

Denver Public Schools Families and Community members,

As our high school students are in the thick of preparing for college, their careers, and life, we are sharing information about PSAT and SAT testing and preparation opportunities. The PSAT and SAT are preparatory tests required by Colorado Department of Education to assess all Colorado high school students in reading, writing, language, and math.

All DPS high schools require students to take the PSAT/NMSQT in the fall of their junior year (11th grade). Additionally, DPS schools require the PSAT 8/9 for all ninth-graders each fall. In the spring, all ninth- and 10th-graders take the PSAT, and all 11th-graders take the SAT.

The PSAT is important because students can use their scores to identify areas requiring attention and practice before taking the SAT. Maximizing PSAT scores can also lead to significant benefits for students such as qualifying for the National Merit Scholarship. Once students complete the SAT in their junior year, their scores are sent to the colleges they apply to. [Click here](#) to learn more about PSAT and SAT scores.

We know that the PSAT and SAT can present stressors for students to perform well. To help prepare, DPS and the State of Colorado offer several free, high-quality preparation materials and practice tools so students become more confident in taking the tests and are better positioned to reach desired scores.

This year, DPS has partnered with Tutored by Teachers to offer [free SAT prep](#) to DPS 11th-graders at district-run schools. [Registration is open now for sessions happening Jan. 29-March 23 and Feb. 5-April 5](#). The College Board states that as little as twenty hours of practice can raise scores by an average of 115 points from the PSAT to the SAT. Please encourage your student to take this opportunity to get free preparation and encourage them to also work with the school to identify other supports and opportunities.

If you or your child wish to opt out of this assessment, an identified process must be completed to exempt your child fully without penalizing the school. Please connect with Ms. Abdolhosseinzadeh to determine if opting out is right for your student and fully understand the documentation needed to comply with exemption requirements.

Thank you for helping us set our students up for success in their college and career paths after high school.

Sincerely,

*Arnetta Koger
Principal
Montbello Career and Technical HS*

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