Understanding 2011 PSAT/NMSQT® Scores

Who takes the PSAT/NMSQT?

More than 3.5 million students take the test each year. Approximately 1.5 million of those students are high school juniors (11th graders), and the remainder are students in the tenth grade (sophomores) or younger. Nearly all students who take the test indicate they plan to attend college.

The over 23,000 high schools that test-takers attend vary greatly in size, curricula, standards, grading systems, populations served and sources of support. For students who take the PSAT/NMSQT®, the score report provides a standardized view of their scholastic skills, regardless of the school attended, and helps them compare their performance to other college-bound students nationwide.

What does the PSAT/NMSQT measure?

The PSAT/NMSQT measures skills in three basic academic areas important for success in college.

- Critical reading questions assess students' abilities to draw inferences, synthesize information, distinguish between main and supporting ideas, and understand vocabulary as it is used in context.
- Mathematics problem-solving questions deal with number and operations; algebra and functions; geometry and measurement; and data analysis, statistics, and probability.
- Writing skills questions measure the ability to identify appropriate expressions in standard English, detect faults in usage and structure, choose effective revisions to sentences and paragraphs, and recognize appropriate writing strategies.

How is the PSAT/NMSQT scored?

First, a raw score is computed. Students receive one point for each correct answer (regardless of difficulty). For incorrect answers to multiple-choice questions, a quarter (1/4) of a point is deducted. Nothing is deducted for unanswered questions or for incorrect answers to student-produced response (grid-in) questions.

Next, the raw score is converted to a score on the PSAT/ NMSQT scale of 20 to 80. This statistical procedure, called equating, adjusts for differences in difficulty between various forms, or editions, of the test. Equating makes it possible to compare the scores of students who have taken different editions of the test; it also makes the scores from last year's test comparable to those from this year's PSAT/NMSQT.

Student score reports show a numerical score for each area measured, as well as a range that extends from a few points below the score to a few points above. This range shows the extent to which a student's score might differ with repeated testing, assuming that the student's skill level remains constant.

Do PSAT/NMSQT scores fairly reflect students' skills?

Concern for fairness is an integral part of the development of the PSAT/NMSQT. Comprehensive reviews and analyses ensure that questions and tests are fair for different groups of students. Although differences in test performance may be the result of many factors, long-term educational preparation is the primary cause. The test itself reflects such differences but does not cause them.

How does the PSAT/NMSQT report on skills?

The PSAT/NMSQT reports on the same set of college readiness skills as SAT® and ReadiStep™ (the College Board's assessment for eighth graders). Aligned to both state standards and the College Board Standards for College Success, these skills reflect the essential knowledge and skills students need for success in college. To learn more, visit www.collegeboard.org/psatreports.

What is PSAT/NMSQT Skills Insight™?

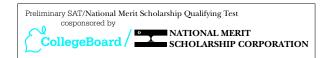
The PSAT/NMSQT Skills Insight tool demonstrates the link between PSAT/NMSQT scores and college readiness skills — the same skills measured on the SAT. Skills Insight also provides actionable suggestions for improving skills and hundreds of sample questions that give students additional practice on each skill. Visit Skills Insight at www.collegeboard.org/psatskills.

What is the PSAT/NMSQT College Readiness Benchmark?

The PSAT/NMSQT College Readiness Benchmark is the score that students should meet or exceed to be considered on track to be college ready. It is reflected in several reports for educators, including the Summary of Answers and Skills (SOAS) Report, College-Bound Junior and Sophomore Summary Reports, and the optional Student Data File CD. It is not included on reports for students and should never be used to discourage students from pursuing college or for preventing enrollment in rigorous coursework. To learn more, visit www.collegeboard.org/psatreports.

PSAT/NMSQT COLLEGE READINESS BENCHMARKS												
	Critical Reading	Mathematics	Writing	PSAT/NMSQT Composite*								
11th grade PSAT/NMSQT	50	50	49	152								
10th grade PSAT/NMSQT	49	47	48	145								

^{*}Composite score was computed independently of individual section scores.



PSAT/NMSQT Percentiles and Mean Scores

can be used to compare a student's performance with that of juniors and sophomores.

