



May

Understanding Your PSAT 8/9 Scores

Zeeland 9th graders took the PSAT 8/9 in April. The PSAT 8/9 is part of the College Board's "SAT Suite of Assessments" including the:

- PSAT 8/9 - preliminary SAT test for all freshmen; taken in April
- PSAT 10 - preliminary SAT test for all sophomores; taken in April
- PSAT/NMSQT - an *optional* preliminary SAT test taken most often in October of the junior year; students who score high enough can qualify for National Merit Scholarships
- SAT - state required test for all juniors as part of the Michigan Merit Exam; taken in April

This newsletter is an effort to help students and parents better understand the scores once they are released.

These tests measure students' college and career readiness. The SAT is one of two standardized tests widely accepted by colleges and universities for college admission. The ACT is the other.

Scores from the PSAT 8/9 will be available in the near future, through the College Board's website - <https://studentscores.collegeboard.org>. The vast majority of 9th graders do not already have a College Board account so those wishing to view scores now must "Create Account" (Student) to get registered. **PLEASE NOTE:** Students should create only ONE College Board account for use throughout high school. If you choose to create an account now to view scores it is **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** to write down the username/email and password and store it in a safe place. Creating multiple accounts can cause numerous problems and lengthy phone conversations with the College Board. Otherwise, scores will be released to high school counselors later on this summer and you can request a pdf file of the results in the fall. This will allow students to create an online account later on in high school when they will more readily utilize it.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE SCORE REPORT

The PSAT 8/9 measures students' knowledge in the following areas, determined by research to be important for college and career readiness, at the level appropriate for 8th and 9th graders: reading, writing and language, and math. A student's raw score is computed by the number of questions answered correctly (no guessing penalty) and raw scores are converted to section scores between 120 and 720 for the following 2 areas:

- Evidence-Based Reading and Writing
- Math

Thus, the total PSAT 8/9 score is reported on a 240-1440 scale.

Percentiles show the percentage of students nationwide whose scores are equal to or below the student's total score. For example, being in the 60th percentile means that a student did better than or equal to 60% of all 9th graders taking the test.

The PSAT 8/9 and the SAT are scored on a common scale. Therefore, if a student earns a math section score of 500 on the PSAT, he/she would have also earned a 500 math section score on the SAT had he/she taken it on the same test date. The score represents the same level of academic achievement on all three tests.

Here is the [link](#) to better understand PSAT 8/9 scores.

WHY IS THE SAT SUITE OF ASSESSMENTS AN IMPORTANT TOOL FOR COLLEGES?

The PSAT 8/9 is a test to help familiarize students to the SAT, a college entrance exam widely used across the country. Colleges use SAT results to:

- Identify applicants for admission (among other factors such as high school classes taken, GPA, extra-curricular activities, essay, etc.)
- Place students in first year college courses.
- Help students develop an appropriate program of study.
- Help scholarship/loan agencies identify qualified applicants.

NEXT STEPS

For students who desire to continue practicing for the SAT the College Board also offers a variety of FREE resources. Sample questions, along with paper and pencil practice tests for the PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT, are available at <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/practice>.

Students interested in learning more about the college planning process and exploring career options are encouraged to utilize the College Board's BigFuture site at <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org>.