

Alignments of PSAT/NMSQT Skill Categories and State Standards

PSAT/NMSQT Skill Category and Description of Skills	Kentucky ELA: Program of Studies 2006		
	Course/ Level	Standard	Standard ID
<b>Author's Craft</b> Understand how authors use tone, style and writing devices such as metaphor or symbolism.	Grades: 9-10	EL-9-DCS-S-6 analyze the effectiveness of literary devices or figurative language in evoking what the author intended (e.g., picturing a setting, predicting a consequence, establishing a mood or feeling)	EL-9-DCS-S-6
	Grades: 9-10	EL-9-DCS-S-7 make comparisons and synthesize information within and across texts (e.g., comparing themes, ideas, concept development, literary elements, events, genres)	EL-9-DCS-S-7
	Grades: 9-10	EL-9-IT-S-3 use text references to explain author's purpose, author's message or theme, or supporting evidence	EL-9-IT-S-3
	Grades: 9-10	EL-9-IT-S-6 demonstrate understanding of informational passages/texts: d) use text references to support conclusions about what is read; for example, an author's opinion about a subject	EL-9-IT-S-6.d
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-DCS-S-6 analyze the effectiveness of literary devices or figurative language in evoking what the author intended (e.g., picturing a setting, predicting a consequence, establishing a mood or feeling)	EL-11-DCS-S-6
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-DCS-S-7 make comparisons and synthesize information within and across texts (e.g., comparing themes, ideas, concept development, literary elements, events, genres)	EL-11-DCS-S-7
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-IT-S-3 use text references to explain author's purpose, author's message or theme (including universal themes), arguments and supporting evidence	EL-11-IT-S-3
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-IT-S-6 demonstrate understanding of informational passages/texts: d) use text references to support conclusions about what is read; for example, author's opinion about a subject	EL-11-IT-S-6.d
<b>Determining the Meaning of Words</b> Use vocabulary skills, context, roots, prefixes and suffixes to determine the meaning of words.	Grades: 9-10	EL-9-FF-S-4 use a variety of reading strategies to understand vocabulary and texts: c) apply knowledge of synonyms, antonyms, word parts (e.g., roots, affixes, cognates), and nuances of meaning to assist comprehension	EL-9-FF-S-4.c
	Grades: 9-10	EL-9-FF-S-4 use a variety of reading strategies to understand vocabulary and texts: d) interpret the meaning of jargon, dialect or specialized vocabulary in context	EL-9-FF-S-4.d
	Grades: 9-10	EL-9-FF-S-4 use a variety of reading strategies to understand vocabulary and texts: e) interpret and explain literal and non-literal meanings of words or phrases, analogies, idioms and literary allusions based on context	EL-9-FF-S-4.e

Alignments of PSAT/NMSQT Skill Categories and State Standards

PSAT/NMSQT Skill Category and Description of Skills	Kentucky ELA: Program of Studies 2006		
	Course/ Level	Standard	Standard ID
<p><b>Determining the Meaning of Words</b></p> <p>Use vocabulary skills, context, roots, prefixes and suffixes to determine the meaning of words.</p>	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-FF-S-3 use a variety of reading strategies to understand vocabulary and texts: c) apply knowledge of synonyms, antonyms, word parts (e.g., roots, affixes, cognates) and nuances of meaning to assist comprehension	EL-11-FF-S-3.c
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-FF-S-3 use a variety of reading strategies to understand vocabulary and texts: d) interpret the meaning of jargon, dialect, or specialized vocabulary in context	EL-11-FF-S-3.d
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-FF-S-3 use a variety of reading strategies to understand vocabulary and texts: e) interpret and explain literal and non-literal meanings of words or phrases, analogies, idioms, and literary and classical allusions based on context	EL-11-FF-S-3.e
<p><b>Manage Grammatical Structures Used to Modify or Compare</b></p> <p>Understand correct use of adjectives and adverbs, comparative structures (such as <i>neither</i> and <i>nor</i>) and phrases used to modify or compare.</p>	Grades: 9-10	EL-10-WP-S-5 edit for appropriate language usage, sentence structure, spelling, capitalization, punctuation and proper documentation of sources	EL-10-WP-S-5
	Grades: 9-10	EL-10-WV-S-3 apply correct grammar skills (e.g., complete sentences, various sentence structures, subject/verb agreement, pronoun/antecedent agreement); mechanics (e.g., use of commas, semicolons); and usage (e.g., farther/further, fewer/less, amount/number)	EL-10-WV-S-3
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-WP-S-5 edit for appropriate language usage, sentence structure, spelling, capitalization, punctuation and proper documentation of sources	EL-11-WP-S-5
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-WV-S-3 apply correct grammar skills (e.g., complete sentences, various sentence structures, subject/verb agreement, pronoun/antecedent agreement, phrases, clauses); mechanics (e.g., use of commas, semicolons, colons); and usage (e.g., avoiding misplaced modifiers and shifts in tense, number, and person)	EL-11-WV-S-3
<p><b>Manage Order and Relationships of Sentences and Paragraphs</b></p> <p>Identify how to order the elements of a sentence or paragraph to improve clarity, meaning and the progression of ideas.</p>	Grades: 9-10	EL-10-WP-S-4 revise: d) identify and develop topic sentences, making sure ideas are supported appropriately with relevant details and that sentences are in sequential order; insert new sentences and delete unnecessary ones; develop effective introductions and conclusions; eliminate redundant words; choose the most precise words available	EL-10-WP-S-4.d
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-WP-S-4 revise: d) identify and develop topic sentences, making sure ideas are supported appropriately with relevant details and that sentences are in sequential order; insert new sentences and delete unnecessary ones; develop effective introductions and conclusions; eliminate redundant words; choose the most precise words available	EL-11-WP-S-4.d