JUNIORS											
		Percentiles									
Score	Critical	Critical Writi leading Math Skill									
80	99+	99+	99+								
79	99+	99+ 99+	99+ 99+								
78	99+	99+	99+								
77	99	99	99+								
76	99	99	99								
75	99	99	99								
74	99	98	99								
73	98	98	99								
72	98	97	99								
71 70	97	97	98								
69	97 96	96 95	98 97								
68	96	95	97								
67	95	94	96								
66	94	92	95								
65	94	90	95								
64	92	90	93								
63	90	88	93								
62	89	85	91								
61	87	82	91								
60 59	85 93	82 79	88 88								
59 58	83 80	79 76	88 86								
57	78	73	83								
56	76 76	73 72	82								
55	73	69	80								
54	70	66	79								
53	67	62	75								
52	65	61	72								
51	58	58	68								
50	58 55	54	68								
49 48	55 49	51 47	63 58								
47	45	43	54								
46	42	40	51								
45	38	40	50								
44	35	36	44								
43	32	33	40								
42	29	30	36								
41	26	27	33								
40	23	24	29								
39 38	20 18	21 18	27								
36 37	15	16	21 21								
36	13	13	18								
35	13	11	15								
34	10	11	11								
33	8	9	11								
32	7	7	8								
31	6	7	6								
30	6	5	6								
29 28	4 4	3 3	4 4								
26 27	3	2	2								
26	3	2	2								
25	2	1	2								
24	1	1	2								
23	1	1	1								
22	1	1	1								
21 20	1	1 1	1 1								
Mean score	47.8	48.5	45.7								
Standard deviation	11.1	11.8	10.9								
Number of											
juniors in											
sample	1,235,267	1,235,267	1,235,267								

,	SOPHON	IORES	
		Percentiles	
	Critical		Writing
Score	Reading	Math	Skills
80	99+	99+	99+
79 78	99+ 99+	99+	99+ 99+
76 77	99+ 99+	99+ 99+	99+
76	99+	99+	99+
75	99+	99+	99+
74	99+	99	99+
73 72	99 99	99 99	99+ 99+
71	99	99	99+
70	99	99	99+
69	99	98	99
68	99	98	99
67 66	98 97	98 97	99 99
65	97	96	99
64	97	96	98
63	96	95	98
62	95	94 92	97 96
61 60	94 93	92 92	96 95
59	91	90	95
58	90	88	94
57	89	86	92
56 55	87 85	86 83	92 90
54	83	80	89
53	80	78	87
52	79	77	85
51 50	73 73	74 71	82 82
49	73 70	68	78
48	65	65	74
47	62	61	71
46	58	58 50	67
45 44	55 51	58 54	67 62
43	48	51	58
42	45	47	54
41	41	44	49
40 39	36 32	40 36	45 44
38	30	32	35
37	26	28	35
36	23	24	30
35 34	23 19	21 21	26 20
33	15	17	20
32	14	13	16
31	11	13	12
30 29	11 8	9 7	12 9
28	8	7	8
27	5	5	5
26	5	5	5
25	3	3	5
24 23	3 3	3 3	5 3
22	2	1	3
21	2	1	1
20	1	1	1
Mean score	43.4	43.4	41.2
Standard deviation	10.7	11.1	10.0
Number of sophomores			

1,260,584 1,260,584 1,260,584

Points to note

- Percentiles indicate the percentage of students whose scores fall below each specified score.
- On the score report, percentiles for juniors compare their performance with that of other juniors who took the test. For sophomores or younger students, percentiles compare their performance with that of sophomores.
- Percentiles are based on the critical reading, mathematics, and writing skills scores earned by a sample of college-bound juniors or sophomores who took the PSAT/NMSQT in 2011.
- The mean score is the statistic that describes the average performance of a group.
- The standard deviation is a measure of the variability of a set of scores around their mean. If the test scores cluster tightly around the mean score, as they do when the group tested is relatively homogeneous, the standard deviation is smaller than it would be for a more diverse group.

Reliability shows how consistently a student would earn similar scores in repeated testings.

	Reliability Coefficient	Average SEM
Critical Reading	0.87	4.0
Mathematics	0.89	3.8
Writing Skills	0.85	4.3

Points to note

Data are based on a sample of sophomores and juniors who took the PSAT/NMSQT in the previous year (2010 Wednesday and Saturday forms).

- A reliability coefficient helps to show expected fluctuation in scores if a student takes a test more than once. The higher the reliability coefficient, the smaller the fluctuation of scores across repeated testings. A reliability coefficient of 1.00 would indicate perfect reliability, or no expected fluctuation.
- PSAT/NMSQT scores should be interpreted as ranges rather than points. The standard error of measurement (SEM) in the table above indicates that a student who took different forms of the test under identical conditions would be likely to earn scores within 4 points of one another.

