

Alignments of PSAT/NMSQT Skill Categories and State Standards

PSAT/NMSQT	North Carolina Math: Standard Course of Study 2003		
Skill Category and Description of Skills	Course/ Level	Standard	Standard ID
<b>Algebra and Functions</b> Solve problems using algebraic expressions and symbols to represent relationships, patterns and functions of different types.	Algebra 1	1.01 Write equivalent forms of algebraic expressions to solve problems. a. Apply the laws of exponents.	1.01.a
	Algebra 1	1.01 Write equivalent forms of algebraic expressions to solve problems. b. Operate with polynomials.	1.01.b
	Algebra 1	1.01 Write equivalent forms of algebraic expressions to solve problems. c. Factor polynomials.	1.01.c
	Algebra 1	1.02 Use formulas and algebraic expressions, including iterative and recursive forms, to model and solve problems.	1.02
	Algebra 1	1.03 Model and solve problems using direct variation.	1.03
	Algebra 1	4.01 Use linear functions or inequalities to model and solve problems; justify results. a. Solve using tables, graphs, and algebraic properties.	4.01.a
	Algebra 1	4.01 Use linear functions or inequalities to model and solve problems; justify results. b. Interpret constants and coefficients in the context of the problem.	4.01.b
	Algebra 1	4.02 Graph, factor, and evaluate quadratic functions to solve problems.	4.02
	Algebra 1	4.03 Use systems of linear equations or inequalities in two variables to model and solve problems. Solve using tables, graphs, and algebraic properties; justify results.	4.03
	Algebra 1	4.04 Graph and evaluate exponential functions to solve problems.	4.04
	Algebra 2	1.01 Simplify and perform operations with rational exponents and logarithms (common and natural) to solve problems.	1.01

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<b>Algebra and Functions</b> Solve problems using algebraic expressions and symbols to represent relationships, patterns and functions of different types.	Algebra 2	1.03 Operate with algebraic expressions (polynomial, rational, complex fractions) to solve problems.	1.03
	Algebra 2	2.01 Use the composition and inverse of functions to model and solve problems; justify results.	2.01
	Algebra 2	2.02 Use quadratic functions and inequalities to model and solve problems; justify results.  a. Solve using tables, graphs, and algebraic properties.	2.02.a
	Algebra 2	2.02 Use quadratic functions and inequalities to model and solve problems; justify results.  b. Interpret the constants and coefficients in the context of the problem.	2.02.b
	Algebra 2	2.03 Use exponential functions to model and solve problems; justify results.  a. Solve using tables, graphs, and algebraic properties.	2.03.a
	Algebra 2	2.03 Use exponential functions to model and solve problems; justify results.  b. Interpret the constants, coefficients, and bases in the context of the problem.	2.03.b
	Algebra 2	2.04 Create and use best-fit mathematical models of linear, exponential, and quadratic functions to solve problems involving sets of data.  a. Interpret the constants, coefficients, and bases in the context of the data.	2.04.a
	Algebra 2	2.04 Create and use best-fit mathematical models of linear, exponential, and quadratic functions to solve problems involving sets of data.  b. Check the model for goodness-of-fit and use the model, where appropriate, to draw conclusions or make predictions.	2.04.b

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<b>Algebra and Functions</b> Solve problems using algebraic expressions and symbols to represent relationships, patterns and functions of different types.	Algebra 2	2.05 Use rational equations to model and solve problems; justify results. a. Solve using tables, graphs, and algebraic properties.	2.05.a
	Algebra 2	2.05 Use rational equations to model and solve problems; justify results. b. Interpret the constants and coefficients in the context of the problem.	2.05.b
	Algebra 2	2.05 Use rational equations to model and solve problems; justify results. c. Identify the asymptotes and intercepts graphically and algebraically.	2.05.c
	Algebra 2	2.06 Use cubic equations to model and solve problems. a. Solve using tables and graphs.	2.06.a
	Algebra 2	2.06 Use cubic equations to model and solve problems. b. Interpret constants and coefficients in the context of the problem.	2.06.b
	Algebra 2	2.07 Use equations with radical expressions to model and solve problems; justify results. a. Solve using tables, graphs, and algebraic properties.	2.07.a
	Algebra 2	2.07 Use equations with radical expressions to model and solve problems; justify results. b. Interpret the degree, constants, and coefficients in the context of the problem.	2.07.b
	Algebra 2	2.08 Use equations and inequalities with absolute value to model and solve problems; justify results. a. Solve using tables, graphs, and algebraic properties.	2.08.a