Alignments of PSAT/NMSQT Skill Categories and State Standards

PSAT/NMSQT Skill Category and Description of Skills	Kentucky ELA: Program of Studies 2006		
	Course/ Level	Standard	Standard ID
<b>Manage Phrases and Clauses in a Sentence</b> Use well-formed sentence structures (e.g., parallelism, connectives and relative clauses) to indicate relationships between and among sentence elements.	Grades: 9-10	EL-10-WP-S-5 edit for appropriate language usage, sentence structure, spelling, capitalization, punctuation and proper documentation of sources	EL-10-WP-S-5
	Grades: 9-10	EL-10-WV-S-3 apply correct grammar skills (e.g., complete sentences, various sentence structures, subject/verb agreement, pronoun/antecedent agreement); mechanics (e.g., use of commas, semicolons); and usage (e.g., farther/further, fewer/less, amount/number)	EL-10-WV-S-3
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-WP-S-5 edit for appropriate language usage, sentence structure, spelling, capitalization, punctuation and proper documentation of sources	EL-11-WP-S-5
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-WV-S-3 apply correct grammar skills (e.g., complete sentences, various sentence structures, subject/verb agreement, pronoun/antecedent agreement, phrases, clauses); mechanics (e.g., use of commas, semicolons, colons); and usage (e.g., avoiding misplaced modifiers and shifts in tense, number, and person)	EL-11-WV-S-3
<b>Manage Word Choice and Grammatical Relationships Between Words</b> Understand relationships between and among words, including subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference, and verb form and tense.	Grades: 9-10	EL-10-WP-S-5 edit for appropriate language usage, sentence structure, spelling, capitalization, punctuation and proper documentation of sources	EL-10-WP-S-5
	Grades: 9-10	EL-10-WV-S-3 apply correct grammar skills (e.g., complete sentences, various sentence structures, subject/verb agreement, pronoun/antecedent agreement); mechanics (e.g., use of commas, semicolons); and usage (e.g., farther/further, fewer/less, amount/number)	EL-10-WV-S-3
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-WP-S-5 edit for appropriate language usage, sentence structure, spelling, capitalization, punctuation and proper documentation of sources	EL-11-WP-S-5
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-WV-S-3 apply correct grammar skills (e.g., complete sentences, various sentence structures, subject/verb agreement, pronoun/antecedent agreement, phrases, clauses); mechanics (e.g., use of commas, semicolons, colons); and usage (e.g., avoiding mispl	EL-11-WV-S-3
<b>Organization and Ideas</b> Understand the organization of a reading passage and identify the main and supporting ideas.	Grades: 9-10	EL-9-DCS-S-10 identify claims and evidences and evaluate connections among evidences and inferences	EL-9-DCS-S-10
	Grades: 9-10	EL-9-DCS-S-11 evaluate the range and quality of evidence used to support or oppose an argument	EL-9-DCS-S-11
	Grades: 9-10	EL-9-DCS-S-2 identify organizational patterns and describe how understanding the structure helps to understand the text; analyze the organizational pattern used (e.g., description, sequence, cause/effect, compare/contrast, logical/sequential, problem/solution, proposition/support, deductive/inductive) and explain how effective it is in understanding the passage and meeting the author's purpose	EL-9-DCS-S-2

