

## What

- ◆ **A comprehensive assessment program** that measures college readiness and provides students with the tools they need to start planning for the future.
- ◆ **Used by National Merit Scholarship Corporation** as an initial screening of entrants in its annual competitions for recognition and college scholarships (typically, entrants are in their third year of high school).
- ◆ **Measures skills in three academic areas:** critical reading, mathematics and writing skills.
- ◆ **Rigorously developed** by experts and content specialists, with comprehensive reviews and analyses to ensure that test questions are fair for different groups of students.
- ◆ **An integral component of the College Readiness Pathway**, a series of assessments that includes ReadStep™ for eighth-graders and the SAT® for 11th- and 12th-graders.
- ◆ **A low-cost solution** for schools and districts interested in measuring performance, improving outcomes and building a college-going culture.

## Why

- ◆ **Improves teaching and learning:** Extensive data and reporting resources, including the Summary of Answers and Skills (SOAS) report, help educators identify skill gaps, improve instruction and monitor college readiness using the College Readiness Benchmark.
- ◆ **Increases participation in the Advanced Placement Program® (AP®):** The online AP Potential™ tool identifies students likely to succeed in AP, helping educators expand access to rigorous courses.
- ◆ **Supports college and career planning:** My College QuickStart™, an online, personalized college and career planning kit, helps students search for colleges, explore majors and careers, and get a personalized SAT study plan.
- ◆ **Prepares students for the SAT:** On average, students who take the PSAT/NMSQT® score 145 points higher on the SAT than those who do not.
- ◆ **Provides entry into scholarship programs:** The PSAT/NMSQT provides entry into National Merit Scholarship Corporation competitions as well as other scholarship and recognition programs.

## How

- ◆ **Ordering:** Each school identifies a PSAT/NMSQT Coordinator to order tests online at [www.collegeboard.org/school](http://www.collegeboard.org/school).
- ◆ **Fees:** The 2012 test fee is \$14 per student. Fee waivers are available for eligible juniors. The school's PSAT/NMSQT Coordinator should request the fee waivers by June 15 at [www.collegeboard.org/school](http://www.collegeboard.org/school).
- ◆ **Services for Students with Disabilities:** The College Board must approve all accommodations prior to testing. For more information, visit [www.collegeboard.org/ssd](http://www.collegeboard.org/ssd).
- ◆ **Administration:** The test is administered annually in schools, and takes approximately 2 hours and 10 minutes (plus 45-50 minutes for administrative activities).

## When

- ◆ 2012 test dates are **Wednesday, Oct. 17**, and **Saturday, Oct. 20**.

## Who

- ◆ Approximately 3.5 million students take the PSAT/NMSQT each year.
- ◆ Primarily 10th- and 11th-graders.
- ◆ Typically, students must test in the 11th grade to qualify for scholarships and recognition, but testing in the 10th grade provides early feedback while there is still time to plan and prepare.

## Where

- ◆ For more information, visit [www.collegeboard.org/psateducator](http://www.collegeboard.org/psateducator).