

SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: October 1, 2019

To: High School Principals and Vice Principals; Area Superintendents

Subject: 2019 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT)

Department and/or Persons Concerned: High School Principals, Vice Principals, and PSAT Coordinators. Sites that enroll students in Grade 10 & 11.

Reference: College Board PSAT/NMSQT Website
(<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10?navId=gh-pn>)

Action Requested: Review information regarding administration and payment of the PSAT/NMSQT for the 2019-2020 Academic Year

Brief Explanation:

San Diego Unified School District will sponsor the PSAT/NMSQT for all 10th and 11th graders. All district students in grades 10 & 11 are expected to take the PSAT/NMSQT in October 2019.

College Board's PSAT/NMSQT offers all students early preparation for college with a practice exam, online resources for future test score improvement and scholarship opportunities, as well as data for sites to use that supports SDUSD's mission to increase equity in advanced studies. College Board's PSAT/NMSQT exam serves several purposes and providing it during the school day to our students allows for the most equitable opportunity for all to achieve their college goals.

Sites will benefit from bulk registration, saving time previously used on pre-administration sessions. Sites will also benefit from centralized billing, with no collection of student fees nor time spent on invoices.

The district will provide funding for the PSAT/NMSQT for students in grades 10 & 11 only. The district will not cover the cost for these exams for students in other grades.

Sites may elect to have 9th graders take the exam, though sites will be responsible for ordering exams, hosting pre-administration session, collection of payment from students, and payment of these exams to College Board.

PSAT/NMSQT Content

- Vocabulary questions will require students to determine the meaning of words by analyzing the context of words and phrases.
- Reading questions will test students on analysis in history/social studies and analysis in science. In many cases, students will need to make use of the ways of thinking important to a particular field to analyze passages and graphics. Science passages may be paired with questions focused on hypotheses, experimentation, and data. Literature passages may be paired with questions focused on theme, mood, and characterization.
- Students will be asked to determine what evidence best supports the answer to a previous question and analyze the ways authors use evidence to support their claims. Students will also need to relate information presented in graphics with information conveyed by texts.
- Math assessments will focus in depth on
 - problem solving and data analysis
 - mastery of linear equations
 - complex equations involving geometric and trigonometric skills

Implementation

1. All district students in grades 10 & 11 are expected to take the PSAT/NMSQT on **Wednesday, October 16, 2019**. For sites concerned about enough room to test, the alternate testing date is October 30, 2019 to allow testing one grade level per test date.
2. District will order exams for all students in grades 10 & 11 based on PowerSchool enrollment and submit data for bulk registration for all sites.
3. Important PSAT/NMSQT deadlines:
 - **June 28, 2019**: deadline for early ordering to be received Student Guide by mid-September.
 - **August 27, 2019**: deadline to apply for testing accommodations to ensure decision made by October testing. Information regarding Services for Students with Disabilities testing accommodation requests is posted online at <https://www.collegeboard.org/students-with-disabilities>
 - **September 13, 2019**: deadline to edit order & request accommodated test materials.
 - **Mid-September**: Student Guides should arrive at sites and be distributed to students with reminders of expectations that all 10th & 11th graders take the test.
 - **October 16, 2019**: test day
 - **October 17, 2019**: sites must return all materials to College Board
 - **October 30, 2019**: alternate test day
 - **October 31, 2019**: sites must return all materials to College Board

- **Mid-December 2019:** student scores released & sites use data to support master scheduling and recruitment into advanced courses

Payment – ONLY required if testing 9th grade students.

PSAT/NMSQT exams cost \$17.00 each 9th grader that chooses to test. Each site must cover the cost of PSAT/NMSQT tests for its students in grade 9. School sites will make payments for any 9th graders who take the PSAT/NMSQT exam as they pay any other vendor..

Note: PSAT 9 is another option for freshmen students and costs \$12/test. Testing window is September 23-April 30. For more details, visit <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-8-9/taking-the-test>

For information regarding the PSAT/NMSQT payment, contact Cristi Childers - cchilders@sandi.net

For information regarding the PSAT/NMSQT exam, contact the College Board at (888) 477-7728 or psat@info.collegeboard.org.

For additional information regarding the PSAT/NMSQT exam, contact Rachel Amato – ramato@sandi.net

APPROVED:



Sofia Freire
Chief of Leadership & Learning