

Understanding 2010 PSAT/NMSQT® Scores

Who takes the PSAT/NMSQT?

More than 3.5 million students take the test each year. High school juniors (eleventh graders) constitute the single largest group of test-takers, 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 has PSAT/NMSQT Skill Reporting changed?

Beginning in 2010, the PSAT/NMSQT is reporting on a new set of college readiness skills, the same skills reported on by the SAT® and ReadStep™, a new assessment for eighth-graders. Aligned to both state standards and the College Board Standards for College Success, the new skills reflect the essential knowledge and skills students need for success in college. To learn more, visit www.collegeboard.com/psatreports.

What is PSAT/NMSQT Skills Insight™?

The new 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.com/psatskills.

What is the PSAT/NMSQT College Readiness Benchmark?

The PSAT/NMSQT College Readiness Benchmark is the score on each section that a student should meet or exceed to be considered on track to be college ready. Starting this year, 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. To learn more, visit www.collegeboard.com/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.

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PSAT/NMSQT Percentiles and Mean Scores

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

JUNIORS			
Score	Percentiles		
	Critical Reading	Math	Writing Skills
80	99+	99	99+
79	99+	99	99+
78	99+	99	99
77	99+	99	99
76	99	98	99
75	99	98	99
74	99	98	99
73	98	98	99
72	98	97	99
71	97	97	98
70	97	96	98
69	96	95	97
68	95	94	97
67	95	93	95
66	94	92	95
65	94	90	95
64	92	88	93
63	91	86	91
62	89	85	91
61	88	83	89
60	86	81	89
59	84	78	86
58	82	77	83
57	78	74	83
56	76	72	80
55	73	68	79
54	70	65	77
53	67	61	73
52	65	60	70
51	61	57	68
50	58	54	65
49	55	50	61
48	52	46	57
47	46	43	57
46	46	39	53
45	39	36	48
44	36	32	47
43	34	29	44
42	30	26	40
41	27	25	36
40	24	22	30
39	24	19	30
38	20	16	26
37	17	16	23
36	14	13	19
35	14	11	18
34	12	9	14
33	10	9	12
32	8	6	11
31	7	6	8
30	7	4	8
29	5	4	6
28	5	3	5
27	3	3	5
26	3	2	3
25	2	2	3
24	2	1	2
23	2	1	2
22	2	1	1
21	2	1	1
20	1	1	1
Mean score	47.3	48.9	45.5
Standard deviation	11.5	11.6	11.6
Number of juniors in sample	1,152,034	1,152,034	1,152,034

SOPHOMORES			
Score	Percentiles		
	Critical Reading	Math	Writing Skills
80	99+	99+	99+
79	99+	99+	99+
78	99+	99+	99+
77	99+	99+	99+
76	99+	99+	99+
75	99+	99+	99+
74	99+	99+	99+
73	99	99	99+
72	99	99	99+
71	99	99	99
70	99	99	99
69	99	98	99
68	98	98	99
67	98	98	98
66	97	97	98
65	97	96	98
64	97	95	97
63	96	94	96
62	95	94	96
61	94	92	95
60	93	91	95
59	92	89	94
58	91	89	92
57	88	86	92
56	87	84	90
55	85	82	89
54	83	79	88
53	80	76	86
52	79	76	83
51	76	73	82
50	74	70	79
49	71	67	76
48	68	63	73
47	63	60	73
46	63	56	70
45	56	52	65
44	52	48	64
43	50	44	61
42	47	40	57
41	43	40	53
40	39	36	47
39	39	31	47
38	33	27	42
37	29	27	37
36	25	22	32
35	25	19	30
34	21	15	26
33	18	15	21
32	16	11	21
31	13	11	16
30	13	8	16
29	9	8	11
28	9	5	10
27	7	5	10
26	7	3	7
25	4	3	7
24	4	2	4
23	4	2	4
22	4	1	2
21	4	1	2
20	1	1	1
Mean score	42.7	44.3	40.7
Standard deviation	11.1	10.9	10.7
Number of sophomores in sample	1,166,963	1,166,963	1,166,963

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 2010.
- 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	0.86	4.1
Mathematics	0.89	3.7
Writing Skills	0.83	4.3

Points to note

Data are based on a sample of sophomores and juniors who took the PSAT/NMSQT in the previous year (2009 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.

