



Why take the PSAT in 8th Grade?



Central Middle School

Q: What is the PSAT 8/9?

A: The PSAT 8/9 is an assessment given to 8th and 9th graders that is closely aligned to the SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, and the PSAT 10. It consists of questions in Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and in Math.

Q: What are the benefits of taking the PSAT 8/9 assessment?

A: The PSAT 8/9 assessment will help your child prepare for the future. It helps establish a baseline for students as they enter high school and begin preparing for college and career readiness. By taking the PSAT 8/9, your child will learn which skills he or she needs to work on for continued success when preparing for high school and ultimately college. In addition, the PSAT 8/9 will identify areas where your child excels (and may want to consider taking higher-level courses), as well as areas he or she should focus to improve academically. It also provides students with better access to data and personalized study through the online College Board and Khan Academy, and offers a readiness baseline for the SAT. It allows online access to explore careers, majors, and schools which may align with your child's personal interest, and provides planning tips and financial aid information. Historically, students who take the PSAT score higher on the SAT, on average, than those who do not take the test. Please note that the PSAT 8/9 scores are not sent to colleges.

Q: How should my student prepare?

A: The best preparation is to deeply engage in classroom learning and practice skills over time. On test day, your child should answer all the questions to the best of his/her ability. It will also help if he/she gets plenty of sleep the night before test day.

Q: How long will the assessment take? And how many questions are there?

A: Actual testing time is 2 hours 25 minutes. There are 42 reading questions, 40 writing and language questions, and 38 math questions.

Q: How does my student receive PSAT 8/9 scores?

A: Your child will get a paper score report with a unique code giving him/her access to an online score report. The scores reported will grow to include every test your child takes that is part of the SAT Suite of Assessments (see collegeboard.org/sat-suite for more information).

Q: How does Khan Academy assist?

A: Link your child's College Board and Khan Academy accounts to get automatic personalized recommendations based on your child's PSAT performance.

Q: What is the College Board?

A: CollegeBoard.org is a not-for-profit organization which expands access to higher education. Its membership includes over 6000 universities, colleges, and other educational organizations. It is best known for the standardized tests it administers, including the SAT. Other services include scholarships, applications, research, advocacy, college planning, and much more!