

# Rhode Island PSAT/NMSQT<sup>®</sup> and SAT<sup>®</sup> School Day FAQs

On Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Governor Raimondo signed into the law the 2017 state budget bill that allows Rhode Island public school *sophomores* to take the PSAT/NMSQT and Rhode Island public school *juniors* to take the SAT for free and during the school day. Over the next few months, RIDE will be providing more detailed information on the PSAT/NMSQT and SAT administration in the 2016-2017 school year. In the interim, key information and next steps for districts and schools to consider if they would like to participate in this opportunity can be found below:

## 1. WHAT IS THE PSAT/NMSQT?

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) is a standardized test administered by the College Board and cosponsored by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) in the United States. Approximately 3.5 million students take the PSAT/NMSQT each year. The scores from the PSAT/NMSQT can be used to determine eligibility and qualification for the National Merit Scholarship Program.

## 2. WHAT IS THE SAT SCHOOL DAY?

By offering the SAT to juniors in their own high school during a regular school day, more Rhode Island public school students can participate in College Board programs that support college access. Additional benefits of administering the SAT during the school day include:

- ✓ Weekday testing will not interfere with weekend work or family obligations.
- ✓ Students will not have to worry about arranging transportation or trying to locate the testing site because they will test in their own schools.
- ✓ Test-day stress will be lower because students are in a familiar location with familiar staff.

## 3. HOW DO SCHOOLS ORDER TESTS?

**PSAT/NMSQT:** Schools order tests online at <http://collegeboard.org/school>. [Click here](#) for additional information on ordering.

**SAT:** Ordering information will be available later this fall.

#### 4. WHAT ARE THE DEADLINES FOR ORDERING?

***PSAT/NMSQT:***

- **September 2<sup>nd</sup>** is the deadline for schools to **reduce** test-book orders.
- **September 23<sup>rd</sup>** is the deadline for schools to **increase** test-book orders.

**SAT:** A timeline of key dates and milestones, in addition to professional development, will be available by the end of this summer.

#### 5. WHAT ARE THE TESTING DATES FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR?

***PSAT/NMSQT:*** **October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016** (*alternate test date is November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016*).

***SAT:*** **April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017** (*alternate test date has not been set yet*)

*NOTE: The new RI law only allows for students to test for free during the specified school testing day for each test.*

#### 6. HOW WILL BILLING BE HANDLED?

The Rhode Island Department of Education will be billed directly by The College Board for any RI public school *sophomores* who take the PSAT/NMSQT and any RI public school *juniors* who take the SAT during the specified school testing day.

#### 7. WHAT IF OUR SCHOOLS ADMINISTERS OTHER PSAT/NMSQT RELATED ASSESSMENTS?

RIDE will only pay for the PSAT/NMSQT administered on the specified dates above. For districts/schools that opt to administer the PSAT/NMSQT™ 8/9, PSAT/NMSQT™ 10 or that opt to administer the PSAT/NMSQT to students not covered by the state contract, a flat **10% discount** will be reflected on the remittance form completed by the school (so that the bill can subsequently be paid for by the district/school) after testing is complete.

For more information about the PSAT/NMSQT or the SAT, please visit <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/>. If you have any additional questions, please send them to [kevon.tucker-seeley@ride.ri.gov](mailto:kevon.tucker-seeley@ride.ri.gov).