

SITE OPERATIONS CIRCULAR NO. 1002

Office of Secondary Schools

SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: July 28, 2015

To: All High School Principals

Subject: 2015 PSAT AND PSAT/NMSQT

**Department and/or
Persons Concerned:** All sites that enroll students in Grade 10

(Due Date only if required)

Reference: College Board PSAT Website
(<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10>)

Action Requested: Review information, including deadline dates, regarding administration of PSAT and PSAT/NMSQT for Academic Year 2015-16

Brief Explanation:

All district students in grade 10 are expected to take the PSAT. Sites may also elect to permit students in grade 11 to take the PSAT/NMSQT

In October 2015, the College Board will administer the new PSAT/NMSQT. These new tests are tightly aligned with the new SAT. The tests will give students access to free personalized SAT study. With students' explicit permission, Kahn Academy will use their PSAT/NMSQT results to develop individualized study plans.

The district will provide funding for the PSAT for students in grade 10. The district will not cover the cost for these tests for students in other grades. Fee waivers are available for eligible students in grade 11.

Content Changes in new PSAT/NMSQT

- Vocabulary questions will require students to determine the meaning of words by analyzing the context of words and phrases, rather than have memorized obscure words.
- Reading questions will test students on analysis in history/social studies and analysis in science. In many cases, students will need to make use of the ways of thinking important to a particular field to analyze passages and graphics. Science passages may be paired with questions focused on hypotheses, experimentation, and data. Literature passages may be paired with questions focused on theme, mood, and characterization.
- Students will be asked to determine what evidence best supports the answer to a previous question and analyze the ways authors use evidence to support their claims. They will need to relate information presented in graphics with information conveyed by texts.

- Math assessments will focus in depth on
 - problem solving and data analysis
 - mastery of linear equations
 - more complex equations involving geometric and trigonometric skills

Implementation

1. All district students in grade 10 are expected to take the PSAT on October 14, 2015.
2. Sites must order their school's tests online at <http://www.collegeboard.com/school/>.
3. Important PSAT Deadlines:
 - a. **August 25, 2015:** Deadline to complete SSD testing accommodations requests.
 - b. **August 28, 2015:** Deadline to reduce PSAT/NMSQT test book orders.
 - c. **September 25, 2015:** Deadline to increase PSAT/NMSQT text book orders (9 p.m. ET); and Deadline to order non-standard test formats.
 - d. **October 15, 2015:** Deadline to return answer sheets from the October 14 administration
 - e. **November 13, 2015:** Deadline to send completed fee-waiver rosters.
4. Tests cost \$15.00 each. Sites can request fee waivers for eligible 11th grade students. Each site must cover the cost of PSAT/NMSQT tests for its students in grades 9 and 11.
5. Information regarding fee waiver requests is posted online at <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/for-educators/requesting-fee-waivers>.
6. Students with disabilities who want to test with accommodations must request them from the College Board at least seven days before the test date.

For additional information, contact Mike Harris, rharris@sandi.net, telephone 619-725-7308.

APPROVED:



Cheryl Hibbeln
Executive Director, Office of Secondary Schools