

# PSAT Results – What Do I Do Now?

## Review/Understand the Results

### 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Students – Review Tutorial Guide

<http://professionals.collegeboard.com/profdownload/psat-nmsgt-tutorial-for-9th-10th-grade-students.pdf>

### All Students – Review Voice Over PowerPoint about How to Read the Score Report and Understand Next Steps

<http://www.collegeboard.com/html/demo/>

## Look at your Scores

The simplest way to understand your PSAT scores in comparison to your possible SAT scores is to add a “zero” to the end of your PSAT scores. (For example: PSAT Critical Reading Score of **49** = SAT Critical Reading Score of **490**) Nationally, the average for each section of the SAT is a 500 so if you scored a “50” or above on each section – you are doing well. If you scored below a “50” on any section– you should begin working on those areas.

*Westfield Student Services recommends that students take college admissions tests (SAT/ACT) in the spring of their junior year and strongly encourages students to access their College QuickStart accounts to begin preparing now.*

## How can I improve my scores?

You should review your score report to see which categories of questions where you might have struggled and use the My College QuickStart program to review your personalized study plan to prepare for the SAT. **All of the questions and correct answers from the PSAT are also in your account for you to review for practice as well.**

## My College QuickStart

Your score report includes an Access Code to a personalized “**My College QuickStart**” through [www.collegeboard.com/quickstart](http://www.collegeboard.com/quickstart). My College QuickStart is an online college and career planning kit that provides you personalized information that helps you take the next steps towards college.

### **My College QuickStart includes these features:**

- **My Online Score Report**: An enhanced score report that allows you to review each test question, your answer, and the correct answer with answer explanations.

- **My SAT Study Plan**: A customized SAT study plan based on your performance, highlighting skills for review and practice.
- **My Personality**: a detailed personality test that helps students learn about themselves and discover majors and careers that fit their strengths and interests
- **My Major & Career Matches**: Major and career matches that are compatible with your general interests and personality type.
- **My College Matches**: A starter list of colleges based on your state and indicated choice of major.

**NOTE:** This resource is intended to supplement your Family Connection account available through Blackboard (<http://fcps.blackboard.com>). You can also complete a Career Interest Profiler, perform college searches, find scholarships, and compile a resume through Family Connection.

## **National Merit Scholarship Corporation**

([www.nationalmerit.org](http://www.nationalmerit.org))

Students in the eleventh grade of high school enter National Merit Scholarship competitions by taking the PSAT/NMSQT, which serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.5 million entrants each year, and by meeting published program entry and/or participation requirements. National Merit uses the Selection Index score (Critical Reading + Math + Writing) on the PSAT/NMSQT as an initial screen of program entrants and to designate groups of students to be honored in the competitions it conducts.

### **What Does This Mean for Me?**

**If you are a junior**, this means that the results of your Selection Index score will be forwarded to the National Merit Scholarship Corporation to be compared with other juniors' scores across the country. About 50,000 students nationwide will qualify for recognition by the National Merit Scholarship Program and have the opportunity to name two colleges/universities to which they would like to be referred by NMSC. (Typically, students that score a 218 or higher are competitive for National Merit. If you are one of those students, you will receive notification in April.) Those students will also have the chance to compete for merit scholarships.

**If you are a freshman or sophomore**, this means that you have time to prepare for the PSAT in 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Not only is the test good practice for the actual SAT that you will take in the spring of your junior year, but it can also help you in the college application and scholarship search process.