

DROP-IN ARTICLE

Colorado 10th graders to take PSAT

Superintendents or Principals to Parents and Teachers

*Use this entire article or just portion of it to communicate with parents about the PSAT.*

Our 10th graders not only will be taking a test that will help determine how they are progressing academically, but they will be able to take advantage of a suite of opportunities provided by the testing company that could help them improve for next year’s college entrance exam.

This is the first time Colorado sophomores will be taking the PSAT, a test administered by the College Board. The PSAT replaces the 10th grade PARCC exams in English language arts and math that were part of the Colorado Measures of Academic Success assessment system. The PSAT is still aligned with Colorado’s standards, and the results can help identify students who need help.

But the distinct advantage of the PSAT is in its programs to help students prepare for the following year’s SAT college entrance exam that all 11th graders will be taking in 2017. Interested students taking the PSAT can receive a free, personalized SAT study plan tailored to the student’s strengths and weaknesses and using official test materials and support from the Khan Academy.

The free resources include interactive questions, video lessons and reference articles; thousands of practice questions; official full-length SAT and PSAT practice tests; and a mobile app for daily practice. Students can opt in to a service that will provide them free information about admission and financial aid from colleges, universities and scholarship programs.

The PSAT is not an exact duplicate of the SAT, but it can provide a good introduction to the SAT that the students will take the next year. The questions and test format are similar. It is comprised of three tests: Reading, Writing and Language and Mathematics. But it is shorter than the three-hour SAT by 15 minutes.

State officials chose the PSAT as a way to reduce the test burden and find a more meaningful statewide assessment for our 10th graders, who now can also take advantage of some very helpful benefits.