

# About the PSAT 8/9: Quick Facts

## General Structure

**Mode:** Paper & Pencil.

**Test time:** Approximately 2 hours and 25 minutes.

**Breaks:** Two 5-minute breaks. No lunch break.

**Pre-administration activities:** 30-35 minutes. Can be completed on a different day before testing occurs.

**Administration:** One sitting. Completed before the end of the school day (standard administration). All students, including those who are testing with accommodations, will use the standard test book unless approved for another format.

**Tests:** Three tests, four parts. Same order in every test book.

Reading

Writing and Language

Math (no calculator)

Math (calculator)

**Scoring:** No penalty for guessing or blank responses. Students earn points for questions answered correctly.

# About the PSAT 8/9: Quick Facts

## Reading Test

- 42 passage-based questions; 55 minutes
- 4 single passages and 1 pair of passages

### Quick Facts

- All questions are multiple choice and based on passages.
- Some passages are paired with other passages or informational graphics such as charts, graphs, and tables.
- No mathematical computation is required.
- Prior topic-specific knowledge is never tested.

## Reading Test

### What to Expect

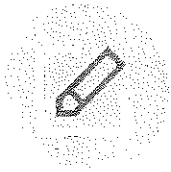
The Reading Test always includes:

- One passage from a classic or contemporary work of U.S. or world literature
- One passage or a pair of passages from either a U.S. founding document or a text in the great global conversation they inspired. The U.S. Constitution or a speech by Nelson Mandela, for example
- A selection about economics, psychology, sociology, or some other social science.
- Two science passages (or one passage and one passage pair) that examine foundational concepts and developments in Earth science, biology, chemistry, or physics

## About the PSAT 8/9: Quick Facts

### Writing and Language Test

- 40 passage-based questions; 30 minutes
- 4 passages



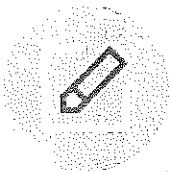
#### Quick Facts

- All questions are multiple choice and based on passages.
- Some passages are paired with informational graphics such as charts, graphs, and tables.
- No mathematical computation is required.
- Prior topic-specific knowledge is never tested.
- The Writing and Language Test is part of the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section.

### Writing and Language Test

#### What to Expect

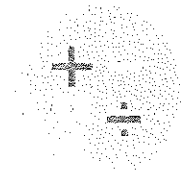
The Writing and Language Test puts students in the active role of an editor who is improving a written passage. Most questions ask students to decide which, if any, of the three alternatives to an underlined part of a passage most improves it.



## About the PSAT 8/9: Quick Facts

### Math Test

- 2 test sections; 60 minutes
- 38 questions  
(31 multiple choice, 7 grid-ins)



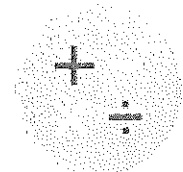
#### Quick Facts

- Most math questions will be multiple choice, but some will be student-produced responses (grid-ins).
- The Math Test is divided into two portions: Math Test – Calculator and Math Test – No Calculator.
- Some parts of the test will present a scenario and then ask several questions about it.

### Math Test

#### What to Expect

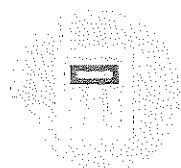
The Math Test focuses on the math that matters most for college and career readiness. To succeed on the Math Test, students will need to demonstrate mathematical practices, such as problem solving and using appropriate tools strategically.



# About the PSAT 8/9: Quick Facts

## Math Section

Math Test – Calculator



### Students: Know Your Calculator

- A scientific or graphing calculator is recommended.
- Students should bring a familiar calculator. Test day is not the time to figure out how to use a new calculator.

## Math Section

Math Test – Calculator



### Additional Calculator Tips for Students

- Don't try to use the calculator on every question—no question requires one.
- Decide how to solve each problem; then decide whether to use a calculator.
- Make sure your calculator is in good working order and that batteries are fresh.
- Students will not be permitted to use laptops or other computers, tablets, cell phones, or smartphones, etc. Please reference the student guide for a complete list.

# Create Your CollegeBoard Account

1 collegeboard.org

2

Don't have an account? [Sign Up](#)

3

To get started please tell us a little more about yourself,  
I am a **Student** Or an Education Professional

4

Fill in the fields to create your student account.

\*\*When filling in email, use the same email address you filled in on the PSAT 8/9 bubble sheet.  
(You can skip the parent information and come back to that later)

#### General Student Information

First (given) name: \*

Middle initial:

Last name (surname): \*

5

Agree to Terms and hit NEXT



I agree with the Terms & Conditions.

\*  
The College Board is dedicated to protecting your privacy and has obtained this information from you with care and respect. By submitting this information, you agree to the Terms and Conditions and Privacy Policy governing the College Board

Next

6

Confirm your information and now you are all set up!