Alignments of PSAT/NMSQT Skill Categories and State Standards

PSAT/NMSQT Skill Category and Description of Skills	Kentucky ELA: Program of Studies 2006		
	Course/ Level	Standard	Standard ID
<p><b>Organization and Ideas</b></p> <p>Understand the organization of a reading passage and identify the main and supporting ideas.</p>	Grades: 9-10	EL-9-DCS-S-7 make comparisons and synthesize information within and across texts (e.g., comparing themes, ideas, concept development, literary elements, events, genres)	EL-9-DCS-S-7
	Grades: 9-10	EL-9-DCS-S-9 evaluate arguments, interpret and analyze information from multiple sources; for example, synthesize arguments or claims to discover the relationship between the parts, understand induction and deduction, determine unstated assumptions	EL-9-DCS-S-9
	Grades: 9-10	EL-9-DIU-S-2 use text structure cues (e.g., chronology, cause/effect, compare/contrast, proposition/support, description, classification, logical/sequential) to aid in comprehension	EL-9-DIU-S-2
	Grades: 9-10	EL-9-DIU-S-5 make text-based inferences; state generalizations; draw conclusions based on what is read	EL-9-DIU-S-5
	Grades: 9-10	EL-9-DIU-S-6 demonstrate understanding of literary elements and literary passages/texts: b) explain the main ideas of a passage and identify the key ideas or information that support them	EL-9-DIU-S-6.b
	Grades: 9-10	EL-9-DIU-S-7 demonstrate understanding of informational passages/texts: a) locate key ideas, information, facts or details	EL-9-DIU-S-7.a
	Grades: 9-10	EL-9-DIU-S-7 demonstrate understanding of informational passages/texts: b) use information from text to state and support central/main idea	EL-9-DIU-S-7.b
	Grades: 9-10	EL-9-IT-S-2 use text structure cues (e.g., chronology, cause/effect, compare/contrast, proposition and support, description, classification, logical/sequential) to aid comprehension	EL-9-IT-S-2
	Grades: 9-10	EL-9-IT-S-5 demonstrate understanding of literary elements and literary passages/texts: a) analyze the use of supporting details as they relate to the author's message	EL-9-IT-S-5.a
	Grades: 9-10	EL-9-IT-S-6 demonstrate understanding of informational passages/texts: c) use evidence from the text to state the central ideas and details that support them; analyze the importance and relevance of details used in a text	EL-9-IT-S-6.c
	Grades: 9-10	EL-9-IT-S-6 demonstrate understanding of informational passages/texts: d) use text references to support conclusions about what is read; for example, an author's opinion about a subject	EL-9-IT-S-6.d

Alignments of PSAT/NMSQT Skill Categories and State Standards

PSAT/NMSQT Skill Category and Description of Skills	Kentucky ELA: Program of Studies 2006		
	Course/ Level	Standard	Standard ID
<b>Organization and Ideas</b> Understand the organization of a reading passage and identify the main and supporting ideas.	Grades: 9-10	EL-9-IT-S-6 demonstrate understanding of informational passages/texts: g) accept or reject an argument based on evidence	EL-9-IT-S-6.g
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-DCS-S-10 evaluate claims and evidences	EL-11-DCS-S-10
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-DCS-S-11 evaluate the range and quality of evidence used to support or oppose an argument	EL-11-DCS-S-11
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-DCS-S-2 analyze the organizational pattern used (e.g., description, sequence, cause/effect, compare/contrast, logical/sequential, problem/solution, proposition/support, deductive/inductive) and explain how effective it is in understanding the passage and meeting the author's purpose	EL-11-DCS-S-2
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-DCS-S-7 make comparisons and synthesize information within and across texts (e.g., comparing themes, ideas, concept development, literary elements, events, genres)	EL-11-DCS-S-7
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-DCS-S-9 evaluate arguments, interpret and analyze information from multiple sources; for example, synthesize arguments or claims to discover the relationship between the parts, understand induction and deduction, determine unstated assumptions	EL-11-DCS-S-9
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-DIU-S-2 use text structure cues (e.g., chronology, cause/effect, compare/contrast, proposition/support, description, classification, logical/sequential, deductive/inductive) to aid in comprehension	EL-11-DIU-S-2
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-DIU-S-5 make text-based inferences; state generalizations; draw conclusions based on what is read	EL-11-DIU-S-5
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-DIU-S-6 demonstrate understanding of literary elements and literary passages/texts: b) explain the main ideas of a passage and identify the key ideas or information that support them	EL-11-DIU-S-6.b
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-DIU-S-7 demonstrate understanding of informational passages/texts: a) locate key ideas, information, facts or details	EL-11-DIU-S-7.a
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-DIU-S-7 demonstrate understanding of informational passages/texts: b) use information from text to state and support central/main idea	EL-11-DIU-S-7.b