Selection Index Percentiles and Mean Score

can be used to compare a student's performance with that of juniors.

		JUNI	ORS		
Selection Index	Percentile	Selection Index	Percentile	Selection Index	Percentile
-					1 CICCITIIC
240-222	99+	162	73	102	10
221	99	161	72	101	9
220	99	160	71	100	9
219	99	159	70	99	8
218	99	158	69	98	8
217	99	157			
			68	97	7
216	99	156	67	96	7
215	99	155	66	95	6
214	99	154	65	94	6
213	99	153	64	93	5
212	99	152	63	92	5
211	99	151	61	91	5
210	98	150	60	90	4
210	90	150	00	90	4
000	00	110	50	00	,
209	98	149	59	89	4
208	98	148	58	88	4
207	98	147	57	87	3
206	98	146	55	86	3
205	98	145	54	85	3
204	97	144			
			53	84	2
203	97	143	52	83	2
202	97	142	50	82	2
201	97	141	49	81	2
200	96	140	48	80	1
				& below	·
199	96	139	47	a bolow	
198	96	138	45		
197	96	137	44		
196	95	136	43		
195	95	135	42		
194	95	134	40		
193	94	133	39		
192	94	132	38		
191	94	131	37		
190	93	130	36		
189	93	129	34		
188	92	128	33		
187	92	127	32		
186	91	126	31		
185	91	125	30		
184	90	124	29		
183	90	123	28		
182	89	122	27		
181	89	121	25		
180	88	120	24		
179	87	119	23		
178	87	118	22		
177	86	117	21		
176	85	116	21		
175	85	115	20		
174	84	114	19		
173	83	113	18		
172	82	112	17		
171	82	111	16		
170	81	110	15		
169	80	109	15		
168	79	108	14		
167	78	107 13			
166	77	106 12			
			12		
165	76 75	105			
164	75 	104	11		
163	74	103	10		
			141.9		
			Standar	d deviation	30.9
		Num	ber of juniors	s in sample	1,235,267
			-		

Points to note

- Reported on a scale ranging from 60 to 240, the Selection Index is the sum of the critical reading, mathematics, and writing skills scores. For example, a critical reading score of 56, a mathematics score of 62, and a writing skills score of 59 would result in a Selection Index of 177 (56 + 62 + 59).
- Percentiles are based on the Selection Index earned by a sample of college-bound juniors who took the PSAT/NMSQT in 2011.

How NMSC uses the Selection Index

National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) uses the Selection Index score to designate groups of students to receive recognition in the programs it conducts. Entry to NMSC's competitions for scholarships to be offered in 2013 is determined by students' responses to program entry questions on the 2011 PSAT/NMSQT answer sheet. Both the PSAT/NMSQT Score Report *Plus* and the Roster of Student Scores and Plans show the student's Selection Index, the student's responses to four entry items, and whether the student meets participation requirements. Currently, about 1.5 million test-takers meet requirements to enter NMSC's competitions each year. Almost all entrants are in their third year (grade 11, junior year) of high school.

Of the 1.5 million NMSC program entrants, about 55,000 will earn 2011 PSAT/NMSQT scores high enough to qualify them for recognition. These students will be notified of their standing through their high schools in September 2012. Students who qualify to continue in the competitions for scholarships to be offered in 2013 must then meet academic and other requirements specified by NMSC to be considered for awards.

Detailed descriptions of NMSC programs are published in the *Guide to the National Merit*® *Scholarship Program* and the *Information Booklet for the National Achievement*® *Scholarship Program*, mailed to high school principals each fall. For students and parents, information about the competitions is given in the *Official Student Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT* and at www.nationalmerit.org.

Inquiries about any aspect of the National Merit Program or National Achievement Program including entry requirements, the selection process, and awards to be offered — should be sent to:

National Merit Scholarship Corporation Attn: Educational Services 1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 200

Evanston, IL 60201-4897 Phone: 847-866-5100

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2011 PSAT/NMSQT Score Conversion Tables

show how points obtained on the test are converted to scores on the 20-80 PSAT/NMSQT scale.

