

Alignments of PSAT/NMSQT Skill Categories and State Standards

PSAT/NMSQT	Pennsylvania Math: Assessment Anchors 2005		
Skill Category and Description of Skills	Course/ Level	Standard	Standard ID
Algebra and Functions Solve problems using algebraic expressions and symbols to represent relationships, patterns and functions of different types.	Grade 11	M11.D.1.1.1 Analyze a set of data for the existence of a pattern and represent the pattern algebraically and/or graphically.	M11.D.1.1.1
	Grade 11	M11.D.1.1.2 Determine if a relation is a function given a set of points or a graph.	M11.D.1.1.2
	Grade 11	M11.D.1.1.3 Identify the domain, range or inverse of a relation (may be presented as ordered pairs or a table).	M11.D.1.1.3
	Grade 11	M11.D.2.1.1 Solve compound inequalities and/or graph their solution sets on a number line (may include absolute value inequalities).	M11.D.2.1.1
	Grade 11	M11.D.2.1.2 Identify or graph functions, linear equations or linear inequalities on a coordinate plane.	M11.D.2.1.2
	Grade 11	M11.D.2.1.3 Write, solve and/or apply a linear equation (including problem situations).	M11.D.2.1.3
	Grade 11	M11.D.2.1.4 Write and/or solve systems of equations using graphing, substitution and/or elimination (limit systems to 2 equations).	M11.D.2.1.4
	Grade 11	M11.D.2.1.5 Solve quadratic equations using factoring (integers only - not including completing the square or the Quadratic Formula).	M11.D.2.1.5
	Grade 11	M11.D.2.2.1 Add, subtract and/or multiply polynomial expressions (express answers in simplest form - nothing larger than a binomial multiplied by a trinomial).	M11.D.2.2.1
	Grade 11	M11.D.2.2.2 Factor algebraic expressions, including difference of squares and trinomials (trinomials limited to the form ax^2+bx+c where a is not equal to 0).	M11.D.2.2.2
	Grade 11	M11.D.2.2.3 Simplify algebraic fractions.	M11.D.2.2.3
	Grade 11	M11.D.3.1.1 Identify, describe and/or use constant or varying rates of change.	M11.D.3.1.1
	Grade 11	M11.D.3.1.2 Determine how a change in one variable relates to a change in a second variable (e.g., $y=4/x$, if x doubles, what happens to y ?).	M11.D.3.1.2
	Grade 11	M11.D.3.2.1 Apply the formula for the slope of a line to solve problems (formula given on reference sheet).	M11.D.3.2.1
Grade 11	M11.D.3.2.2 Given the graph of the line, 2 points on the line, or the slope and a point on a line, write or identify the linear equation in point-slope, standard and/or slope-intercept form.	M11.D.3.2.2	

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	Course/ Level	Standard	Standard ID
Algebra and Functions Solve problems using algebraic expressions and symbols to represent relationships, patterns and functions of different types.	Grade 11	M11.D.3.2.3 Compute the slope and/or y-intercept represented by a linear equation or graph.	M11.D.3.2.3
	Grade 11	M11.D.4.1.1 Match the graph of a given function to its table or equation.	M11.D.4.1.1
Communication Express mathematical ideas precisely and communicate them coherently and clearly in the language and notation of mathematics.	Grade 11	M11.B.2.3.1 Describe how a change in the linear dimension of a figure affects its perimeter, circumference, area or volume. How does changing the length of the base of a triangle affect the area of the triangle?	M11.B.2.3.1
	Grade 11	M11.B.2.3.1 Describe how a change in the linear dimension of a figure affects its perimeter, circumference, area or volume. How does changing the length of the edge of a cube affect the volume of the cube?	M11.B.2.3.1
	Grade 11	M11.B.2.3.1 Describe how a change in the linear dimension of a figure affects its perimeter, circumference, area or volume. How does changing the length of the radius of a circle affect the circumference of the circle?	M11.B.2.3.1
	Grade 11	M11.C.1.1.1 Identify and/or use the properties of a radius, diameter and/or tangent of a circle (given numbers should be whole).	M11.C.1.1.1
	Grade 11	M11.C.1.1.2 Identify and/or use the properties of arcs, semicircles, inscribed angles and/or central angles.	M11.C.1.1.2
	Grade 11	M11.C.1.2.1 Identify and/or use properties of triangles (e.g., medians, altitudes, angle bisectors, side/angle relationships, Triangle Inequality Theorem).	M11.C.1.2.1
	Grade 11	M11.C.1.2.2 Identify and/or use properties of quadrilaterals (e.g., parallel sides, diagonals, bisectors, congruent sides/angles and supplementary angles).	M11.C.1.2.2
	Grade 11	M11.C.1.2.3 Identify and/or use properties of isosceles and equilateral triangles.	M11.C.1.2.3
	Grade 11	M11.C.1.3.1 Identify and/or use properties of congruent and similar polygons or solids.	M11.C.1.3.1

