



# National Merit Scholarship Program

## Information for Families

### National Merit Scholarship Program

Students who take the PSAT/NMSQT® as juniors are automatically entered into the [National Merit Scholarship Program](#). Scholarships available through the National Merit Scholarship Program not only help students and families pay for college and training, but they also distinguish students in the post-high school education admission process.



### Mark Your Calendar

The PSAT/NMSQT® is administered at your child's school in October of their junior year to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program.

### Program Recognition

In September of your child's senior year, students with high scores on the PSAT/NMSQT® from their junior year are notified through their schools that they have qualified as either Commended Students or Semifinalists.

**Commended Students:** More than two-thirds of the high scorers on the PSAT/NMSQT® receive Letters of Commendation in recognition of their outstanding academic promise. Although Commended Students do not continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships, some of these students do become candidates for special scholarships sponsored by corporations and businesses.

**Semifinalists:** Approximately one-third of the high scorers are notified that they have qualified as Semifinalists. To be considered for a National Merit Scholarship, Semifinalists must submit a National Merit Scholarship Application and take the SAT. View the [Requirements and Instructions for Semifinalists in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program](#) for more

Everett Public Schools does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Title IX/Civil Rights Compliance Officer, Kevin Allen, 425-385-4100; Section 504 Coordinator, Dave Peters, 425-385-4063; ADA Coordinator, Randi Seaberg, 425-385-4104.

information about what Semifinalists must do to move on in the National Merit Scholarship Competition.

**Finalists:** In February of senior year, selected Semifinalists are notified that they have advanced to Finalist standing. Principals are also notified and provided with a Certificate of Merit to present to each Finalist.

**Winner Selection:** On a rolling basis, beginning in March and ending in June of senior year, scholars are notified if they have been offered an award.

## Prepare for the PSAT/NMSQT®

Students who prepare using Official SAT Practice see substantial improvement in their PSAT/NMSQT® and SAT scores.

Research suggests three best practices associated with substantial improvements in PSAT/NMSQT® and SAT scores: leveling up student skills, taking a full-length practice test, and following personalized practice recommendations. Students who used Official SAT Practice for six or more hours and followed at least one best practice scored 39 points more from PSAT/NMSQT® to the first SAT than students who did not use Official SAT Practice.

With [Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy](#), your child will:

- get a personalized plan tailored to their strengths and weaknesses based on their previous PSAT/NMSQT® or SAT results or diagnostic tests;
- hone their skills with thousands of practice questions, hints, and video lessons;
- take up to eight official full-length practice tests [online](#) or on [paper](#);
- receive instant feedback and adaptive recommendations for what to practice;
- set a personalized practice schedule to get reminders for when to practice; and
- review [expert tips and strategies](#) for the test.

Check out the [overview of Official SAT Practice video](#) to get a sense of the student experience. The Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy can be linked to your child's College Board account, using your child's login and password from the PSAT administration in sophomore year, for added features.

## Ready to Take the Next Step?

- Tell your principal or high school counselor your child is ready to take the PSAT/NMSQT® in fall of junior year to enter the National Merit Scholarship Competition.
- Have your child start preparing by accessing the [Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy](#).