

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY

525 Academy Street
Maplewood, New Jersey 07040

Paul Roth
Chief Information Officer

proth@somsd.k12.nj.us

(973) 762-5600 x1835
fax (973) 378-7649

April 3, 2013

Spring of 2010 the Superintendent's Task Force on Equity and Excellence recommended to the Superintendent to provide all 10th and 11th grade students the opportunity to participate in the PSAT exams. The reasoning was two-fold. First the PSAT was to serve as practice and help prepare all students for the SAT exam and second the PSAT was to be used to identify students that were placed in lower level classes (Level 2 and 3) that had the potential to excel in higher level classes (Level 4, 5, and 6).

October of 2010, 2011 and 2012 all 10th and 11th grade students, except for retained 11th grade students that did not pass the HSPA (HSPA make-ups are held during the same week creating a scheduling conflict), participated in the PSAT. This report details the scoring of the PSAT exam, explains the college readiness indicator, compares the results from the 2010-2011 school year through the 2012-2013 school year, lists students in lower level Language Arts and Math classes that met the benchmarks for college readiness in each department respectively, and lists the students in higher level Language Arts and Math classes that did not meet the benchmarks college readiness.

Scoring of the PSAT exam

Students are tested in 3 areas: Reading, Writing, and Math. A raw score is computed for each student. Students receive one point for each correct answer (regardless of difficulty). For incorrect answers to multiple-choice questions, a quarter (1/4) of a point is deducted. Nothing is deducted for unanswered questions or for incorrect answers to student-produced response (grid-in) questions.

Next, the raw score is converted to a score on the PSAT/NMSQT scale of 20 to 80. This statistical procedure, called equating, adjusts for differences in difficulty between various forms, or editions, of the test. Equating makes it possible to compare the scores of students who have taken different editions of the test; it also makes the scores from last year's test comparable to those from this year's PSAT/NMSQT.

College readiness indicator

The PSAT/NMSQT College Readiness Benchmark is the score on each section that a student should meet or exceed to be considered on track to be college ready. The cut scores are different for each tested area and adjusted based upon the students grade level (juniors have higher cut score requirements than sophomores).

The table below details the cut score requirements for juniors and sophomores for each tested area.

	Critical Reading	Mathematics	Writing	PSAT/NMSQT Composite
11th grade PSAT/NMSQT	50	50	49	152
10th grade PSAT/NMSQT	49	47	48	145

Overall PSAT Results

PSAT 2010-2011 School Year		
Grade	Not College Ready	College Ready
10	64%	36%
11	52%	48%
Total	59%	41%

PSAT 2011-2012 School Year		
Grade	Not College Ready	College Ready
10	63%	37%
11	61%	39%
Total	62%	38%

PSAT 2012-2013 School Year		
Grade	Not College Ready	College Ready
10	45%	55%
11	48%	52%
Total	46%	54%

37% of the grade 10 students in the 2011-2012 school year scored college ready on the PSAT exam. The following year 52% (an increase of 15 percentage points) of the grade 11 students in the 2012-2013 school year scored college ready on the PSAT. 37% of the grade 10 students in the 2011-2012 school year scored college ready as compared to 55% of the grade 10 students in the 2012-2013 school year (an increase of 18 percentage points).

Students in lower level Language Arts and Math classes that met the benchmarks for college readiness

The table below lists the number of Language Arts students that are currently placed in level 2 or 3 language arts classes that met the college readiness cut scores for reading and writing.

	Ethnicity					
Grade	A	B	H	M	W	Total
10		18	3	1	9	31
11	1	3			1	5
Total	1	21	3	1	10	36

The table below lists the number of students that are currently placed in level 2 or 3 math classes and met the college readiness cut score requirements for math.

	Ethnicity				
Grade	B	H	M	W	Total
10	20	1	2	10	33
11	11	1		15	27
Total	31	2	2	25	60

Students in higher level Language Arts and Math classes that did not meet the benchmarks college readiness

The number of students listed in the table below currently participate in level 4 or higher language arts classes but did not meet the college readiness cut score requirements for reading and writing.

	Ethnicity						
Grade	A	B	H	M	P	W	Total
10	3	27	2		1	11	44
11	5	96	4	3		13	121
Total	8	123	6	3	1	24	165

The number of students listed in the table below currently participate in level 4 or higher math classes but did not meet the college readiness cut score requirements for math.

	Ethnicity					
Grade	A	B	H	P	W	Total
10	3	20	1	1	10	35
11	3	36	2		3	44
Total	6	56	3	1	13	79