

Chapter 11

PSAT Program in Indiana

The Purpose of the PSAT Program in Indiana

During the 2016-2017 school year, students in grades 10 and 11 can take the PSAT/NMSQT in October 2016. The PSAT 10 will also be available to grade 10 students in the spring, and students can sign up for the PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10 with their school counselor.

The PSAT/NMSQT and the PSAT 10 cover the same content areas. Both tests provide students and educators with the chance to check in on progress toward college and career readiness and success and both serve as an excellent way for students to preview and practice for the SAT, as they are tightly aligned with the SAT.

Taking the PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10 can also connect students to:

- AP courses
- Scholarships
- Colleges

The PSAT/NMSQT is the official route of entry to the National Merit® Scholarship Program. The PSAT 10 (spring administration) will **not** be considered for entry.

Testing Opportunities

The recommended 2016 PSAT/NMSQT test date is Wednesday, October 19, 2016. The PSAT 10 is offered between February 21 and April 14, 2017. Ordering deadlines vary by exam, season, testing window, and school location. View important dates for all College Board exams here: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/important-dates>. Scores are released approximately two months after the assessment is administered.

The Indiana Department of Education will cover the cost of the PSAT/NMSQT exam administered for all grade 10 and 11 students enrolled in Indiana accredited public and nonpublic high schools. Providing the PSAT/NMSQT for 10th grade students has become common practice for many states, as the assessment offers many opportunities, including the following:

- a. Students and parents receive an earlier and better gauge of their postsecondary preparation;
- b. Students have time to adjust 11th and 12th grade schedules based on individual data;
- c. Schools may use AP Potential™ to identify students who demonstrate potential in specific Advanced Placement content areas.
- d. Schools may use the Summary of Answers and Skills™ tool to help inform instructional practices based on student skills; and

e. Students and parents have access to a variety of college, career and SAT preparation tools, including My College Quickstart™, that are beneficial throughout high school.

In the Budget Bill (HEA 1001) passed by the Indiana General Assembly in 2015, lawmakers appropriated enough PSAT funding to include the exams taken by 11th grade students. This will enable those students to not only be better prepared for the SAT, but will also remove any financial obstacle to those who wish to try to earn a National Merit Scholarship™.

School officials must check to make certain all students mark their grade level appropriately on their answer sheet. **Any test with errors in marking or lack of marking will not be compensated by the IDOE after final invoicing is received by schools from the Educational Testing Service (ETS).** If a school finds an error(s) in an invoice, the school must resolve the issue with ETS.

NOTE:

For additional information, please access <http://www.doe.in.gov/ap>.