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	Course/ Level	Standard	Standard ID
Communication Express mathematical ideas precisely and communicate them coherently and clearly in the language and notation of mathematics.	Grade 11	M11.C.3.1.2 Relate slope to perpendicularity and/or parallelism (limit to linear algebraic expressions; slope formula provided on the reference sheet).	M11.C.3.1.2
	Grade 11	M11.D.1.1.3 Identify the domain, range or inverse of a relation (may be presented as ordered pairs or a table).	M11.D.1.1.3
	Grade 11	M11.D.3.1.1 Identify, describe and/or use constant or varying rates of change.	M11.D.3.1.1
	Grade 11	M11.E.2.1.3 Describe how outliers affect measures of central tendency.	M11.E.2.1.3
Connections Connect ideas from different areas of mathematics (particularly geometry and algebra) to state or solve abstract or applied problems.	Grade 11	M11.D.4.1.1 Match the graph of a given function to its table or equation.	M11.D.4.1.1
Data, Statistics, and Probability Analyze data, understand descriptive statistics, make inferences and determine the likelihood that certain events will occur.	Grade 11	M11.E.1.1.1 Create and/or use appropriate graphical representations of data, including box-and-whisker plots, stem-and-leaf plots or scatter plots.	M11.E.1.1.1
	Grade 11	M11.E.1.1.2 Analyze data and/or answer questions based on displayed data (box-and-whisker plots, stem-and-leaf plots or scatter plots).	M11.E.1.1.2
	Grade 11	M11.E.2.1.1 Calculate or select the appropriate measure of central tendency (mean, mode or median) of a set of data given or represented on a table, line plot or stem-and-leaf plot.	M11.E.2.1.1
	Grade 11	M11.E.2.1.2 Calculate and/or interpret the range, quartiles and interquartile range of data.	M11.E.2.1.2
	Grade 11	M11.E.2.1.3 Describe how outliers affect measures of central tendency.	M11.E.2.1.3
	Grade 11	M11.E.3.1.1 Find probabilities for independent, dependent or compound events and represent as a fraction, decimal or percent.	M11.E.3.1.1
	Grade 11	M11.E.3.1.2 Find, convert and/or compare the probability and/or odds of a simple event.	M11.E.3.1.2
	Grade 11	M11.E.3.2.1 Determine the number of permutations and/or combinations or apply the fundamental counting principle. (Formula provided on the reference sheet).	M11.E.3.2.1
Grade 11	M11.E.4.1.1 Estimate or calculate to make predictions based on a circle, line, bar graph or given situation.	M11.E.4.1.1	

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	Course/ Level	Standard	Standard ID
Data, Statistics, and Probability Analyze data, understand descriptive statistics, make inferences and determine the likelihood that certain events will occur.	Grade 11	M11.E.4.1.2 Use probability to predict outcomes.	M11.E.4.1.2
	Grade 11	M11.E.4.2.1 Draw, find and/or write an equation for a line of best fit for a scatter plot.	M11.E.4.2.1
	Grade 11	M11.E.4.2.2 Make predictions using the equations or graphs of best-fit lines of scatter plots.	M11.E.4.2.2
Geometry and Measurement Solve problems based on understanding the properties of shapes, such as triangles and circles, and the spatial relationships between angles and lines.	Grade 11	M11.B.2.1.1 Measure and/or compare angles in degrees (up to 360°) (protractor must be provided or drawn).	M11.B.2.1.1
	Grade 11	M11.B.2.2.1 Calculate the surface area of prisms, cylinders, cones, pyramids and/or spheres. Formulas are provided on the reference sheet.	M11.B.2.2.1
	Grade 11	M11.B.2.2.2 Calculate the volume of prisms, cylinders, cones, pyramids and/or spheres. Formulas are provided on the reference sheet.	M11.B.2.2.2
	Grade 11	M11.B.2.2.3 Estimate area, perimeter or circumference of an irregular figure.	M11.B.2.2.3
	Grade 11	M11.B.2.2.4 Find the measurement of a missing length given the perimeter, circumference, area or volume.	M11.B.2.2.4
	Grade 11	M11.B.2.3.1 Describe how a change in the linear dimension of a figure affects its perimeter, circumference, area or volume.	M11.B.2.3.1
	Grade 11	How does changing the length of the base of a triangle affect the area of the triangle?	M11.B.2.3.1
	Grade 11	M11.B.2.3.1 Describe how a change in the linear dimension of a figure affects its perimeter, circumference, area or volume.	M11.B.2.3.1
	Grade 11	How does changing the length of the edge of a cube affect the volume of the cube?	M11.B.2.3.1
	Grade 11	M11.B.2.3.1 Describe how a change in the linear dimension of a figure affects its perimeter, circumference, area or volume.	M11.B.2.3.1
Grade 11	How does changing the length of the radius of a circle affect the circumference of the circle?	M11.B.2.3.1	