JUNIORS					
Selection Index	Percentile	Selection Index	Percentile	Selection Index	Percentile
240-224	99+	164	75	104	12
223	99	163	74	103	11
222	99	162	73	102	11
221	99	161	72	101	10
220	99	160	71	100	10
219	99	159	70	99	9
218	99	158	69	98	8
217	99	157	68	97	8
216	99	156	67	96	7
215	99	155	66	95	7
214	99	154	65	94	7
213	98	153	64	93	6
212	98	152	63	92	6
211	98	151	61	91	5
210	98	150	60	90	5
209	98	149	59	89	4
208	98	148	58	88	4
207	98	147	57	87	4
206	97	146	56	86	3
205	97	145	54	85	3
204	97	144	53	84	3
203	97	143	52	83	2
202	96	142	51	82	2
201	96	141	50	81	2
200	96	140	48	80	2
199	96	139	47	79	2
198	95	138	46	78	1
197	95	137	45	& below	
196	95	136	44		
195	94	135	42		
194	94	134	41		
193	94	133	40		
192	93	132	39		
191	93	131	38		
190	93	130	36		
189	92	129	35		
188	92	128	34		
187	91	127	33		
186	91	126	32		
185	90	125	31		
184	90	124	30		
183	89	123	28		
182	89	122	27		
181	88	121	26		
180	87	120	25		
179	87	119	24		
178	86	118	23		
177	86	117	22		
176	85	116	21		
175	84	115	21		
174	83	114	20		
173	83	113	19		
172	82	112	18		
171	81	111	17		
170	80	110	16		
169	79	109	16		
168	79	108	15		
167	78	107	14		
166	77	106	13		
165	76	105	13		
				Mean score	141.7
				Standard deviation	31.8
				Number of juniors in sample	1,152,034

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 2010.

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 2012 is determined by students' responses to program entry questions on the 2010 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.

Of the 1.5 million NMSC program entrants, about 55,000 will earn 2010 PSAT/NMSQT scores high enough to qualify them for recognition. These students will be notified of their standing through their high schools in September 2011. Students who qualify to continue in the competitions for scholarships to be offered in 2012 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
1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 200
Evanston, IL 60201-4897
telephone 847-866-5100

2010 PSAT/NMSQT Score Conversion Tables

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

PSAT/NMSQT FORM W — Wednesday, October 13, 2010								PSAT/NMSQT FORM S — Saturday, October 16, 2010							
Points	Scores			Points	Scores			Points	Scores			Points	Scores		
	Critical Reading	Math	Writing Skills		Critical Reading	Math	Writing Skills		Critical Reading	Math	Writing Skills		Critical Reading	Math	Writing Skills
48	80			15	43	46	45	48	80			15	43	46	45
47	80			14	42	45	43	47	80			14	42	44	44
46	76			13	41	44	42	46	77			13	41	43	42
45	74			12	40	43	41	45	75			12	40	42	41
44	73			11	38	42	40	44	74			11	38	41	40
43	72			10	38	40	40	43	73			10	37	40	40
42	69			9	37	39	38	42	71			9	37	38	38
41	68			8	36	38	37	41	69			8	35	37	37
40	67			7	34	36	36	40	68			7	34	36	36
39	66		80	6	33	35	35	39	67		80	6	32	34	35
38	64	80	79	5	32	34	34	38	66	80	78	5	31	33	34
37	63	76	75	4	31	32	33	37	64	76	73	4	29	31	32
36	62	72	72	3	29	30	31	36	63	73	72	3	28	29	31
35	61	70	71	2	27	28	29	35	62	71	71	2	26	27	29
34	60	69	69	1	25	26	28	34	61	69	69	1	24	25	27
33	59	68	67	0	23	24	26	33	60	68	67	0	22	23	26
32	58	66	64	-1	20	22	24	32	59	67	65	-1	20	22	23
31	57	65	63	-2	20	20	22	31	58	66	64	-2	20	20	20
30	57	64	63	-3	20	20	20	30	57	64	63	-3	20	20	20
29	56	63	61	-4	20	20	20	29	56	63	61	-4	20	20	20
28	55	61	59	-5	20	20	20	28	55	62	59	-5	20	20	20
27	54	60	58	-6	20	20	20	27	54	60	58	-6	20	20	20
26	53	59	57	-7	20	20	20	26	53	59	57	-7	20	20	20
25	52	57	56	-8	20		20	25	53	58	56	-8	20		20
24	51	56	54	-9	20		20	24	52	57	55	-9	20		20
23	50	55	53	-10	20		20	23	51	55	53	-10	20		20
22	49	54	52	-11	20			22	50	54	52	-11	20		
21	48	53	51	-12	20			21	49	53	51	-12	20		
20	47	51	50					20	48	52	50				
19	47	50	49					19	47	50	49				
18	45	49	48					18	46	49	48				
17	45	48	46					17	45	48	46				
16	44	47	45					16	44	47	46				

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.

5 PSAT/NMSQT Score Change from Sophomore to Junior Year

shows how scores change for students who take the PSAT/NMSQT as sophomores and again as juniors.