Alignments of PSAT/NMSQT Skill Categories and State Standards

PSAT/NMSQT Skill Category and Description of Skills	Kentucky ELA: Program of Studies 2006		
	Course/ Level	Standard	Standard ID
<b>Organization and Ideas</b> Understand the organization of a reading passage and identify the main and supporting ideas.	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-IT-S-2 use text structure cues (e.g., chronology, cause/effect, compare/contrast, proposition and support, description, classification, logical/sequential, deductive/inductive) to aid comprehension	EL-11-IT-S-2
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-IT-S-3 use text references to explain author's purpose, author's message or theme (including universal themes), arguments and supporting evidence	EL-11-IT-S-3
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-IT-S-5 demonstrate understanding of literary elements and literary passages/texts: a) analyze the use of supporting details as they relate to the author's message	EL-11-IT-S-5.a
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-IT-S-6 demonstrate understanding of informational passages/texts: c) use references from the text to state central ideas and details that support them; analyze the importance and relevance of details used in a text	EL-11-IT-S-6.c
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-IT-S-6 demonstrate understanding of informational passages/texts: d) use text references to support conclusions about what is read; for example, author's opinion about a subject	EL-11-IT-S-6.d
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-IT-S-6 demonstrate understanding of informational passages/texts: e) accept or reject arguments using supporting evidence	EL-11-IT-S-6.e
<b>Reasoning and Inferencing</b> Understand assumptions, suggestions and implications in reading passages and draw informed conclusions.	Grades: 9-10	EL-9-DCS-S-7 make comparisons and synthesize information within and across texts (e.g., comparing themes, ideas, concept development, literary elements, events, genres)	EL-9-DCS-S-7
	Grades: 9-10	EL-9-DCS-S-9 evaluate arguments, interpret and analyze information from multiple sources; for example, synthesize arguments or claims to discover the relationship between the parts, understand induction and deduction, determine unstated assumptions	EL-9-DCS-S-9
	Grades: 9-10	EL-9-DIU-S-4 paraphrase and summarize information from texts of various lengths; distinguish between a summary and a critique	EL-9-DIU-S-4
	Grades: 9-10	EL-9-DIU-S-5 make text-based inferences; state generalizations; draw conclusions based on what is read	EL-9-DIU-S-5
	Grades: 9-10	EL-9-DIU-S-7 demonstrate understanding of informational passages/texts: a) locate key ideas, information, facts or details	EL-9-DIU-S-7.a