	FORM	W — W		NMSQT day, Oc	tober 12	, 2011			FOR	M S —		NMSQT ay, Octo	ber 15, 2	2011	
		Scores				Scores			Scores				Scores		
Points	Critical Reading	Math	Writing Skills	Points	Critical Reading	Math	Writing Skills	Points	Critical Reading	Math	Writing Skills	Points	Critical Reading	Math	Writing Skills
48 47	80 80			15 14	43 42	46 44	43 42	48 47	80 80			15 14	42 41	45 44	43 42
46	77			13	41	43	41	46	75			13	40	43	41
45 44	75 74			12 11	40 39	42 41	40 39	45 44	74 73			12 11	39 38	42 41	40 39
43 42	73 71			10 9	38 37	40 39	38 38	43 42	71 69			10 9	37 36	39 38	38 37
41	69			8	36	38	36	41	67			8	35	37	36
40 39 38	68 67 66	80	80 76	7 6 5	34 33 32	37 36 35	35 34 34	40 39 38	67 66 64	80	80 75	7 6 5	34 33 32	36 34 33	35 34 33
37 36	64 63	77 74	71 70	4 3	31 29	33 32	32 31	37 36	63 62	77 74	70 69	4 3	30 29	31 30	32 30
35 34	62 61	72 70	69 67	2	27 25	30 29	29 28	35 34	61 60	72 70	68 66	2	27 25	28 25	29 27
33 32	60 59	69 67	64 62	0 -1	24 22	27 25	27 23	33 32	59 58	68 67	64 62	0 -1	23 21	23 21	26 23
31	58	66	61	-2	20	22	21	31	57	66	61	-2	20	20	21
30 29	57 56	65 63	60 58	-3 -4	20 20	20 20	20 20	30 29	56 55	65 64	60 58	-3 -4	20 20	20 20	20 20
28 27	55 54	62 61	57 55	-5 -6	20 20	20 20	20 20	28 27	54 53	62 61	57 56	-5 -6	20 20	20 20	20 20
26	53	59	54	-7	20	20	20	26	52	60	54	-7	20	20	20
25 24	52 51	58 57	53 52	-8 -9	20 20		20 20	25 24	51 51	58 57	53 52	-8 -9	20 20		20 20
23 22 21	51 49 48	55 54 53	51 49 48	-10 -11 -12	20 20 20		20	23 22 21	50 48 48	56 54 53	51 49 49	-10 -11 -12	20 20 20		20
20	48	51	48	-12	20			20	46	52	49	-12	20		
19 18	47 46	50 49	47 46					19 18	46 45	50 49	47 45				
17 16	45 44	48 47	44 44					17 16	44 43	48 47	44 43				

Important to note

- Points represent the total number of correct answers minus a quarter (1/4) of a point for each incorrect answer to a multiple-choice question.
- Nothing is deducted for incorrect answers to student-produced response questions or for omitted answers of any type.
- Points are totaled, then converted to scores on the 20–80 PSAT/NMSQT scale.
- Converting points to scores adjusts for slight differences in difficulty between various forms. A statistical process called equating adjusts for these small differences. This
- ensures that a score of, say, 65 on one form of the test reflects a similar level of performance as does a 65 on another form of the test.
- There is no advantage or disadvantage in taking either the Wednesday or the Saturday test form.

2011 PSAT/NMSQT Score Conversion Table shows how points obtained on the test are converted to scores on the 20–80 PSAT/NMSQT scale.

	FOF	RM A —	SCORE	CONVE	RSION TA	BLE															
		Scores				Scores															
Points	Critical Reading	Math	Writing Skills	Points	Critical Reading	Math	Writing Skills														
48	80			15	42	46	43														
47	80			14	41	45	42														
46	79			13	40	44	41														
45	76			12	39	43	40														
44 43	74 72			11 10	38 37	42 41	39														
43	72			9	36	41	38 37														
42	69			8	35	39	36														
41	09			•	35	39	30														
40	68			7	34	38	34														
39	67		80	6	33	37	33														
38	65	80	76	5	32	36	31														
37	64	78	72	4	31	34	28														
36	63	74	70	3	30	33	25														
35	62	71	68	2	29	31	22														
34	61	70	66	1	27	29	20														
33	60	68	64	0	26	26	20														
32	59	67	62	-1	25	22	20														
31	58	65	60	-2	24	20	20														
30	57	64															59	-3	22	20	20
29	56	62	57	-4	20	20	20														
28	55	61	56	-5	20	20	20														
27	54	60	55	-6	20	20	20														
26	53	58	53	-7	20	20	20														
25	52	F 7	52	-8	20		20														
25	52 51	57 55	52 51	-o -9	20		20														
23	50	55 54	50	-9 -10	20		20														
23	49	53	49	-10 -11	20		20														
21	48	52	48	-12	20																
		02	70	-,2																	
20	47	51	47																		
19	46	49	46																		
18	45	48	45																		
17	44	47	44																		
16	43	46	43																		

Score Change from PSAT/NMSQT to SAT

shows how scores change for students who take the PSAT/NMSQT in October and the SAT the following spring.

