

## **PSAT/NMSQT Next Steps**

Webinar recorded – 10/31/19

### Slide 1

Welcome to today's webinar entitled 'PSAT/NMSQT Next Steps'. My name is Stephen McCue and I'm Director of State and District Partnerships for the College Board. Today's webinar is brought to you by the College Board and the Idaho State Department of Education.

### Slide 2

To start, we'd like to share with you the Idaho State Department of Education's policy regarding the PSAT/NMSQT. As you know, this assessment is offered to public high school 10<sup>th</sup> graders as part of the state's college and career readiness assessment program. It measures what students have already learned in school and emphasizes reading, writing and math.

### Slide 3

The PSAT/NMSQT, which is the Preliminary SAT National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, is part of the SAT Suite of Assessments. Idaho students are very fortunate that the state sponsors the administration of the PSAT/NMSQT in the fall of 10<sup>th</sup> grade and the SAT in the spring of 11<sup>th</sup> grade. The College Board recognizes college readiness as an ongoing process and not a fixed point in time. The suite of assessments provides multiple opportunities for students and schools to measure student progress toward this objective.

### Slide 4

During our session today we will review some of the many benefits associated with the PSAT/NMSQT as shown in this slide, including scholarship opportunities and practice resources to prepare for the SAT.

### Slide 5

The National Merit Scholarship Organization has been a co-sponsor of this test for decades and provides more than \$40 million in scholarships to qualifying juniors who take the assessment. In recent years, we have expanded our scholarship partners as you can see on this slide. These new partners provide students with access to another \$350 million in scholarship opportunities.

## Slide 6

This year the College Board has introduced its own one of a kind scholarship program. Through our College Board Opportunity Scholarships we have committed \$25 million over the next five years in a unique initiative to provide students with scholarship opportunities based on the completion of six key actions along the path to college.

## Slide 7

These scholarships are open to all juniors and seniors who attend high school in the U.S. and they are not based on G.P.A., test scores, or family income and do not require an application or an essay to participate.

## Slide 8

Students are entered into a drawing for scholarship funds each time they complete one of the six key actions to prepare for college.

The first step asks students to build a college list. When finished, students are entered into drawings for a \$500 scholarship. 700 of these scholarships will be awarded.

The second step is to spend at least 6 hours practicing for the SAT using the official SAT practice tool at Khan Academy. When completed, students are entered into drawings for a \$1000 scholarship. 1,500 of these scholarships will be awarded.

The third step is to improve your SAT score. When this is accomplished, students are entered into drawings for a \$2000 scholarship. 150 of these scholarships will be awarded.

The fourth step is strengthen your college list. When this is finished, students are entered into drawings for a \$500 scholarship. 300 of these scholarships will be awarded.

The fifth step is to complete the FAFSA (the Free Application for Federal Student Aid). When finished students will be entered into drawings for a \$1000 scholarship. 800 of these scholarships will be awarded.

The sixth step is to apply to at least two colleges. When completed, students will be entered into drawings for a \$1000 scholarship. 500 of these scholarships will be awarded.

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Finally, students who complete all six steps will be entered into drawings for a \$40,000 scholarship. 25 of these scholarships will be awarded.

### Slide 10

Students can register for the College Board Opportunity Scholarships and find additional information by logging into [opportunity.collegeboard.org](http://opportunity.collegeboard.org)

### Slide 11

The College Board would also like counselors to take a pledge stating that they will share information with their students about the new College Board Opportunity Scholarships. Counselors can take the pledge by visiting [cb.org/counselorpledge](http://cb.org/counselorpledge). The College Board will thank these counselors by sending them a package with an Opportunity Scholarship poster and other materials for students.

### Slide 12

As a reminder, schools will receive PSAT/NMSQT score results on December 2<sup>nd</sup> in our K12 Score Reporting Portal. A week later, students will receive their online score results between December 9<sup>th</sup> and December 11<sup>th</sup>. Students will receive an email from the College Board when their scores become available.

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We also encourage counselors to take advantage of a number of special resources that will be available from December 2<sup>nd</sup> to December 6<sup>th</sup>, which we call 'Score Week'. Through recorded webinars, short videos and downloadable resources, College Board will provide counselors with step-by-step instructions for accessing the K12 Score Reporting Portal and help to understand the available reports.

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Additionally, College Board has prepared a number of online e-learning modules for educators. These free mini-lessons cover a variety of topics, including SAT 101, and Understanding College Board accommodations. The Score Week resources and the E-learning modules can be found at [www.collegeboard.org/counselors](http://www.collegeboard.org/counselors).