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<b>Algebra and Functions</b> Solve problems using algebraic expressions and symbols to represent relationships, patterns and functions of different types.	Algebra 2	2.08 Use equations and inequalities with absolute value to model and solve problems; justify results.  b. Interpret the constants and coefficients in the context of the problem.	2.08.b
	Algebra 2	2.09 Use the equations of parabolas and circles to model and solve problems; justify results.  a. Solve using tables, graphs, and algebraic properties.	2.09.a
	Algebra 2	2.09 Use the equations of parabolas and circles to model and solve problems; justify results.  b. Interpret the constants and coefficients in the context of the problem.	2.09.b
	Algebra 2	2.10 Use systems of two or more equations or inequalities to model and solve problems; justify results. Solve using tables, graphs, matrix operations, and algebraic properties.	2.10
<b>Communication</b> Express mathematical ideas precisely and communicate them coherently and clearly in the language and notation of mathematics.	Advanced Placement Statistics	1.01 Summarize distributions of univariate data by determining and interpreting measures of center, spread, position, boxplots, and effects of changing units on summary measures.	1.01
	Algebra 2	2.05 Use rational equations to model and solve problems; justify results.  c. Identify the asymptotes and intercepts graphically and algebraically.	2.05.c
	Discrete Mathematics	3.01 Use recursion to model and solve problems.  d. Write explicit definitions using iterative processes, including finite differences and arithmetic and geometric formulas.	3.01.d
	Geometry	3.01 Describe the transformation (translation, reflection, rotation, dilation) of polygons in the coordinate plane in simple algebraic terms.	3.01

## Alignments of PSAT/NMSQT Skill Categories and State Standards

PSAT/NMSQT	North Carolina Math: Standard Course of Study 2003		
Skill Category and Description of Skills	Course/ Level	Standard	Standard ID
<b>Data, Statistics, and Probability</b> Analyze data, understand descriptive statistics, make inferences and determine the likelihood that certain events will occur.	Advanced Placement Statistics	1.01 Summarize distributions of univariate data by determining and interpreting measures of center, spread, position, boxplots, and effects of changing units on summary measures	1.01
	Advanced Placement Statistics	1.02 Analyze distribution of continuous univariate data (both normal and non-normal).	1.02
	Advanced Placement Statistics	2.01 Construct and interpret graphical displays of univariate data.	2.01
	Advanced Placement Statistics	2.02 Compare distributions among sets of univariate data.	2.02
	Advanced Placement Statistics	3.01 Analyze categorical data.	3.01
	Advanced Placement Statistics	3.02 Use and compare methods of data collection.	3.02
	Advanced Placement Statistics	3.03 Apply statistical principles and methods in sample surveys; identify difficulties.	3.03
	Advanced Placement Statistics	3.04 Apply principles and methods in designed experiments; identify difficulties.	3.04
	Advanced Placement Statistics	3.05 Apply concepts of probability to solve problems.	3.05
	Algebra 1	3.03 Create linear models for sets of data to solve problems.	3.03.a
		a. Interpret constants and coefficients in the context of the data.	

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<b>Data, Statistics, and Probability</b>  Analyze data, apply statistical methods, make inferences, and determine the likelihood that certain events will occur.	Algebra 1	3.03 Create linear models for sets of data to solve problems.  b. Check the model for goodness-of-fit and use the model, where appropriate, to draw conclusions or make predictions.	3.03.b
	Discrete Mathematics	2.01 Describe data to solve problems.  a. Apply and compare methods of data collection.	2.01.a
	Discrete Mathematics	2.01 Describe data to solve problems.  b. Apply statistical principles and methods in sample surveys.	2.01.b
	Discrete Mathematics	2.01 Describe data to solve problems.  c. Determine measures of central tendency and spread.	2.01.c
	Discrete Mathematics	2.01 Describe data to solve problems.  e. Interpret graphical displays of data.	2.01.e
	Discrete Mathematics	2.01 Describe data to solve problems.  f. Compare distributions of data.	2.01.f
	Discrete Mathematics	2.02 Use theoretical and experimental probability to model and solve problems.  a. Use addition and multiplication principles.	2.02.a
	Discrete Mathematics	2.02 Use theoretical and experimental probability to model and solve problems.  b. Calculate and apply permutations and combinations.	2.02.b

