



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY

**NEWS RELEASE**

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## DoDEA Tenth Graders to Take PSAT in October

ARLINGTON, VA — On Tuesday, October 16, 2001, all sophomores eligible to take standardized tests in Department of Defense Schools will take the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) Test. The test will be given during the regular school day and will be funded by the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA). This is the first time that all members of a high school class will be scheduled to take a national test of this type. It is also the first time DoDEA will pay all costs associated with such testing.

The PSAT is often referred to as the PSAT/NMSQT or National Merit Scholarship Qualifying test because those eleventh grade students scoring exceptionally well on the assessment may qualify for one of the prestigious National Merit Scholarships. Reviewing their results on the test taken in the tenth grade will permit students, in consultation with parents, teachers and counselors, to decide whether they wish to retake the test as a scholarship qualifying examination in the eleventh grade. The PSAT is often a student's first formal introduction to thinking about life beyond high school and the preparation necessary for admission to post-secondary programs. While juniors are the usual test-takers, DoDEA decided that sophomore year represented a critical level at which to provide this introduction and gather the feedback this assessment produces. Analyses of the test results will assist DoDEA in assessing the success of its instructional programs and will facilitate the achievement of its goal to strengthen the link between testing.

*More...*

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Conducting the test at the tenth grade will also provide the time to make any curricular or programmatic adjustments suggested by the results in time to benefit the participating students.

In December 2001, tenth grade students will bring home much more than the usual test score report. Every student who takes the PSAT/NMSQT will receive the totally redesigned *Score Report Plus*, which will include not only scores and itemized feedback on test questions, but also an *Improve Your Skills* section. For each section of the test—verbal, math, and writing—students will receive personalized feedback based on their performance on the PSAT/NMSQT, as well as suggestions for improvement.

Parents should encourage their sophomore students to take full advantage of this opportunity that can offer real help in leading to a rewarding future.

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