

PSAT/NMSQT: See How Ready They Are



What Is the PSAT/NMSQT?

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) measures the reading, writing, and math skills your teen is building in school—the same skills that matter most for college, careers, and whatever path they pursue after high school.

Generally taken in 11th grade, the PSAT/NMSQT is both a pretest for the SAT and the qualifying exam for the National Merit Scholarship Program. It gives your student a meaningful benchmark for growth and the chance to access millions of dollars in scholarship opportunities.

Whether students have taken earlier assessments in the SAT® Suite or are encountering the test for the first time, the PSAT/NMSQT provides a valuable measure of readiness at a pivotal point in high school. Because the PSAT/NMSQT measures the knowledge and skills students are already learning in school, the best preparation is continued engagement in class and regular practice of those skills.



Because all assessments in the SAT Suite are built on the same scale, schools can monitor growth over time and gain a clearer picture of student readiness from middle school through graduation.

“The district utilizes the PSAT 8/9 and PSAT/NMSQT® as early diagnostic tools, helping to identify students’ strengths and areas for growth as early as 8th grade. This proactive approach allows educators to tailor instruction to meet students’ needs, offering targeted support in key areas such as reading, writing, and mathematics.”

Tracey Morman, Director of Counseling, Amarillo Independent School District, Amarillo, Texas

Why the PSAT/NMSQT Matters

- **A Clear SAT Benchmark:** PSAT/NMSQT scores are aligned to the SAT score scale, giving students and families a reliable, clear measure of where they stand and where to focus, with enough time to prepare for the SAT before the college application process begins.
- **Scholarships and Recognition:** Students who take the PSAT/NMSQT in 11th grade may qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program, and their scores can also unlock eligibility for additional scholarships and academic recognition programs.
- **A Picture of What’s Next:** Score reports go beyond a number, offering skill-by-skill insights, personalized AP® course recommendations, and college and career exploration tools to help families plan the years ahead.



What Students Experience

Sections:

Reading and Writing; and Math

Timing:

2 hours, 14 minutes

Digital Testing App:

Bluebook™, the same digital testing app used for the SAT® and AP Exams

Scores:

320–1520 scale; available in the BigFuture® School app

What Families Receive

Progress insights:

Detailed score reports showing strengths, growth areas, and a clear picture of where your student stands and what to work on next.

Scholarship opportunity:

11th grade test-takers may qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program and other scholarship and recognition programs.

AP course and career exploration:

Results can help students and families explore future AP courses that match their skills and interests, as well as future college majors or careers.

BigFuture School app access:

Students can view scores, explore colleges, and connect with scholarship opportunities—all while maintaining control of their personal information.

Free Practice and Support

Every PSAT/NMSQT student has access to free tools designed to build skills and confidence:



Official prep
and practice on
Khan Academy®



Full-length practice
tests on Bluebook
to build confidence



Student question
bank for targeted
practice by skill area



SAT Question of the Day
for daily practice to build
skills steadily over time

Learn more at: psat.org/why-take.