

Cartersville High School PSAT Student & Parent Guide

- **What is the PSAT?**

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) is a standardized test administered by the College Board and cosponsored by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

- **When will the Class of 2026 take the PSAT?**

Cartersville High School's C/O 2026 will take the PSAT on Wednesday, October 25, 2023.

- **Why is the PSAT Important?**

Taking the PSAT/NMSQT is more than just good practice for the SAT, and the scores are more than just a number. With PSAT results, students can:

See where they are and set a target: Students will receive details on the exact skills and knowledge they need to focus on, while they have plenty of time to prepare for the SAT. Students can also use scores from the PSAT/NMSQT, along with research about their college and career goals, to [set their own personal target SAT score](#). Historically, students who take the PSAT/NMSQT score better on the SAT than those who don't take the test.

Find out about their AP Potential: Students may not realize that they're ready to take college level courses and that they have the potential to succeed. Using their personalized view of [AP Potential](#), found in their score report, students will receive recommendations for courses that may be a good fit for them.

Dual Enrollment eligibility: Depending on test scores, students may be eligible to participate in dual enrollment through surrounding local colleges. Cartersville High School plans to hold a dual enrollment interest meeting on 10/24/23 @6:00pm.

Enter the National Merit Scholarship Program: Students who take the PSAT/NMSQT and meet other program entry requirements specified in the [PSAT/NMSQT Student Guide](#) will enter the National Merit® Scholarship Program, an academic competition for recognition and scholarships conducted by National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC®). Visit NMSC's website at www.nationalmerit.org for more information..

Help pay for college: Taking the PSAT/NMSQT gives students the chance to access over \$300 million in other [scholarship opportunities](#).

Connect to their future: When students take the PSAT/NMSQT, they'll be asked for their mobile phone number so that they can download the free [BigFuture School™ mobile app](#) and have their PSAT/NMSQT scores delivered right to their phone. Students receive customized career information and guidance about planning and paying for college.

- **How is the PSAT/NMSQT Structured?**

The PSAT/NMSQT takes 2 hours and 14 minutes and consists of 2 sections: (1) the Reading and Writing Section, and (2) the Math Section. Most of the questions are multiple choice, though

some math questions ask you to write in the answer rather than select it. Use the link below for additional information. [What's on the PSAT/NMSQT? – SAT Suite | College Board](#)

The following table shows how much time you get for each section and the number of questions for each test:

Section	Length (minutes)	Number of Questions/Tasks
Reading and Writing	64	54
Math	70	44
Total	134	98

- **How is the PSAT/NMSQT Scored?**

Scores range from 320 to 1520 and are on the same score scale as the SAT. This means that a score of 1100 on the PSAT/NMSQT is equivalent to a score of 1100 on the SAT. The only difference is that SAT scores range from 400 to 1600, because the difficulty level of the questions is higher than on the PSAT/NMSQT.

Students also receive a PSAT/NMSQT Selection Index score, which National Merit Scholarship Corporation uses as an initial screen of students to the National Merit Scholarship Program. The Selection Index score is calculated from the Reading and Writing and Math section scores and ranges from 48 to 228.

- **Who Sees PSAT/NMSQT Scores?**

College Board doesn't send PSAT/NMSQT scores to colleges. PSAT/NMSQT scores are only sent to: National Merit Scholarship Corporation and Select scholarship and recognition programs (students may opt out). If a student wants to log in to see their score report, he or she can use the email and password used when they set up their College Board online account. This is in addition to the use of the BigFuture App. Scores are typically released 4-6 weeks after the test administration. CHS will provide an advisement lesson to review/interpret test scores prior to the end of first semester.

- **How to prepare for the PSAT:**

To become familiar with the test and its format, students can sign into the [Bluebook™ testing app](#) and head to the Practice and Prepare section. They can explore the tools and features of the app and try a few sample questions in the test preview or take a full-length practice test. Then, they can review their results at mypractice.collegeboard.org. Once they know what knowledge and skills they need to work on, they can use [Official digital SAT Prep on Khan Academy](#). It's a free, interactive study tool that provides personalized practice resources that focuses on exactly what your child needs to stay on track for college and career. Students and families can also view resources listed below for additional information.

College Board What to Expect With the digital PSAT/NMSQT video:

https://youtu.be/yIjPogCcKrY?si=mSvcEmrz7_AN4oW6

Applerouth Digital PSAT is Here video:

https://youtu.be/Is7Oht_BRsE?si=triMjmTtXZyXdd5