

NOTIFICATION OF PSAT/NMSQT SCHOOL DAY 2023

Dear Parents and/or Guardians of Rising Tenth and Eleventh Grade Students:

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is pleased to announce plans to offer the Preliminary SAT (PSAT)/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT) to students in grades 10-11 this fall. The test will be administered on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, and will be free of charge to enrolled FCPS students. The purpose of this letter is to provide general information about the PSAT/NMSQT School Day opportunity. This letter also provides time-sensitive information about testing accommodations for students with disabilities.

New Digital Format in Fall 2023: This fall, the PSAT/NMSQT will be administered in a digital format. Students and families can find more information on the College Board Digital SAT Suite of Assessments webpage (<https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/digital>). Some testing accommodations are administered differently for digital tests than for paper/pencil tests. See below for information about accommodations for students with disabilities

The PSAT/NMSQT is a standardized test that measures mathematics and evidence-based reading and writing. The test focuses on reasoning skills, knowledge, and comprehension. It is designed to promote college readiness while preparing students for college entrance assessments. Information about test content and format can be found on the College Board PSAT/NMSQT webpage (<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/inside-the-test/key-features>). The PSAT/NMSQT is co-sponsored by the College Board and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. While only students in grade 11 are eligible to compete for National Merit Scholarships, students in grade 10 who take the PSAT/NMSQT gain excellent practice for the PSAT/NMSQT in grade 11 and the SAT college entrance assessment.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who have testing accommodations documented in a 504 Plan or an individualized education program (IEP) may be eligible for testing accommodations on the PSAT/NMSQT. However, the College Board must approve a formal request for each student.

- *If the student already has accommodations approved by College Board from a previous PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, SAT, or AP test, there is no need to resubmit requests.* Once instated, accommodations remain in place for all College Board testing. As noted above, some accommodations may change or may not be needed with the new the digital test format for PSAT/NMSQT. Be sure to review your student's approved accommodations and talk to your student to make sure that they understand how they will be testing. See the College Board webpage for information about using accommodations on digital tests (<https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/digital/accommodations-digital-testing/using-accommodations-digital-tests>).
- Enclosures 1-3 and the Accommodations Process for College Board Testing webpage (<https://www.fcps.edu/node/38355>) provide information on the FCPS process to request accommodations for College Board tests. *If requesting new testing accommodations for PSAT/NMSQT, the required input and consent forms are due to the school **by August 8, 2023.***

We are excited to be able to provide this opportunity for tenth and eleventh graders in October. Stay tuned for more information about the PSAT/NMSQT at the beginning of the school year. Information can also be found on the FCPS PSAT Assessments webpage (<https://www.fcps.edu/node/42102>).

Enclosures 1-3: Accommodations Request Process

ENCLOSURE 1: ACCOMMODATIONS PROCESS FOR COLLEGE BOARD TESTING

To Parents and/or Guardians of Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities who have testing accommodations documented in an IEP or 504 Plan may be eligible for accommodations on the **PSAT/NMSQT** or **SAT School Day** assessment. However, not all testing accommodations in an IEP or 504 Plan are permitted by the College Board, and not all students with Standards of Learning (SOL) testing accommodations will require these accommodations on the PSAT/NMSQT or SAT School Day. Information about eligibility for testing accommodations for these assessments is available on the College Board website (<https://accommodations.collegeboard.org/eligibility>).

- For the October 11, 2023 test administration, the SAT School Day test will remain a paper/pencil assessment. However, the PSAT/NMSQT will be delivered digitally. Some accommodations are administered differently for digital tests than they are for paper/pencil tests. A College Board chart explains the method for using accommodations on digital tests (<https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/digital/accommodations-digital-testing/using-accommodations-digital-tests>).
- *If the student already has accommodations approved by College Board SSD (Services for Students with Disabilities) from a previous PSAT 10, PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, or AP test, there is no need to resubmit accommodation requests.* Once approved for accommodations by College Board SSD, accommodations remain in place until one year after high school graduation. **As noted above, some accommodations may change or may not be needed for the digital tests.** Be sure to review your student's approved accommodations and talk to your student to make sure that they understand how they will be testing.
- For a student to receive new or amended accommodations, the College Board must approve a formal request for the student. Each high school has a designated staff member who serves as the SSD coordinator and works with the College Board to make these requests. All accommodations requests are due from the school to the College Board in August. *The school may not make a request without consent from you and your student. Parents/guardians must give their input and consent to the school **by August 8, 2023**, using the forms enclosed here.*

Below you will find information on possible College Board testing accommodations. As you and your student consider which accommodation(s) may be appropriate for the PSAT/NMSQT or SAT School Day, please keep in mind the following:

- the content, format, and purpose of the assessment;
 - SAT (<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/inside-the-test>)
 - PSAT/NMSQT (<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/inside-the-test>)
- implications on overall testing time or setting for some accommodations (see notes on Enclosure 2); and
- duration of the accommodation approval (once approved, College Board accommodations must be used for all future College Board tests, including future PSAT/NMSQT, SAT and AP exams, unless a written refusal is submitted).

If you would like the school to request College Board accommodation(s) for your student, follow these three steps.

1. Complete the **Accommodations Input Form (Enclosure 2)**:
 - Circle the accommodation(s) in the list that you would like the school request from your student's IEP or 504 Plan;
 - Initial and date at the bottom of the form to confirm your input;
2. Complete the **Accommodations Request Consent Form (Enclosure 3)**:
 - Write in your student's name, school, and date of birth;
 - With your student, sign and date to verify your consent for release of records to the College Board;
3. Return copies of both forms to the high school by **August 8, 2023**.