Alignments of PSAT/NMSQT Skill Categories and State Standards

PSAT/NMSQT Skill Category and Description of Skills	Kentucky ELA: Program of Studies 2006		
	Course/ Level	Standard	Standard ID
<b>Reasoning and Inferencing</b> Understand assumptions, suggestions and implications in reading passages and draw informed conclusions.	Grades: 9-10	EL-9-IT-S-6 demonstrate understanding of informational passages/texts: d) use text references to support conclusions about what is read; for example, an author's opinion about a subject	EL-9-IT-S-6.d
	Grades: 9-10	EL-9-IT-S-6 demonstrate understanding of informational passages/texts: e) understand cause-effect inferences	EL-9-IT-S-6.e
	Grades: 9-10	EL-9-DCS-S-7 make comparisons and synthesize information within and across texts (e.g., comparing themes, ideas, concept development, literary elements, events, genres)	EL-9-DCS-S-7
	Grades: 9-10	EL-9-DCS-S-9 evaluate arguments, interpret and analyze information from multiple sources; for example, synthesize arguments or claims to discover the relationship between the parts, understand induction and deduction, determine unstated assumptions	EL-9-DCS-S-9
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-DCS-S-7 make comparisons and synthesize information within and across texts (e.g., comparing themes, ideas, concept development, literary elements, events, genres)	EL-11-DCS-S-7
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-DCS-S-9 evaluate arguments, interpret and analyze information from multiple sources; for example, synthesize arguments or claims to discover the relationship between the parts, understand induction and deduction, determine unstated assumptions	EL-11-DCS-S-9
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-DIU-S-4 paraphrase and summarize information from texts of various lengths; distinguish between a summary and a critique	EL-11-DIU-S-4
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-DIU-S-5 make text-based inferences; state generalizations; draw conclusions based on what is read	EL-11-DIU-S-5
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-DIU-S-7 demonstrate understanding of informational passages/texts: a) locate key ideas, information, facts or details	EL-11-DIU-S-7.a
Grades: 11-12	EL-11-IT-S-6 demonstrate understanding of informational passages/texts: d) use text references to support conclusions about what is read; for example, author's opinion about a subject	EL-11-IT-S-6.d	

Alignments of PSAT/NMSQT Skill Categories and State Standards

PSAT/NMSQT Skill Category and Description of Skills	Kentucky ELA: Program of Studies 2006		
	Course/ Level	Standard	Standard ID
<b>Understanding Literary Elements</b> Understand literary elements such as plot, setting and characterization.	Grades: 9-10	EL-9-DCS-S-5 interpret the interactions between and among literary elements within and across a variety of texts	EL-9-DCS-S-5
	Grades: 9-10	EL-9-DCS-S-7 make comparisons and synthesize information within and across texts (e.g., comparing themes, ideas, concept development, literary elements, events, genres)	EL-9-DCS-S-7
	Grades: 9-10	EL-9-IT-S-5 demonstrate understanding of literary elements and literary passages/texts: b) analyze the relationship between a character's motivation and behavior, as revealed by the dilemmas	EL-9-IT-S-5.b
	Grades: 9-10	EL-9-IT-S-5 demonstrate understanding of literary elements and literary passages/texts: c) explain or analyze how external or internal conflicts are resolved	EL-9-IT-S-5.c
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-DCS-S-5 analyze the interactions between and among literary elements within and across a variety of texts	EL-11-DCS-S-5
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-DCS-S-7 make comparisons and synthesize information within and across texts (e.g., comparing themes, ideas, concept development, literary elements, events, genres)	EL-11-DCS-S-7
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-IT-S-5 demonstrate understanding of literary elements and literary passages/texts: b) analyze the relationship between a character's motivation and behavior, as revealed by the dilemmas	EL-11-IT-S-5.b
	Grades: 11-12	EL-11-IT-S-5 demonstrate understanding of literary elements and literary passages/texts: c) explain or analyze how external or internal conflicts are resolved	EL-11-IT-S-5.c

# PSAT/NMSQT Skills Insight™ Alignment to State Standards

## Executive Summary, July 2010

### Purpose

PSAT/NMSQT *Skills Insight*™ is a free online tool designed to help students and educators gain a better understanding of how PSAT/NMSQT® scores relate to specific academic skills. It provides a description of the academic skills that are typical of students scoring at each score band, suggestions for improvement, and practice test questions. Learn more by visiting [www.collegeboard.com/psatskills](http://www.collegeboard.com/psatskills).

The information provided by PSAT/NMSQT *Skills Insight* is organized by skill category. There are five skill categories for the critical reading section, nine for the mathematics section (4 content skill categories; 5 process skill categories), and 5 for the writing skills section. This report shows the alignment between state standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics and the content and skills measured by the PSAT/NMSQT.

### Using Alignment Results with PSAT/NMSQT Reports

Schools and districts that administer the PSAT/NMSQT have access to the *Summary of Answers and Skills* (SOAS) report<sup>1</sup>. SOAS reports summarize performance on test sections, skill categories, and individual test questions, and compare local results to the state or nation. Using SOAS and the alignment information provided in this report, schools and districts can develop remediation strategies to help students improve their college readiness skills, future SAT scores, and performance on state assessments.