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	Course/ Level	Standard	Standard ID
Geometry and Measurement Solve problems based on understanding the properties of shapes, such as triangles and circles, and the spatial relationships between angles and lines.	Grade 11	M11.C.1.1.1 Identify and/or use the properties of a radius, diameter and/or tangent of a circle (given numbers should be whole).	M11.C.1.1.1
	Grade 11	M11.C.1.1.2 Identify and/or use the properties of arcs, semicircles, inscribed angles and/or central angles.	M11.C.1.1.2
	Grade 11	M11.C.1.2.1 Identify and/or use properties of triangles (e.g., medians, altitudes, angle bisectors, side/angle relationships, Triangle Inequality Theorem).	M11.C.1.2.1
	Grade 11	M11.C.1.2.2 Identify and/or use properties of quadrilaterals (e.g., parallel sides, diagonals, bisectors, congruent sides/angles and supplementary angles).	M11.C.1.2.2
	Grade 11	M11.C.1.2.3 Identify and/or use properties of isosceles and equilateral triangles.	M11.C.1.2.3
	Grade 11	M11.C.1.3.1 Identify and/or use properties of congruent and similar polygons or solids.	M11.C.1.3.1
	Grade 11	M11.C.1.4.1 Find the measure of a side of a right triangle using the Pythagorean Theorem (Pythagorean Theorem included on the reference sheet).	M11.C.1.4.1
	Grade 11	M11.C.3.1.1 Calculate the distance and/or midpoint between 2 points on a number line or on a coordinate plane (formula provided on the reference sheet).	M11.C.3.1.1
Number and Operations Understand types of numbers (integers, fractions, decimals), their properties and the correct order of operations. Perform computations correctly.	Grade 11	M11.C.3.1.2 Relate slope to perpendicularity and/or parallelism (limit to linear algebraic expressions; slope formula provided on the reference sheet).	M11.C.3.1.2
	Grade 11	M11.A.1.1.1 Find the square root of an integer to the nearest tenth using either a calculator or estimation.	M11.A.1.1.1
	Grade 11	M11.A.1.1.2 Express numbers and/or simplify expressions using scientific notation (including numbers less than 1).	M11.A.1.1.2
	Grade 11	M11.A.1.1.3 Simplify square roots. (e.g., square root of 24 = 2 times the square root of 6).	M11.A.1.1.3
	Grade 11	M11.A.1.2.1 Find the Greatest Common Factor (GCF) and/or the Least Common Multiple (LCM) for sets of monomials.	M11.A.1.2.1
	Grade 11	M11.A.1.3.1 Locate/identify irrational numbers at the approximate location on a number line.	M11.A.1.3.1
Grade 11	M11.A.1.3.2 Compare and/or order any real numbers (rational and irrational may be mixed).	M11.A.1.3.2	

