

# The Redesigned PSAT™ 8/9 and PSAT/NMSQT®

# PSAT/NMSQT®

## A Focus on Skills that Matter Most

The PSAT™ 8/9 and PSAT/NMSQT® — two components of the College Board Readiness and Success System — will be focused on the few skills that evidence shows matter most for college and career success. They will provide more actionable results for students and educators beginning in middle school.

Prior to the administration of the redesigned SAT® in spring 2016, the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT will launch in October 2015 alongside a redesign of the College Board's eighth/ninth-grade assessment.

Our assessments will feature grade-level appropriate content and will introduce more flexibility by offering schools options to administer in the fall or the spring. We will also provide tools designed to both evaluate and support progress toward college readiness and help improve instruction.

- ▶ For eighth- and ninth-graders, schools can offer the PSAT 8/9 in either the fall or spring; this test will replace our current eighth- and ninth-grade assessments.
- ▶ Tenth-graders will have the option of taking the PSAT/NMSQT during the fall of their sophomore year or the PSAT™ 10 during the spring of their sophomore year (the PSAT 10 is a parallel form of the PSAT/NMSQT that will be made available to sophomores only).
- ▶ Eleventh-graders will continue to have the option of taking the PSAT/NMSQT in the fall, when students are typically eligible to enter the National Merit Scholarship Competition.
- ▶ The SAT will continue to be offered in both the spring and the fall for 11th- and 12th-graders during national and SAT School Day administrations.

## Delivering Opportunity

Results from our assessments will help educators monitor student progress toward college and career readiness, identify skills that students will be asked to demonstrate in college and career, connect performance to the practice emphasized in the best instruction in our K–12 schools, and encourage students to take full advantage of the opportunities they've earned through their hard work. These opportunities include increased access to challenging course work, fee waivers, and scholarships.

PSAT/NMSQT results are the best predictor of a student's potential to succeed in certain AP® courses. From PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10 results, educators can identify students with a 60 percent or higher likelihood of succeeding in particular AP subjects. Using such data, schools, districts, and states can support access to AP for all academically prepared students.

## A Look Forward

We will launch the redesigned PSAT 8/9 and PSAT/NMSQT in October 2015. The PSAT 10 and SAT will begin administration in spring 2016.

In December 2014, sample questions to help students prepare for the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT and redesigned SAT will be available on [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org).

A full-length redesigned PSAT/NMSQT practice test will be available in March 2015, followed by dynamic, interactive study tools available through Khan Academy beginning in June 2015.

Visit [deliveringopportunity.org](http://deliveringopportunity.org) to review test specifications and see comparisons between the current and the revised PSAT/NMSQT.