### Mathematics: Alignment Approach and Findings

- There are nine Skills Categories in Mathematics, representing both content and process skills: *Number and Operations; Algebra and Functions; Geometry and Measurement; Data, Statistics and Probability; Problem Solving; Representation; Reasoning; Connections and Communication*.
- Only standards for grades 9-12 were considered for these alignments. Within grades 9-12, the areas with the greatest concentration of alignments are the Number and Operations, Algebra and Geometry strands of the state standards. In most cases, Precalculus and Trigonometry were excluded from the alignment study.
- The organization and hierarchy of standards varies on a state-by-state basis. During the alignment process, the College Board aligned the PSAT/NMSQT skills to the most specific level of the state's standards.
- States often integrate process and content standards. In such cases, the state standard received an alignment to both a process skill category and a content skill category.
- Generally, there is strong correspondence between the PSAT/NMSQT Skills Categories in Mathematics and state standards. Coverage of the Skills Categories across a state standards document is dependent upon the specific state standards and on the degree of specificity of language employed within the standards.
- The PSAT/NMSQT is administered to students in grades 10 and 11; consequently, the strongest areas of alignment are in the content categories of *Number and Operations, Algebra and Functions* and *Geometry and Measurement* and in the process categories of *Problem Solving, Reasoning* and *Representations*. Considering the design and purpose of the PSAT/NMSQT, extensive alignments in upper levels of high school mathematics standards, including Trigonometry, are not intended or expected.

---

<sup>1</sup> Using the access code printed on the PSAT/NMSQT *Roster of Student Scores and Plans*, SOAS reports can be downloaded from [www.collegeboard.com/reports](http://www.collegeboard.com/reports) beginning in the first week of January.

- The College Board content specialists who conducted the alignments have a deep understanding of the PSAT/NMSQT test specifications. Therefore, although multiple Skills Categories might link to a particular standard, these alignments display only the strongest and most appropriate matches.

## English Language Arts: Alignment Approach and Findings

- Reading and Writing each have five PSAT/NMSQT Skills Categories. In Reading, the categories are *Determining the Meaning of Words*, *Author’s Craft*, *Reasoning and Inferencing*, *Organization and Ideas* and *Understanding Literary Elements*. In Writing, the categories are *Manage Word Choice and Grammatical Relationships Between Words*, *Manage Grammatical Structures Used to Modify or Compare*, *Manage Phrases and Clauses in a Sentence*; *Recognize Correctly Formed Sentences* and *Manage Order and Relationships of Sentences and Paragraphs*.
- The PSAT/NMSQT is administered to students in grades 10 and 11, and the College Board targeted the English Language Arts alignments at these specific grade levels. In states where the standards are organized by grade band (grades 9-10, 11-12) or by one high school band (grades 9-12), the College Board aligned to all high school grade levels.
- Given the purpose and design of the PSAT/NMSQT, the English Language Arts alignment is focused on the areas of reading and writing and does not include state standards in speaking, listening, or media literacy. Additionally, these alignments excluded genre-specific state standards (such as those related to American, British, or World literature), although the essential PSAT/NMSQT skills in Reading can be used to support instruction in literature.
- The organization and hierarchy of standards varies on a state-by-state basis. During the alignment process, the College Board aligned the PSAT/NMSQT skills to the most specific level of the state’s standards. Coverage of the Skills Categories across a state standards document is dependent upon the specific state standards and on the degree of specificity of language employed within the standards.
- In Writing, generally there is strong correspondence between the PSAT/NMSQT Skills Categories and state standards that focus on grammar, usage, language conventions, and the role of editing and revising in writing.
- In Reading, there is strong correspondence between the PSAT/NMSQT Skills Categories and state standards in the essential areas of vocabulary development (determine the meaning of unfamiliar words or of words with multiple meanings by understanding context and by analyzing roots, prefixes, and suffixes) and reading comprehension (determine the main idea and supporting details; understand the organization of passages; analyze the various elements of an author’s craft, including purpose, perspective, word choice, and use of rhetorical and literary devices and understand literary elements such as plot, characterization, and setting).

## Summary

In summary, the PSAT/NMSQT Skills Categories correspond well to state standards. Educators can use these alignments to connect the PSAT/NMSQT to their local curricula and state standards to monitor student learning and to build a coherent instructional plan for their students.