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<b>Data, Statistics, and Probability</b> Analyze data, apply statistical methods, make inferences, and determine the likelihood that certain events will occur.	Discrete Mathematics	2.02 Use theoretical and experimental probability to model and solve problems. c. Create and use simulations for probability models.	2.02.c
	Discrete Mathematics	2.02 Use theoretical and experimental probability to model and solve problems. d. Find expected values and determine fairness.	2.02.d
	Discrete Mathematics	2.02 Use theoretical and experimental probability to model and solve problems. e. Identify and use discrete random variables to solve problems.	2.02.e
	Discrete Mathematics	3.01 Use recursion to model and solve problems. a. Find the sum of a finite sequence.	3.01.a
	Discrete Mathematics	3.01 Use recursion to model and solve problems. b. Find the sum of an infinite sequence.	3.01.b
	Discrete Mathematics	3.01 Use recursion to model and solve problems. d. Write explicit definitions using iterative processes, including finite differences and arithmetic and geometric formulas.	3.01.d
	Discrete Mathematics	3.01 Use recursion to model and solve problems. e. Verify an explicit definition with inductive proof.	3.01.e
<b>Geometry and Measurement</b> Solve problems based on understanding the properties of shapes, such as triangles and circles, and the spatial relationships between angles and lines.	Algebra 1	2.01 Find the lengths and midpoints of segments to solve problems.	2.01
	Algebra 1	2.02 Use the parallelism or perpendicularity of lines and segments to solve problems.	2.02

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<p><b>Geometry and Measurement</b></p> <p>Solve problems based on understanding the properties of shapes, such as triangles and circles, and the spatial relationships between angles and lines.</p>	Geometry	1.02 Use length, area, and volume of geometric figures to solve problems. Include arc length, area of sectors of circles; lateral area, surface area, and volume of three-dimensional figures; and perimeter, area, and volume of composite figures.	1.02
	Geometry	1.03 Use length, area, and volume to model and solve problems involving probability.	1.03
	Geometry	2.01 Use logic and deductive reasoning to draw conclusions and solve problems.	2.01
	Geometry	2.02 Apply properties, definitions, and theorems of angles and lines to solve problems and write proofs.	2.02
	Geometry	2.03 Apply properties, definitions, and theorems of two-dimensional figures to solve problems and write proofs:	2.03.a
		a. Triangles.	
	Geometry	2.03 Apply properties, definitions, and theorems of two-dimensional figures to solve problems and write proofs:	2.03.b
		b. Quadrilaterals.	
	Geometry	2.03 Apply properties, definitions, and theorems of two-dimensional figures to solve problems and write proofs:	2.03.c
		c. Other polygons.	
Geometry	2.03 Apply properties, definitions, and theorems of two-dimensional figures to solve problems and write proofs:	2.03.d	
	d. Circles.		
Geometry	2.04 Develop and apply properties of solids to solve problems.	2.04	
Geometry	3.01 Describe the transformation (translation, reflection, rotation, dilation) of polygons in the coordinate plane in simple algebraic terms.	3.01	

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<p><b>Number and Operations</b></p> <p>Understand types of numbers (integers, fractions, decimals), their properties and the correct order of operations. Perform computations correctly.</p>	Algebra 2	1.05 Model and solve problems using direct, inverse, combined and joint variation.	1.05
<p><b>Problem Solving</b></p> <p>Solve abstract and practical problems, applying and adapting a variety of strategies. Monitor progress and evaluate answers in terms of questions asked.</p>	Advanced Placement Statistics	3.05 Apply concepts of probability to solve problems.	3.05
	Algebra 1	1.01 Write equivalent forms of algebraic expressions to solve problems.  b. Operate with polynomials.	1.01.b
	Algebra 1	1.01 Write equivalent forms of algebraic expressions to solve problems.  c. Factor polynomials.	1.01.c
	Algebra 1	1.02 Use formulas and algebraic expressions, including iterative and recursive forms, to model and solve problems.	1.02
	Algebra 1	1.03 Model and solve problems using direct variation.	1.03
	Algebra 1	2.01 Find the lengths and midpoints of segments to solve problems.	2.01
	Algebra 1	2.02 Use the parallelism or perpendicularity of lines and segments to solve problems.	2.02
	Algebra 1	4.01 Use linear functions or inequalities to model and solve problems; justify results.  a. Solve using tables, graphs, and algebraic properties.	4.01.a
	Algebra 1	4.02 Graph, factor, and evaluate quadratic functions to solve problems.	4.02
	Algebra 1	4.03 Use systems of linear equations or inequalities in two variables to model and solve problems. Solve using tables, graphs, and algebraic properties; justify results.	4.03
	Algebra 1	4.04 Graph and evaluate exponential functions to solve problems.	4.04