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	Course/ Level	Standard	Standard ID
Number and Operations Understand types of numbers (integers, fractions, decimals), their properties and the correct order of operations. Perform computations correctly.	Grade 11	M11.A.2.1.1 Solve problems using operations with rational numbers including rates and percents (single and multi-step and multiple procedure operations) (e.g., distance, work and mixture problems, etc.).	M11.A.2.1.1
	Grade 11	M11.A.2.1.2 Solve problems using direct and inverse proportions.	M11.A.2.1.2
	Grade 11	M11.A.2.1.3 Identify and/or use proportional relationships in problem solving settings.	M11.A.2.1.3
	Grade 11	M11.A.2.2.1 Simplify/evaluate expressions involving positive and negative exponents, roots and/or absolute value (may contain all types of real numbers - exponents should not exceed power of 10).	M11.A.2.2.1
	Grade 11	M11.A.2.2.2 Simplify/evaluate expressions involving multiplying with exponents (e.g. x to the 6th power * x to the 7th power = x to the 13th power), powers of powers (e.g., (x to the 6th power) to the 7th power=x to the 42nd power) and powers of products $(2x^2)^3=8x$ to the 6th power (positive exponents only).	M11.A.2.2.2
	Grade 11	M11.A.3.1.1 Simplify/evaluate expressions using the order of operations to solve problems (any rational numbers may be used).	M11.A.3.1.1
	Grade 11	M11.A.3.2.1 Use estimation to solve problems.	M11.A.3.2.1
Problem Solving Solve abstract and practical problems, applying and adapting a variety of strategies. Monitor progress and evaluate answers in terms of questions asked.	Grade 11	M11.A.1.1.1 Find the square root of an integer to the nearest tenth using either a calculator or estimation.	M11.A.1.1.1
	Grade 11	M11.A.1.1.3 Simplify square roots. (e.g., square root of 24 = 2 times the square root of 6).	M11.A.1.1.3
	Grade 11	M11.A.1.2.1 Find the Greatest Common Factor (GCF) and/or the Least Common Multiple (LCM) for sets of monomials.	M11.A.1.2.1
	Grade 11	M11.A.2.1.1 Solve problems using operations with rational numbers including rates and percents (single and multi-step and multiple procedure operations) (e.g., distance, work and mixture problems, etc.).	M11.A.2.1.1
	Grade 11	M11.A.2.1.2 Solve problems using direct and inverse proportions.	M11.A.2.1.2
	Grade 11	M11.A.2.2.1 Simplify/evaluate expressions involving positive and negative exponents, roots and/or absolute value (may contain all types of real numbers - exponents should not exceed power of 10).	M11.A.2.2.1

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Problem Solving Solve abstract and practical problems, applying and adapting a variety of strategies. Monitor progress and evaluate answers in terms of questions asked.	Grade 11	M11.A.2.2.2 Simplify/evaluate expressions involving multiplying with exponents (e.g. x to the 6th power * x to the 7th power = x to the 13th power), powers of powers (e.g., $(x$ to the 6th power) to the 7th power= x to the 42nd power) and powers of products $(2x^2)^3=8x$ to the 6th power (positive exponents only).	M11.A.2.2.2
	Grade 11	M11.A.3.1.1 Simplify/evaluate expressions using the order of operations to solve problems (any rational numbers may be used).	M11.A.3.1.1
	Grade 11	M11.A.3.2.1 Use estimation to solve problems.	M11.A.3.2.1
	Grade 11	M11.B.2.2.1 Calculate the surface area of prisms, cylinders, cones, pyramids and/or spheres. Formulas are provided on the reference sheet.	M11.B.2.2.1
	Grade 11	M11.B.2.2.2 Calculate the volume of prisms, cylinders, cones, pyramids and/or spheres. Formulas are provided on the reference sheet.	M11.B.2.2.2
	Grade 11	M11.B.2.2.3 Estimate area, perimeter or circumference of an irregular figure.	M11.B.2.2.3
	Grade 11	M11.B.2.2.4 Find the measurement of a missing length given the perimeter, circumference, area or volume.	M11.B.2.2.4
	Grade 11	M11.C.1.4.1 Find the measure of a side of a right triangle using the Pythagorean Theorem (Pythagorean Theorem included on the reference sheet).	M11.C.1.4.1
	Grade 11	M11.C.3.1.1 Calculate the distance and/or midpoint between 2 points on a number line or on a coordinate plane (formula provided on the reference sheet).	M11.C.3.1.1
	Grade 11	M11.D.2.1.1 Solve compound inequalities and/or graph their solution sets on a number line (may include absolute value inequalities).	M11.D.2.1.1
	Grade 11	M11.D.2.1.3 Write, solve and/or apply a linear equation (including problem situations).	M11.D.2.1.3
	Grade 11	M11.D.2.1.4 Write and/or solve systems of equations using graphing, substitution and/or elimination (limit systems to 2 equations).	M11.D.2.1.4
	Grade 11	M11.D.2.1.5 Solve quadratic equations using factoring (integers only - not including completing the square or the Quadratic Formula).	M11.D.2.1.5
Grade 11	M11.D.2.2.1 Add, subtract and/or multiply polynomial expressions (express answers in simplest form - nothing larger than a binomial multiplied by a trinomial).	M11.D.2.2.1	

