

Help Your Teenager Get on the Path to College

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) evaluates the skills your child has developed in three academic areas: critical reading, mathematics and writing. But the PSAT/NMSQT is more than a test — **it also provides the tools your child needs to reach his or her college goals.**

Benefits of the PSAT/NMSQT®

SAT® Preparation and Skills Feedback

The PSAT/NMSQT and the SAT® evaluate the same skills. Taking the PSAT/NMSQT is an effective way for your child to start getting ready for the SAT, a widely recognized college admission test.

In addition to providing a practice experience, the PSAT/NMSQT gives students personalized feedback on their academic strengths and weaknesses. The feedback on the PSAT/NMSQT Score Report *Plus* will help your child develop the skills necessary for success — not only on the SAT, but also in college and careers.

On average, students who take the PSAT/NMSQT score 145 points higher on the SAT than those who don't.



Scholarship Competitions

By taking the PSAT/NMSQT in the 11th grade, your child may be eligible to enter competitions for college scholarships and other academic recognition programs, including:

Programs conducted by National Merit Scholarship Corporation
www.nationalmerit.org

Other scholarship and recognition programs
www.collegeboard.org/psat

PSAT/NMSQT scores are not sent to colleges, and students should not worry if their scores seem low. The PSAT/NMSQT is designed to uncover weaknesses and provide personalized feedback that helps students improve their skills.

One-Stop College Planning with My College QuickStart™

The PSAT/NMSQT gives your child access to My College QuickStart™, an online resource that features personalized SAT preparation and college and career planning tools — all at no extra cost. This resource includes:

- An interactive PSAT/NMSQT Score Report that includes detailed answer explanations and the student's projected SAT score
- A personalized SAT study plan and hundreds of free practice questions
- A detailed personality test to help students identify their interests and find majors and careers that are a good fit
- A personalized list of colleges based on the student's home state and intended major

Using My College QuickStart

Schools distribute student score reports in December or January. The report will include a unique code that gives your child unlimited access to My College QuickStart until he or she graduates from high school.

www.collegeboard.org/quickstart

Information from Colleges

When your child takes the PSAT/NMSQT, he or she will have the opportunity to say “Yes” to the Student Search Service® (SSS®). By participating in SSS, your child can receive free admission and financial aid information from colleges, universities and scholarship programs.

Interested colleges will receive some of the demographic and contact information that your child provides on test day. They will not receive his or her scores, Social Security number or telephone number.

Next Steps

The PSAT/NMSQT will be administered at your child's school on either Wednesday, Oct. 17, or Saturday, Oct. 20, 2012. Early in the fall, your child should:

- Talk to his or her school counselor about signing up for the test
- Ask his or her counselor for a copy of the *Official Student Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT*, which contains a full-length practice test
- Visit www.collegeboard.org/psat for more information, test-taking tips and answer explanations for practice test questions

For more information on the PSAT/NMSQT, scholarship opportunities and college planning, visit www.collegeboard.org/psat.