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<b>Problem Solving</b> Solve abstract and practical problems, applying and adapting a variety of strategies. Monitor progress and evaluate answers in terms of questions asked.	Algebra 2	1.01 Simplify and perform operations with rational exponents and logarithms (common and natural) to solve problems.	1.01
	Algebra 2	1.03 Operate with algebraic expressions (polynomial, rational, complex fractions) to solve problems.	1.03
	Algebra 2	2.01 Use the composition and inverse of functions to model and solve problems; justify results.	2.01
	Algebra 2	2.02 Use quadratic functions and inequalities to model and solve problems; justify results.  a. Solve using tables, graphs, and algebraic properties.	2.02.a
	Algebra 2	2.03 Use exponential functions to model and solve problems; justify results.  a. Solve using tables, graphs, and algebraic properties.	2.03.a
	Algebra 2	2.05 Use rational equations to model and solve problems; justify results.  a. Solve using tables, graphs, and algebraic properties.	2.05.a
	Algebra 2	2.06 Use cubic equations to model and solve problems.  a. Solve using tables and graphs.	2.06.a
	Algebra 2	2.07 Use equations with radical expressions to model and solve problems; justify results.  a. Solve using tables, graphs, and algebraic properties.	2.07.a
	Algebra 2	2.08 Use equations and inequalities with absolute value to model and solve problems; justify results.  a. Solve using tables, graphs, and algebraic properties.	2.08.a

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<b>Problem Solving</b> Solve abstract and practical problems, applying and adapting a variety of strategies. Monitor progress and evaluate answers in terms of questions asked.	Algebra 2	2.09 Use the equations of parabolas and circles to model and solve problems; justify results. a. Solve using tables, graphs, and algebraic properties.	2.09.a
	Algebra 2	2.10 Use systems of two or more equations or inequalities to model and solve problems; justify results. Solve using tables, graphs, matrix operations, and algebraic properties.	2.10
	Discrete Mathematics	2.01 Describe data to solve problems.	2.01.c
	Discrete Mathematics	c. Determine measures of central tendency and spread.	
	Discrete Mathematics	2.02 Use theoretical and experimental probability to model and solve problems.	2.02.a
	Discrete Mathematics	a. Use addition and multiplication principles.	
	Discrete Mathematics	2.02 Use theoretical and experimental probability to model and solve problems.	2.02.b
	Discrete Mathematics	b. Calculate and apply permutations and combinations.	
Discrete Mathematics	2.02 Use theoretical and experimental probability to model and solve problems.	2.02.d	
Discrete Mathematics	d. Find expected values and determine fairness.		
Discrete Mathematics	2.02 Use theoretical and experimental probability to model and solve problems.	2.02.e	
Discrete Mathematics	e. Identify and use discrete random variables to solve problems.		
Discrete Mathematics	3.01 Use recursion to model and solve problems.	3.01.a	
Discrete Mathematics	a. Find the sum of a finite sequence.		

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<b>Problem Solving</b> Solve abstract and practical problems, applying and adapting a variety of strategies. Monitor progress and evaluate answers in terms of questions asked.	Discrete Mathematics	3.01 Use recursion to model and solve problems.  b. Find the sum of an infinite sequence.	3.01.b
	Geometry	1.02 Use length, area, and volume of geometric figures to solve problems. Include arc length, area of sectors of circles; lateral area, surface area, and volume of three-dimensional figures; and perimeter, area, and volume of composite figures.	1.02
	Geometry	1.03 Use length, area, and volume to model and solve problems involving probability.	1.03
	Geometry	2.01 Use logic and deductive reasoning to draw conclusions and solve problems.	2.01
<b>Reasoning</b> Develop and use mathematical arguments and proofs to explore the truth of conjectures and justify conclusions.	Advanced Placement Statistics	1.02 Analyze distribution of continuous univariate data (both normal and non-normal).	1.02
	Advanced Placement Statistics	2.02 Compare distributions among sets of univariate data.	2.02
	Advanced Placement Statistics	3.01 Analyze categorical data.	3.01
	Advanced Placement Statistics	3.02 Use and compare methods of data collection.	3.02
	Advanced Placement Statistics	3.03 Apply statistical principles and methods in sample surveys; identify difficulties.	3.03
	Advanced Placement Statistics	3.04 Apply principles and methods in designed experiments; identify difficulties.	3.04
	Algebra 1	1.01 Write equivalent forms of algebraic expressions to solve problems.  a. Apply the laws of exponents.	1.01.a

