Superintendents or Principals to Parents and Teachers

*Use this entire article or just portion of it to communicate with parents about the PSAT and SAT. Be sure to review and customize the highlighted sections.*

This year, Colorado’s ninth-graders will take the PSAT 8/9 as the statewide assessment for English language arts and math instead of the Colorado Measures of Academic Success tests in those subjects.

The Colorado legislature passed a law in 2017 that amended the high-school testing requirements and replaced the ninth-grade assessments with one aligned to the Colorado Academic Standards as well as to the current 10th-grade assessment, which is the PSAT 10. High school sophomores will continue to take the PSAT 10 this year, and juniors will take the SAT.

April 10, 11, 12 [DISTRICT CHOICE] is the initial test date for the PSAT for ninth- and 10th-graders. The expected test date for the SAT will be April 10.

Taking the PSAT provides our students with several benefits. Through a partnership between the College Board, which owns the PSAT and SAT assessments, and the Khan Academy, students can choose to receive free, personalized SAT study plans tailored to the strengths and weaknesses that were identified from their PSAT results. The free materials from the Khan Academy include interactive questions, guided essay practice, video lessons and reference articles; thousands of practice questions; official full-length SAT and PSAT practice tests; and a mobile app for daily practice.

After taking the PSAT, students also 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 their junior year. The questions and test format are similar. In addition to their overall scores, students taking the SAT and PSAT will receive two section scores: evidence-based reading and writing and mathematics.