After receiving your forms, school staff will review your student's IEP or 504 Plan and academic records to verify the testing accommodation(s) and collect documentation the College Board requires for each request. School staff will contact you if there are any questions about your selected accommodation(s).

Please contact your student's high school at _____ if you have questions about testing accommodations for the PSAT/NMSQT or SAT School Day or wish to discuss the request process. When returning accommodation input and consent forms (Enclosures 2 and 3), send or deliver to:

ATTN: _____
_____ High School

_____, VA _____

ENCLOSURE 2: ACCOMMODATIONS INPUT FORM FOR COLLEGE BOARD TESTING

The College Board accommodations listed below apply to the PSAT/NMSQT and SAT School Day and are available only to students with disabilities, as documented in an IEP or 504 Plan, or to students with documented medical needs. If you would like the school to request new or amended College Board accommodation(s) for your student:

- **Circle the accommodation(s)** below that you would like requested from your student’s IEP or 504 Plan;
- **Initial and date** at the bottom of this form to confirm your input;
- **Return** this form along with Enclosure 3 to the high school **by August 8, 2023**.

College Board accommodations are different from SOL testing accommodations. Review the notes below to understand implications for testing. The College Board website provides additional explanations of how accommodations are implemented (<https://accommodations.collegeboard.org/typical-accommodations>).

Timing/Scheduling Accommodations	Setting Accommodations
Adjust the scheduling of a test: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Breaks as needed ■ Extra or extended breaks ■ 50 percent extended time ¹ ■ 100 percent extended time ¹ ■ Late start time ■ Limited testing time ² 	Adjust the place in which the testing occurs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Home/hospital testing ■ Preferential seating ■ Wheelchair accessibility ■ One-to-one testing ■ Small group setting
Presentation Accommodations	Response Accommodations
Adjust the presentation of test material and/or test directions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sign language interpreter (directions only) ■ Reader (person) or Screen Reader for Digital Tests (text-to-speech) ³ ■ MP3 (computer audio) ⁴ ■ Braille/Braille graphs and figures ■ Written copy of oral instructions ■ Large print (14 point, 20 point, 24 point) ■ Auditory amplification/FM system ■ Use of colored overlay ■ Assistive technology-compatible ⁵ 	Adjust the manner in which students respond to test items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 4-function calculator (on the Math Test “no calculator” portion) ■ Large-block answer sheet ■ Student marks in test booklet ■ Writer/scribe (person) or Dictation for Digital Tests (speech-to-text) ⁶
Medical Accommodations	
Adjust the restrictions on materials permitted into the secure testing environment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Permission to test blood sugar ■ Permission for food/medication 	

Footnotes:

- ¹ *Extended time: Students must stay the entire amount of time for which they are approved. They cannot leave early, and they cannot move onto the next test section until the allotted time has passed, even if they finish the section early. Students will not be able to participate in the school’s early dismissal on test day.*
- ² *Limited testing time: Testing may need to be administered over two days. If this is the case, students will miss classroom instruction on the day following PSAT/NMSQT or SAT School Day.*
- ³ *Reader (person) - for paper tests only. Testing must be administered one-on-one, reading word-for-word for the whole test or parts of the test. Screen Reader for Digital test (text-to-speech) - for digital tests only.*
- ⁴ *MP3 (computer audio): Testing must be administered over two days with 100 percent extended time, plus additional time for section 2. Students will miss classroom instruction on the day following test day. See also Footnote 1 above, regarding implementation of extended time.*
- ⁵ *Assistive Technology Compatible: Section 2 requires 100 percent extended time. See also Footnote 1 above.*
- ⁶ *Writer/scribe (person) - for paper tests only. Must be administered one-on-one with 50 percent extended time. Students dictate responses to the adult scribe. See also Footnote 1 above, regarding implementation of extended time. Dictation for Digital Tests (speech-to-text) - for digital tests only.*

Parent/Guardian Confirmation of Selected Accommodations:

By initialing, I confirm that I would like the high school to request the College Board accommodations circled above after considering my student’s needs in relation to the information available about the PSAT/NMSQT or SAT School Day assessment.

Parent/Guardian Initials: _____ Date: _____



Services for Students with Disabilities

Consent Form for Accommodations Request

Student Information

Student Name: _____

School: _____

Student Date of Birth: _____

Student and Parent/Guardian Signature

I wish to apply for testing accommodation(s) on College Board tests (SAT, SAT Subject Tests, PSAT 10, PSAT/NMSQT, and/or Advanced Placement Exams) due to disability. I authorize my school to: release to the College Board copies of my records that document the existence of my disability and need for testing accommodations; to release any other information in the school's custody that the College Board requests for the purpose of determining my eligibility for testing accommodations on College Board tests; and to discuss my disability and accommodation needs with the College Board. I also grant the College Board permission to receive and review my records, and to discuss my disability and needs with school personnel and other professionals.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

(Parent/guardian signature is required if Student is under 18.)

Instructions to the School

This form should be used when a request for accommodation(s) is submitted electronically (via SSD Online). The form should be maintained by the school with the student's records. It does not need to be sent to the College Board. You will be asked to verify that a signed Consent Form is on file at the school prior to submitting a request for accommodations.