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<b>Reasoning</b> Develop and use mathematical arguments and proofs to explore the truth of conjectures and justify conclusions.	Algebra 1	3.03 Create linear models for sets of data to solve problems. a. Interpret constants and coefficients in the context of the data.	3.03.a
	Algebra 1	3.03 Create linear models for sets of data to solve problems. b. Check the model for goodness-of-fit and use the model, where appropriate, to draw conclusions or make predictions.	3.03.b
	Algebra 1	4.01 Use linear functions or inequalities to model and solve problems; justify results. b. Interpret constants and coefficients in the context of the problem.	4.01.b
	Algebra 2	2.02 Use quadratic functions and inequalities to model and solve problems; justify results. b. Interpret the constants and coefficients in the context of the problem.	2.02.b
	Algebra 2	2.03 Use exponential functions to model and solve problems; justify results. b. Interpret the constants, coefficients, and bases in the context of the problem.	2.03.b
	Algebra 2	2.04 Create and use best-fit mathematical models of linear, exponential, and quadratic functions to solve problems involving sets of data. a. Interpret the constants, coefficients, and bases in the context of the data.	2.04.a
	Algebra 2	2.04 Create and use best-fit mathematical models of linear, exponential, and quadratic functions to solve problems involving sets of data. b. Check the model for goodness-of-fit and use the model, where appropriate, to draw conclusions or make predictions.	2.04.b

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<b>Reasoning</b> Develop and use mathematical arguments and proofs to explore the truth of conjectures and justify conclusions.	Algebra 2	2.05 Use rational equations to model and solve problems; justify results.  b. Interpret the constants and coefficients in the context of the problem.	2.05.b
	Algebra 2	2.06 Use cubic equations to model and solve problems.  b. Interpret constants and coefficients in the context of the problem.	2.06.b
	Algebra 2	2.07 Use equations with radical expressions to model and solve problems; justify results.  b. Interpret the degree, constants, and coefficients in the context of the problem.	2.07.b
	Algebra 2	2.08 Use equations and inequalities with absolute value to model and solve problems; justify results.  b. Interpret the constants and coefficients in the context of the problem.	2.08.b
	Algebra 2	2.09 Use the equations of parabolas and circles to model and solve problems; justify results.  b. Interpret the constants and coefficients in the context of the problem.	2.09.b
	Discrete Mathematics	2.01 Describe data to solve problems.  a. Apply and compare methods of data collection.	2.01.a
	Discrete Mathematics	2.01 Describe data to solve problems.  b. Apply statistical principles and methods in sample surveys.	2.01.b
	Discrete Mathematics	2.01 Describe data to solve problems.  e. Interpret graphical displays of data.	2.01.e

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<b>Reasoning</b> Develop and use mathematical arguments and proofs to explore the truth of conjectures and justify conclusions.	Discrete Mathematics	2.01 Describe data to solve problems.  f. Compare distributions of data.	2.01.f
	Discrete Mathematics	3.01 Use recursion to model and solve problems.  e. Verify an explicit definition with inductive proof.	3.01.e
	Geometry	2.02 Apply properties, definitions, and theorems of angles and lines to solve problems and write proofs.	2.02
<b>Representation</b> Use and translate among representations including verbal, numerical, symbolic and graphical to communicate mathematical ideas and solve problems.	Advanced Placement Statistics	2.01 Construct and interpret graphical displays of univariate data.	2.01
	Discrete Mathematics	2.02 Use theoretical and experimental probability to model and solve problems.  c. Create and use simulations for probability models.	2.02.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.

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<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.