opportunities
- Key SAT skills practice on Khan Academy

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## PSAT/NMSQT Sample Score Report (continued)

| NMSC Selection Index Score Details |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| NMSC SELECTION INDEX SCORE <br> 174 $48-$ 228 <br> SELECTION INDEX SCORE CALCULATION $\frac{2(620)+500}{10}=\mathbf{2}=\mathbf{c}$ <br> NMSC ${ }^{\circledR}$ uses a Selection Index score calculated from PSAT/NMSQT section scores as an initial screen of students who enter its scholarship programs. To calculate the Selection Index score, multiply the Reading and Writing section score by 2 , add the Math section score, and divide the sum by 10 . | ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION <br> You meet entry requirements for the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program and your Selection Index score will be considered among 1.3 million program entrants. <br> 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. <br> ENTRY REQUIREMENT QUESTIONS <br> Information you provided on test day: <br> Are you enrolled as a high school student (traditional or homeschooled)? <br> Yes <br> When will you complete or leave high school and enroll full-time in college? <br> 2025 <br> How many total years will you spend in grades 9-12? <br> 4 | NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION <br> National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) conducts the National Merit ${ }^{\oplus}$ Scholarship Program, an academic competition for recognition and college scholarships. <br> To designate students who qualify for recognition in its 2025 competition, NMSC will consider the 2023 PSAT/NMSQT ${ }^{\oplus}$ 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. <br> 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: <br> National Merit Scholarship Corporation <br> Attn: Scholarship Administration <br> 1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 200 <br> Evanston, IL 60201-4897 <br> 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 2023
Tested on: Oct. 10, 2023
Record Locator: 4561264
School Code (AI/CEEB): 123456

## $\theta \quad$ PSAT $8 / 9$ <br> Your Score Report

Name: Nora Notetaker
Grade: 9
Test administration: PSAT 8/9 Fall 2023
Tested on: Oct. 10, 2023


## Snapshot of Growing Careers in Michigan

The PSAT 8/9 can help you think about different paths to take after high school. Exploring this sample of growing careers in your state is one way to start. For personalized career options that match your interests and skills, including what's measured on the PSAT 8/9, go to satsuite.org/whatsnext

| INTEREST AREA* | CAREER EXAMPLES | MEDIAN YEARLY INCOME IN MI | NUMBER OF JOBS | JOB GROWTH <br> 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 |  | Bachelor's degree |
| Helpers | Critical Care Nurses | \$77,000 | 107,000 |  | 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 |

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## IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING SCREENSHOTS

Although the screenshots used on pages 17-19 are all from the PSAT/NMSQT online student score reporting portal, the information on these pages applies to both PSAT 8/9 and PSAT/NMSQT.

## Additional Insights

From your K-12 educator score reporting portal, you will be able to access the online student score information. Students age 13 or older who already have a personal College Board student account can get additional insights into their performance on the PSAT-related assessments in the online student score reporting 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. Educators can also see more contextual comparisons of their students' scores online. Educators can compare their students' 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 \& territories)
- Nation and internationally (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, i.e., students in the graduating cohort from each year.


Total Score Percentile Comparisons
Compare your score percentile among the following groups of 11th-grade test takers from the past three years. Find practice options to help you improve.


Online score insights

## 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.


Online score insights


Online score insights

## Section Benchmarks

Another set of insights educators can view in the online K-12 score reporting portal are the section level readiness benchmarks. We will indicate if their students have met the section benchmarks or not, providing links to resources to help them analyze what skills to focus on for improvement.

Additionally, we show educators their students' score ranges and provide links to information about how a score range more accurately reflects each student's level of knowledge and skills than a single score.

## More About Knowledge and Skills

Based on our Skills Insight ${ }^{\text {™ }}$ tool, we provide educators with a deeper dive into the knowledge and skills measured by the PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 8/9. Educators may view a breakdown of their students' knowledge and skills across 4 content areas in Reading and Writing and 4 content areas in Math.

- The online insights go further by helping educators view their students' performance across 7 defined performance score bands to get a sense of how they did in each area.
- Educators can:
- Click View Skills and Example Questions in Next Score Band to see skills and example questions that students in this 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.
- Navigate to any other performance score band in the Skills Insight tool, including the current one for a given student.


## Snapshot of Growing Career in Michigan

The PSAT/NMSQT can help you think about different paths to take after high school. Exploring this sample of growing careers in your state is one way to start. For personalized career options that match your interests and skills, including what's measured on the PSAT/NMSQT, go to satsuite.org/whatsnext.

CAREER EXAMPLES

| Industrial Machinery Mechanics | $\wedge$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| Median Yearly Income in MI | \$59,000 |
| Number of Jobs / Job Growth in MI* | 25,600 / +10\% |
| Most Common Education Level | Certificate |
| Interest Area** | Doers |
| Wind Energy Operations Managers | $\wedge$ |
| Median Yearly Income in MI | \$63,000 |
| Number of Jobs / Job Growth in MI* | 24,300/+10\% |
| Most Common Education Level | Associate degree |
| Interest Area** | Persuaders |

* Number reflects the expected number of new job openings in 2027. Percentage reflects the expected growth in new job openings between 2022 and 2027
** For more information about career insights, including interest areas, visit satsuite.org/whatsnext


## Explore Careers 7

Online score insights

## Your Future, Your Way



Need help with planning your life after high school? Our free, personalized tools can help.

- Discover 3,000+ colleges in the U.S. and worldwide
- Search over $\$ 4$ billion in scholarship opportunities
- Explore up to 1,000 careers, and more

Explore BigFuture 7

## Career Exploration

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

- View even more potential careers online at bigfuture.org.
- Tailor their career insights to their own interests.
- Find free resources to help them take the next steps down their career path.

See page 6 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

Educators can view next steps with linked resources to do more with their students' scores, including:

- Getting practice help to improve their score.
- Learning more about the SAT Suite of Assessments.
- Planning for their college and career future using their PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 8/9 score on BigFuture.


[^0]:    Score Report

