

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

Home School and Private School Students

The PSAT

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) is a program co-sponsored by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) for college-bound students.

Home school students in 10th* or 11th grade who reside inside the Austin Independent School District (AISD) boundaries are eligible to take the PSAT at no cost. All other students will be charged an administrative fee to take the PSAT. The test will be administered at a central location and not in the high schools. Please contact the AISD Guidance and Counseling Department at 414-0174 if you need additional information.

*Important NOTE: The State has not approved the funding of the 10th grade students who will be taking the PSAT for 2011.

Logistics

Test Date: Wednesday October 12, 2011

Location: Baker Center 3908 Avenue B

Room: Cafeteria

Arrival Time/Doors open: 8:00 am **Test Begins:** 8:30 am

Important Note: **There is no early admission**

Testing Time: 2 hours and 10 minutes (plus an additional 35 minutes for administrative tasks)

Administrative Fee: \$20.00 (if not a 10th or 11th grade home school student)

Cash or money orders only – No personal checks

AISD Contact: Patsy Brady 512 414-0174 pbrady@austinisd.org

Registration

Please send the information requested below to Patsy Brady at pbrady@austinisd.org:

- Student name and grade level
- Indicate whether student is homeschooled, private school or other
- Parent/Guardian/Contact name and home phone and cell phone.

Home school students in the 9th grade and private school 9th grade students will be charged for taking the PSAT. Please see above for charges in Logistics section.

What Student Should Bring

- Photo ID: driver's license or school ID
If no driver's license or school ID, then a picture on school letterhead that is notarized. **No one** will be admitted without one of the IDs listed above.
- Two No. 2 pencils
- An approved calculator with backup calculator or batteries:
 - Four-function calculator
 - Scientific calculator
 - Graphing calculator
- Social security number (Optional)
- A watch (Optional)
- Email addresses (Optional) to receive educational and financial aid information.

What Students Should Not Bring

- Watch alarms
- Handheld electronic devices, including cell phones, MP3 players and pagers (power must be turned off pagers, cell phones, and handheld computers)
- Any device that can access the Internet
- Protractors; compasses; rulers
- Dictionaries or other books (there are no exceptions, even if English is not a student's first language)
- Pamphlets or papers of any kind
- Highlighters and colored pens or pencils
- Listening, recording, copying, or photographic devices (including watches and cell phones that contain cameras)
- Food and beverages, including bottled water, unless approved for medical reasons

Suggestions/Approaches/Strategies before Test Day

- Take the practice test in the [Official Student Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT](#).
- Learn the directions for each type of math and critical reading question.
- Try [sample questions](#) from past tests.
- Earn as many points as you can on easy questions.
- Read all the answer choices before marking your answer sheet.
- Do your scratch work in the test book.
- Don't feel you have to answer every question.
- Work steadily -- don't waste time on hard questions. You can always go back to them later.
- Check your answer sheet regularly to make sure you're in the right place.
- Write your answers to grid-ins in the boxes above the ovals.
- Try educated guessing when you can eliminate at least one answer to a multiple-choice question. Be sure you understand the difference between educated and random guessing.

Visit the CollegeBoard website:

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/about/ontest.html>

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you on the 12th of October, 2011