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2

### Link Your Accounts

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## **Michigan Spring 2019 PSAT 8/9 for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Administration Frequently Asked Questions (As of May 22, 2018)**

### General Questions

#### **Is the PSAT 8/9 replacing the M-STEP?**

The PSAT 8/9 will be administered to 8th graders in place of the M-STEP English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics assessments. Eighth graders will continue to take the M-STEP science and social studies as digital assessments.

#### **What grades will be administered the PSAT 8/9 in Michigan in April 2019?**

8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders

#### **Is the PSAT 8/9 going to be administered digitally or on paper/pencil?**

The PSAT 8/9 is a paper/pencil assessment in April 2019.

#### **Will the PSAT 8/9 be a different test for 8<sup>th</sup> graders and 9<sup>th</sup> graders in 2019?**

No. The 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders will take the same test in April 2019.

#### **How long is the PSAT 8/9?**

Standard timing is 2 hours and 25 minutes of total testing time, not including breaks. We suggest planning for approximately 3 hours to account for administrative activities, such as passing out test books, breaks, etc.

#### **For M-STEP, my students can take as long as they want to test. Is this the same for PSAT 8/9?**

No. The PSAT 8/9 is a standardized, timed assessment and students must be administered the test according to the timing and scripts in the testing manuals.

#### **Do I need to order PSAT 8/9 materials in the Test Ordering System for spring 2019?**

No. Students will be pre-ID'd in the Secure Site. Test materials and pre-ID labels will be sent based on the number of students pre-ID'd in the Secure Site by the deadline.

#### **How is the administration of the PSAT 8/9 different than M-STEP?**

- College Board assessments are timed and do not allow self-pacing. Students must use the entire time allotted for each test. If approved for extended time, students must use the entire time for which they are approved.
- Students will take a paper/pencil administration, there is no option for digital.
- The standardized nature of the SAT Suite of Assessments requires an advance accommodation request for the universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations required by students that would have traditionally been used on the M-STEP. Schools must request accommodations through the College Board Online system, known as SSD Online.

#### **How will I get up-to-date information about administering the PSAT 8/9?**

Make sure to sign up for the Spotlight Newsletter provided by MDE every Thursday during the school year for important information from the College Board on all assessments provided by



the Michigan Department of Education. To sign up, go to [www.michigan.gov/oeaa](http://www.michigan.gov/oeaa) and click on Spotlight newsletter.

### **What are the parts of the PSAT 8/9?**

Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Section: Includes a Reading Test and a Writing and Language Test. Each test is composed of multi-paragraph passages and multiple-choice questions. Students are allotted 55 minutes for Reading and 30 minutes for Writing and Language.

The Math Section: Includes multiple-choice and student-produced response questions. Divided into two portions: one that permits calculator use, and one that does not. Students are allotted 20 minutes for Math Test – No Calculator and 40 minutes for Math Test – Calculator.

There is no Essay on the PSAT 8/9 or PSAT 10.

### **What does the SAT Suite of Assessments refer to?**

The SAT Suite of Assessments refers to the SAT with Essay, PSAT 10, PSAT 8/9 for 9<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The PSAT/NMSQT is also a part of the SAT Suite of Assessments; however, this assessment is not provided by the Michigan Department of Education. Schools can elect to administer this assessment at their own cost to 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> graders in the fall (11<sup>th</sup> graders use it for qualification into the National Merit Scholarship competition).

## **Scores and Reporting**

### **How do PSAT 8/9 scores connect to the PSAT 10, and the SAT?**

All tests in the SAT Suite of Assessments (SAT, PSAT 10, PSAT 8/9) are aligned to the same research backbone and focus on the same domain of knowledge and skills. They are on a common score scale which means that the score students get on the PSAT 8/9 is the same score they would have gotten on the PSAT10, or SAT if they'd taken it on the same day. The common score scale also provides consistent feedback, enabling teachers to adjust instruction to better support students who are ahead or behind.

### **How is the PSAT 8/9 aligned to Michigan State Standards?**

The PSAT 8/9 is aligned to a range of math and ELA content standards, selected by the College Board, including standards from grades above and below grade 8 in Michigan. The PSAT 8/9 differs from other 3-8 summative assessments, for math and ELA, where the content alignment is solely based on the grade level assessed. MDE recommends educators continue to focus on teaching the 8<sup>th</sup> grade standards to 8<sup>th</sup> graders which should lead to success on the PSAT 8/9 in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **How will students get their scores? Will students get paper score reports?**

Students over the age of 13 can sign up for an online student account ([www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)) where scores will be delivered electronically. Additionally, a paper score report will be mailed to schools in June. This can also be printed from the College Board score reporting portal. Scores for the April 2019 will likely be available to students in mid-to-late May 2019.