Points to note

- The PSAT/NMSQT reports scores on a scale from 20 to 80. Scores on the SAT are reported on a 200-to-800 scale.
- The left-hand column of this table groups juniors by score ranges on the PSAT/NMSQT. Columns to the right show the percentage of students who gained or lost points when they took the SAT the following spring. The far right column shows the average SAT score for the group of juniors in each score range.
- On average, juniors taking the PSAT/NMSQT in October and the SAT the following spring have SAT scores that are 17 points higher in critical reading, 16 points higher in math, and 22 points higher in writing (equivalent to 1.7, 1.6, and 2.2 points, respectively, on the PSAT/NMSQT scale).
- Of the PSAT/NMSQT testtakers who took the SAT in the spring, 60% had SAT critical reading scores that were higher, 7% had scores that stayed the same, and 33% had lower scores; 58% had SAT math scores that were higher, 8% had scores that stayed the same, and 34% had lower scores; 62% had SAT writing scores that were higher, 6% had scores that stayed the same, and 32% had scores that were lower than their corresponding PSAT/NMSQT scores.
- Relatively low PSAT/NMSQT scores are followed by larger average gains than are relatively high PSAT/NMSQT scores.
- Several factors can influence the amount that scores will change, such as a student's academic course work and outside reading.

Percentage of Junior-Year Students with a Score Gain or Loss Between the PSAT/NMSQT and the SAT

CRITICAL READING

Junior-Year PSAT/ NMSQT Scores	-140 & below	-110 to -130	-80 to -100	-50 to -70	-20 to -40	-10 to +10	+20 to +40	+50 to +70	+80 to +100	+110 to +130	+140 & above	Average of Junior-Year SAT Scores
68-72	1	1	4	11	22	24	22	10	5	1		694
63-67	1	1	3	9	19	27	20	13	5	1	1	652
58-62	1	1	3	8	17	24	23	15	6	2	1	609
53-57	1	1	2	7	15	23	24	16	8	2	1	563
48-52		1	3	7	15	22	24	17	8	3	1	515
43-47		1	2	7	14	22	23	17	9	3	1	469
38-42		1	2	5	11	20	23	20	11	5	2	429
33-37	1	1	2	4	9	16	22	21	13	7	3	386
28-32		1	3	3	7	12	17	22	18	10	7	352

MATHEMATICS

S	Junior-Year PSAT/ NMSQT Scores	-140 & below	-110 to -130	-80 to -100	-50 to -70	-20 to -40	-10 to +10	+20 to +40	+50 to +70	+80 to +100	+110 to +130	+140 & above	Average of Junior-Year SAT Scores
	68-72	1	1	4	11	22	24	19	11	6	1		700
	63-67	1	1	4	8	17	27	22	12	5	2	1	656
	58-62	1	1	3	9	16	23	23	16	6	2	1	611
	53-57	1	1	3	8	15	21	22	16	9	3	1	566
	48-52		1	3	7	15	23	22	16	9	4	1	522
	43-47		1	2	6	13	21	24	18	9	4	2	475
	38-42		1	2	5	13	21	25	18	10	4	2	426
	33-37		1	2	6	11	16	23	20	13	5	3	380
	28-32		1	4	5	9	16	18	20	15	8	4	341

WRITING

Junior-Year PSAT/ NMSQT Scores	-140 & below	-110 to -130	-80 to -100	-50 to -70	-20 to -40	-10 to +10	+20 to +40	+50 to +70	+80 to +100	+110 to +130	+140 & above	Average of Junior-Year SAT Scores
68-72	2	4	9	15	19	20	15	9	5	2		680
63-67	1	2	7	13	19	20	18	11	5	3	1	643
58-62	1	1	4	9	16	21	20	14	8	3	2	607
53-57	1	1	3	8	15	20	21	16	9	5	2	569
48-52		1	3	7	13	19	21	17	11	5	3	525
43-47		1	2	6	12	19	21	18	12	6	3	482
38-42		1	2	5	11	18	21	19	13	7	4	435
33-37		1	2	4	9	16	21	20	14	8	6	393
28-32			2	3	7	12	19	20	17	10	9	360

Data are based on 585,947 students who took the PSAT/NMSQT as juniors in October 2007 and the SAT as juniors in spring 2008. The first SAT score from either the March, May, or June 2008 administration was used.