### Slide 15

We'd also like to use this opportunity to inform you of our invoicing procedures. On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, PSAT/NMSQT Test Coordinators will receive a roster of the students who took the PSAT/NMSQT at their school in October. Coordinators are asked to identify any 11<sup>th</sup> grade test takers that are fee waiver eligible at that time. They will also be asked to check the listed grade level of each student and make any necessary adjustments. These action items need to be completed and returned to College Board by January 10<sup>th</sup>. After the information is received by College Board, final invoices will be generated and sent to schools. Because the Idaho State Department of Education covers the cost for 10<sup>th</sup> graders, schools should only receive an invoice for students from other grades that took the test in October, excluding fee waiver eligible 11<sup>th</sup> graders.

### Slide 16

In December schools will also receive paper score reports for each PSAT/NMSAT test taker. The paper score report provides a basic overview of student results including their answers on each question of the test.

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We strongly encourage schools to take full advantage of the K12 Score Reporting Portal to analyze student performance on the PSAT/NMSQT. The portal has features that make it easy to conduct a quick search for districts, schools and students. There is also a guided report selection feature to help educators quickly locate the report that is most relevant to their search.

### Slide 18

To access the portal, educators will first need to establish a College Board professional account, which is required for all system level access. In addition to enabling educators to access the K12 Score Reporting Portal, a College Board account is also necessary to our Services for Students with Disabilities system, as well as College Board online test day training.

### Slide 19

Setting up a free College Board account is easy and it takes only a couple of minutes to do so. To create a College Board professional account, please visit [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org).

### Slide 20

There is also a feature in the K12 Score Reporting Portal that allows educators to see a sample student online report. This can help counselors and teachers better understand what students see so they can respond to students who approach them for help.

### Slide 21

A key resource for students that have taken the PSAT/NMSQT is the Official SAT Practice Tool available through Khan Academy. Using their online score report which is found in their College Board student account, students are given the option of linking their PSAT/NMSQT scores with Khan Academy. If students do not have an existing free Khan Academy account they can establish one in just a couple of minutes. Once these accounts are linked, Khan Academy will provide the student with a personalized SAT practice plan based on their PSAT/NMSQT performance. This provides students interested in practicing for the SAT with effective support to help them improve their skills.

### Slide 22

Results from a College Board study of 250,000 students from the class of 2017 indicate that students who spent 6 hours using the SAT practice tool at Khan Academy saw their scores on the SAT rise an average of 90 points from their previous PSAT/NMSAT scores. Students who spent 20 hours using the tool saw their scores improve on average by 115 points. We are very encouraged by these results and students too are starting to see that a little bit of time spent on practice can lead to a significant improvement in scores.

### Slide 23

One of the resources available to educators through Official SAT Practice at Khan Academy is our coaching tool. This tool allows teachers, counselors and other educators to see student progress and to provide targeted help based on their practice. The coaching tool features lesson plans by teachers for teachers and enables coaches to track recently completed activity and overall student progress.

### Slide 24

Another tool popular with students is our College Board Daily Practice app. This free app is available through the app store and google play and provides students with an SAT question of the day among other resources.

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You can also find a variety of Khan Academy resources available at [satpractice.org/k12](https://satpractice.org/k12). Student resources are also available for the SAT suite of assessments at [sat.org/k12](https://sat.org/k12). In addition, we encourage you to check out our College Board Youtube channel where you can find videos from numerous schools and districts that have successfully incorporated Official SAT Practice into their classes and seen significant improvements in student scores.

### Slide 26

We'd also like to use this opportunity to remind educators that the College Board provides low-income students with numerous benefits, including fee waivers for the PSAT/NMSQT and the SAT. Unfortunately, each year a substantial number of fee waivers go unused. We strongly encourage schools to inform eligible students of the many benefits available to them, including college application fee waivers at approximately 2000 colleges and universities that are College Board members. Once a student has registered for a College Board assessment using a fee waiver, we will provide the remaining fee waiver benefits to them through their College Board account.

### Slide 27

Another free resource students have access to after taking the PSAT/NMSQT is our Career Finder tool. This tool helps students explore careers that are aligned to their personal interests. The tool is simple and easy to use and can be accessed by students through their online score report in their College Board account.

### Slide 28

As we conclude, we wanted to mention an additional resource for students and families. College Board has established a website for parents to help them through the college process. This site has several resources parents can use to help their children on the path toward college. These resources can be found at [parents.collegeboard.org](https://parents.collegeboard.org).

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Thank you very much for joining us today and please remember that your assessment contact at the Idaho State Department of Education is Danielle Taylor, and you are always welcome to contact me, Stephen McCue, should you need more information about the SAT Suite of Assessments and College Board resources for students.