Points to note

- The left-hand column of this table groups sophomores by critical reading, mathematics, and writing skills score ranges on the PSAT/NMSQT. Columns to the right show the percentage of students who gained or lost points when they took the test the following year. The far right column shows the average junior-year PSAT/NMSQT score of each original group of sophomores who had taken the PSAT/NMSQT.
- On average, students taking the PSAT/NMSQT as sophomores and again as juniors have junior-year PSAT/NMSQT scores that are 3.3 points higher in critical reading, 4.0 points higher in math, and 3.3 points higher in writing skills. However, these are averages: some students earn scores in their junior year that are significantly higher; others receive lower scores.
- Of students who took the PSAT/NMSQT as sophomores and again as juniors, 69% had junior-year PSAT/NMSQT critical reading scores that were higher, 6% had scores that stayed the same, and 25% had lower scores; 74% had junior-year PSAT/NMSQT mathematics scores that were higher, 5% had scores that stayed the same, and 21% had lower scores; 68% had junior-year PSAT/NMSQT writing skills scores that were higher, 5% had scores that stayed the same, and 27% had lower 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 after Taking the PSAT/NMSQT in Their Sophomore Year and Again in Their Junior Year

CRITICAL READING

Sophomore-Year PSAT/NMSQT Scores	-14 & below	-11 to -13	-8 to -10	-5 to -7	-2 to -4	-1 to +1	+2 to +4	+5 to +7	+8 to +10	+11 to +13	+14 & above	Average of Junior-Year PSAT/NMSQT Scores
68-72		1	2	8	16	18	24	16	11	3		71
63-67		1	2	6	14	23	21	18	9	5	3	67
58-62		1	2	6	12	19	23	20	10	4	3	62
53-57		1	2	6	14	18	20	18	12	5	2	57
48-52	1	1	2	6	12	21	23	17	11	5	3	52
43-47	1	1	2	5	11	18	22	21	11	5	3	48
38-42	1	1	2	5	9	15	20	20	15	8	4	44
33-37	2	2	2	5	9	14	17	18	15	9	6	39
28-32		3	6	4	8	12	15	18	14	10	9	34

MATHEMATICS

Sophomore-Year PSAT/NMSQT Scores	-14 & below	-11 to -13	-8 to -10	-5 to -7	-2 to -4	-1 to +1	+2 to +4	+5 to +7	+8 to +10	+11 to +13	+14 & above	Average of Junior-Year PSAT/NMSQT Scores
68-72		1	3	8	16	24	21	16	8	4		71
63-67		1	2	6	14	22	26	15	9	4	1	67
58-62			2	5	10	19	25	21	11	5	2	63
53-57			1	4	11	17	19	21	13	8	3	59
48-52			1	4	8	19	22	19	14	8	4	54
43-47			1	3	9	15	20	24	14	8	5	50
38-42	1		1	3	8	17	23	18	15	8	4	44
33-37	1	1	2	3	8	13	19	23	16	7	6	39
28-32		2	5	2	6	14	15	20	19	9	7	35

WRITING SKILLS

Sophomore-Year PSAT/NMSQT Scores	-14 & below	-11 to -13	-8 to -10	-5 to -7	-2 to -4	-1 to +1	+2 to +4	+5 to +7	+8 to +10	+11 to +13	+14 & above	Average of Junior-Year PSAT/NMSQT Scores
68-72	1	2	6	15	13	28	14	5	11	4		69
63-67	1	2	5	9	17	22	17	14	7	4	3	65
58-62	1	1	3	9	12	19	23	16	10	5	4	62
53-57		1	2	6	14	19	20	16	11	6	4	58
48-52		1	3	6	11	18	24	17	11	6	4	53
43-47		1	2	6	12	16	19	21	13	6	4	48
38-42	1	1	2	5	12	18	20	16	13	8	4	43
33-37	1	2	2	5	10	16	20	18	13	6	6	38
28-32		1	5	4	7	14	18	20	14	9	7	35

Data are based on 710,595 students who took the PSAT/NMSQT as sophomores in October 2007 and as juniors in October 2008.

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 test-takers 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

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;
- participating in problem-solving activities;
- extensive, quality outside reading and/or writing;
- following the personalized advice in My SAT Study Plan™ in My College QuickStart; 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.com/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**, 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 2010 will be available in the spring of 2011.

The following optional reports are available for a small fee. To order, visit www.collegeboard.com/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.com/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.com/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
Fax: 610-290-8979
E-mail: psat@info.collegeboard.org

Plan Ahead for 2011 PSAT/NMSQT Dates

Wednesday, October 12, 2011 • Saturday, October 15, 2011