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Problem Solving Solve abstract and practical problems, applying and adapting a variety of strategies. Monitor progress and evaluate answers in terms of questions asked.	Grade 11	M11.D.2.2.2 Factor algebraic expressions, including difference of squares and trinomials (trinomials limited to the form ax^2+bx+c where a is not equal to 0).	M11.D.2.2.2
	Grade 11	M11.D.2.2.3 Simplify algebraic fractions.	M11.D.2.2.3
	Grade 11	M11.D.3.1.2 Determine how a change in one variable relates to a change in a second variable (e.g., $y=4/x$, if x doubles, what happens to y ?).	M11.D.3.1.2
	Grade 11	M11.D.3.2.1 Apply the formula for the slope of a line to solve problems (formula given on reference sheet).	M11.D.3.2.1
	Grade 11	M11.D.3.2.3 Compute the slope and/or y-intercept represented by a linear equation or graph.	M11.D.3.2.3
	Grade 11	M11.E.2.1.1 Calculate or select the appropriate measure of central tendency (mean, mode or median) of a set of data given or represented on a table, line plot or stem-and-leaf plot.	M11.E.2.1.1
	Grade 11	M11.E.2.1.2 Calculate and/or interpret the range, quartiles and interquartile range of data.	M11.E.2.1.2
	Grade 11	M11.E.3.1.1 Find probabilities for independent, dependent or compound events and represent as a fraction, decimal or percent.	M11.E.3.1.1
	Grade 11	M11.E.3.1.2 Find, convert and/or compare the probability and/or odds of a simple event.	M11.E.3.1.2
	Grade 11	M11.E.3.2.1 Determine the number of permutations and/or combinations or apply the fundamental counting principle. (Formula provided on the reference sheet).	M11.E.3.2.1
Reasoning Develop and use mathematical arguments and proofs to explore the truth of conjectures and justify conclusions.	Grade 11	M11.A.1.3.2 Compare and/or order any real numbers (rational and irrational may be mixed).	M11.A.1.3.2
	Grade 11	M11.B.2.1.1 Measure and/or compare angles in degrees (up to 360°) (protractor must be provided or drawn).	M11.B.2.1.1
	Grade 11	M11.D.1.1.2 Determine if a relation is a function given a set of points or a graph.	M11.D.1.1.2
	Grade 11	M11.E.1.1.2 Analyze data and/or answer questions based on displayed data (box-and-whisker plots, stem-and-leaf plots or scatter plots).	M11.E.1.1.2
	Grade 11	M11.E.4.1.1 Estimate or calculate to make predictions based on a circle, line, bar graph or given situation.	M11.E.4.1.1

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Reasoning Develop and use mathematical arguments and proofs to explore the truth of conjectures and justify conclusions.	Grade 11	M11.E.4.1.2 Use probability to predict outcomes.	M11.E.4.1.2
	Grade 11	M11.E.4.2.2 Make predictions using the equations or graphs of best-fit lines of scatter plots.	M11.E.4.2.2
Representation Use and translate among representations including verbal, numerical, symbolic and graphical to communicate mathematical ideas and solve problems.	Grade 11	M11.A.1.1.2 Express numbers and/or simplify expressions using scientific notation (including numbers less than 1).	M11.A.1.1.2
	Grade 11	M11.A.1.3.1 Locate/identify irrational numbers at the approximate location on a number line.	M11.A.1.3.1
	Grade 11	M11.A.2.1.3 Identify and/or use proportional relationships in problem solving settings.	M11.A.2.1.3
	Grade 11	M11.D.1.1.1 Analyze a set of data for the existence of a pattern and represent the pattern algebraically and/or graphically.	M11.D.1.1.1
	Grade 11	M11.D.2.1.2 Identify or graph functions, linear equations or linear inequalities on a coordinate plane.	M11.D.2.1.2
	Grade 11	M11.D.3.2.2 Given the graph of the line, 2 points on the line, or the slope and a point on a line, write or identify the linear equation in point-slope, standard and/or slope-intercept form.	M11.D.3.2.2
	Grade 11	M11.E.1.1.1 Create and/or use appropriate graphical representations of data, including box-and-whisker plots, stem-and-leaf plots or scatterplots.	M11.E.1.1.1
Grade 11	M11.E.4.2.1 Draw, find and/or write an equation for a line of best fit for a scatter plot.	M11.E.4.2.1	

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.

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) report¹. 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.

¹ 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 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.