Can PSAT/NMSQT scores be used to estimate SAT scores?

PSAT/NMSQT critical reading, mathematics, and writing skills questions are designed to be the same type as those on the SAT. This is deliberate, as the PSAT/NMSQT questions are intended to be reliable preparation for the same types of questions on the SAT. The PSAT/NMSQT scale of 20 to 80 is comparable to the SAT scale of 200 to 800.

Estimated SAT score ranges are included on high school students' supplemental, online score reports in My College QuickStart™. Two times out of three, students earn SAT scores within these ranges, but actual scores may be higher (or lower) than these estimates. (As SAT writing scores also include an essay, there will be more variability in the estimates of those scores.) Higher-than-estimated SAT scores may result from intervening activities, such as:

- developing skills through rigorous academic courses;
- extensive, quality outside reading and/or writing;
- following the personalized advice in My SAT Study Plan™ in My College QuickStart; and
- taking a practice test and becoming more familiar with test directions, types of questions, and pacing.

Juniors frequently take the SAT six or seven months after taking the PSAT/NMSQT. Estimated SAT scores assume the SAT is taken within a year of the PSAT/NMSQT. Sophomores might not take the SAT for 18 months, providing a greater opportunity for intervening activities to influence their SAT scores.

What PSAT/NMSQT reports do schools receive?

The following standard reports are provided to all schools:

- PSAT/NMSQT Score Report Plus for each student tested (one for the student and one for the school)
- Score Labels, summarizing the basic score information (one set of labels)
- Roster of Student Scores and Plans, listing student-reported information, scores, and My College QuickStart access code for each student, as well as educator access codes for online tools and reports
- School Summary Report (provided automatically if at least 50 of a school's eleventh graders or tenth graders tested at the school), summarizing score statistics and student-reported information. Schools that test fewer than 50 eleventh graders/tenth graders, but at least 25 of their own students of the same sex and grade level, receive Summary Statistics.

The following tools and reports are available online at www.collegeboard.org/reports.

- AP Potential[™], a Web-based tool that helps educators identify students with the potential for success in Advanced Placement Program[®] (AP[®]) courses
- Summary of Answers and Skills (SOAS), aggregating student responses to each test question and providing information on skills that need improvement

■ PSAT/NMSQT Summary Reports: National, Regional, and State Data, providing score statistics and student-reported information for juniors and sophomores, including final mean scores. Reports for 2011 will be available in the spring of 2012.

The following optional reports are available for a small fee. To order, visit **www.collegeboard.org/school**.

- School Summary Report, summarizing score data for schools that test fewer than 50 juniors/50 sophomores, or for schools that have some juniors or sophomores who tested elsewhere. Schools that test 50 or more of their juniors/sophomores automatically receive this report.
- Student Data File, including all student-provided data as well as scores, skills, and students' My College QuickStart access codes. (Available in either Excel-ready or ASCII format.)

My College QuickStart www.collegeboard.org/quickstart

My College QuickStart is an easy-to-use, online, personalized college and career planning kit for all students who take the PSAT/NMSQT. This useful tool incorporates responses students provided when they took the test and presents personalized information in five main parts: My Online Score Report, My SAT Study Plan, My Personality, My Major & Career Matches and My College Matches. Students can sign in to My College QuickStart starting in mid-December using the access code printed on their score reports. The tool can be utilized throughout high school.

How should schools use PSAT/NMSQT score reports?

The PSAT/NMSQT is intended to help students evaluate skill levels in three critical academic areas; prepare for the SAT; compare their readiness for college-level work with that of their peers; and enter scholarship competitions. Score reports should be used for counseling students about educational plans.

PSAT/NMSQT scores are not for use by colleges as part of their admission criteria. Do not include scores on student transcripts that will be reproduced and sent to colleges unless the student (age 18 or older) or parent/guardian has granted permission. Inform students of their right to withhold these scores from admission or athletic offices, even when requested.

Questions?

Visit www.collegeboard.org/counselors/psat for additional data relevant to the test. Or contact the PSAT/NMSQT program at:

Mail: P.O. Box 6720, Princeton, NJ 08541-6720 Phone: 888-477-PSAT (7728) (for educators only)

> 609-771-7070 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET 610-290-8979

E-mail: psat@info.collegeboard.org

Plan Ahead for 2012 PSAT/NMSQT Dates

Wednesday, October 17, 2012 • Saturday, October 20, 2012

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