



# PSAT and SAT in Colorado

Delivering more opportunities for ALL students



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

## The PSAT and SAT in Colorado

This year, Colorado's ninth-, 10th- and 11th-graders will take the PSAT and SAT assessments, which are aligned to the Colorado Academic Standards and provide other benefits, including free, high-quality practice tools and scholarship opportunities.

### College Board's high school assessments

The College Board provides a suite of high school assessments that serve as Colorado's state assessments for English language arts and mathematics, including the PSAT that is taken by ninth- and 10th-graders and the SAT that is taken by 11th-graders. The College Board was selected following legislation in 2016 and 2017 that required the assessments for ninth, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade to be aligned to each other and to the Colorado Academic Standards.

The expected test date for the SAT in 2019 will be April 9. Districts will have a choice of April 9, 10 or 11 as the test date for the PSAT for ninth- and 10th-graders.

Colorado selected the PSAT and SAT because the College Board's reports and free test preparation services could be used by all students. The College Board's system can also connect students with resources and activities designed to help identify next steps for extra support or possible acceleration.

### Improving outcomes for all students

The PSAT and SAT focus on concepts and skills that matter for college and career readiness. They are designed to inform instruction and ultimately help improve student outcomes. The tests can help identify students who are falling behind so teachers can intervene, and they can provide indicators to students' readiness for advanced coursework and to keep them on target for college.

### Free personalized SAT study plan

Interested students will be able to get a personalized SAT study plan based on their PSAT test scores. [Free resources from Khan Academy](#) include interactive questions, guided essay practice, video instruction sessions, thousands of practice questions, a mobile app for daily practice and the ability to scan and score practice tests.

### PSAT and SAT Information

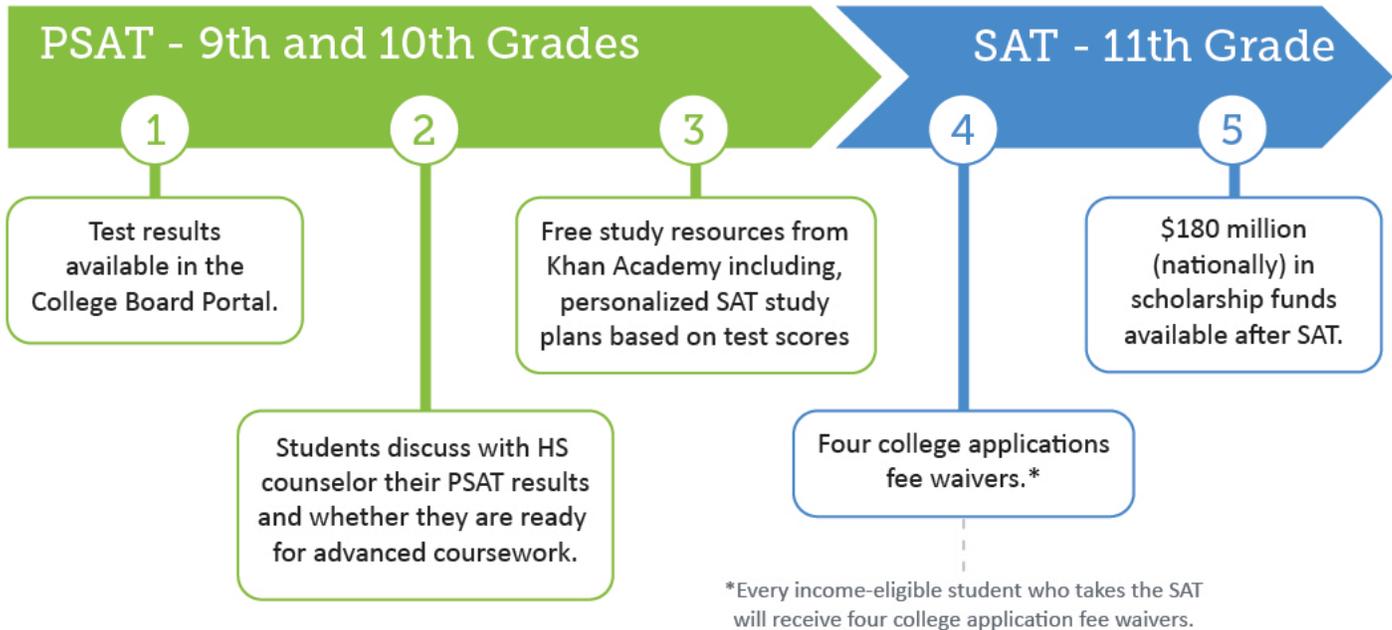
- PSAT uses a similar test blueprint as the SAT and serves as an introduction to the test because the questions and format are similar.
- The PSAT tests are slightly shorter than the three-hour and 15 minute SAT and much shorter than the four-hour and 22 minute SAT with Essay. The PSAT 8/9 is two-hours and 35 minutes and the PSAT 10 is slightly longer at two hours and 55 minutes.
- The SAT is accepted for admission and placement purposes at all public colleges and universities in Colorado.
- The SAT is based on a 1600-point scale.
- In addition to overall scores, students taking PSAT or SAT will receive two section scores: evidence-based reading and writing and mathematics.
- About 2 million students take the SAT every year worldwide.
- Colorado sophomores began taking the PSAT in spring 2016. Juniors began taking the SAT in 2017, and freshmen took the PSAT 9 for the first time in 2018.

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## Scholarship and college opportunities

Every income-eligible student who takes the SAT can receive four college application fee waivers, which may be used to apply to 2,000 participating colleges. All students can [opt in to the College Board Student Search](#) to receive free information about admission and financial aid opportunities from colleges, universities and scholarship programs.



### LEARN MORE

- <http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/psat-sat>
- <http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/11thand10thgradeexams>