

Oct 13 Test Day Options for Sophomores

ALL SOPHOMORES will take ONE of these two exams on October 13 @ SME

	Practice PSAT	Locally-scored Practice ACT
Is there a fee?	There is no fee for either of these tests when taken during the sophomore year.	
How do I register?	<p>Sophomores use this link or scan this QR code to register for the PSAT:</p> 	Any sophomore who doesn't register for the PSAT will take the Locally-scored Practice ACT. (No registration necessary.)
Is there a deadline to register?	Deadline to register for the PSAT is Friday, September 24th at 3:00 p.m.	Any sophomore who does not register for the PSAT by September 24th will take the Locally-scored Practice ACT. (No registration necessary.)

When will I get my scores?	Scores are released to students online on their College Board account in December.	Score reports will be given to students at school in late November or early December.
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Continue reading below for more details about each test and how they compare:

How do I know which test I should take?

- Both tests help students **identify their readiness for college and for the college entrance exams they may take later**—either the **ACT** or the **SAT**.
- **All colleges and universities in the US now accept both the SAT and the ACT** and will almost always take whichever score is higher. Some students take only the ACT, while others take only the SAT, and some students take both.
- **Many colleges and universities are “test-optional” now, which means they do not require any standardized test scores for admission.** However, many of these schools may still require test scores for financial aid and scholarship consideration. Families need to check the policies of the specific colleges and universities they’re considering.
- There is no fee for the Oct. 13th Locally-scored Practice ACT at SME (for either grade level). The sophomore PSAT is free, but there is a \$21 fee for the junior PSAT.

Why should I take the PSAT in sophomore or junior year (or both)?

- The [PSAT](#) (Preliminary SAT) provides college-readiness feedback and preparation for the SAT.
- If you earn a high enough score on the PSAT in your **junior** year, you may qualify to earn a National Merit Scholarship. (Top ½ of 1% of all juniors in the state of Kansas.)
- Taking the PSAT in October of the **junior** year will enter the student in the [National Merit Scholarship Competition](#).
- The **sophomore** PSAT score does **not** count for National Merit Competition, but provides **practice** for the junior year PSAT.
- The PSAT is given only once each year.

Why should I take the Locally-scored Practice ACT (in sophomore or junior year or both)?

- Students who take the **Locally-scored Practice ACT** in October will receive a score report with scores in the four subject areas, which will also indicate whether they have met college-readiness benchmarks in each area.
- The **Locally-scored Practice ACT** score is not reported to any college or university and is never considered for admissions purposes. It provides practice for the real ACT and would provide a baseline score for comparison to the real test.
- All **juniors** will have the opportunity to take a **FREE, REAL ACT on a weekday at SME in March**. Details will be shared later in the fall.
- **In addition, students have opportunities throughout the year to take a real ACT on Saturdays at various locations in the KC metro area.** There is a fee for each Saturday ACT and registration must be done by the student on the [ACT website](#). Students may take one or more of these Saturday tests in addition to the free ACT at SME in March (juniors only), if their college or scholarship goals indicate a need to try to improve their scores.

How do I register and is there a deadline?

- The **deadline to register for the PSAT** (for both sophomores and juniors) is **Fri., Sept. 24th at 3:00 pm**.
- **PSAT Registration is done online, but the links are different for each grade level.** Please use the link or QR code in the chart above for your grade level to ensure you are registered accurately.
- Students **do not need to register for the Locally-scored Practice ACT**. Any sophomore or junior who does not register for the PSAT will take the Locally-scored Practice ACT.
- If a student registers for the PSAT and later **changes their mind**, and wishes to take the Locally-scored Practice ACT, they must notify counselor Susan Barr, susanbarr@smsd.org, no later than September 24th at 3:00 pm to switch their registration to the Locally-scored Practice ACT.

Need more help in deciding which test option is right for you?

Contact your counselor:

A – EL: Traci Ybarra tracybarra@smsd.org
Em – K: Michele Grimes michelegrimes@smsd.org
L – Re: Susan Barr susanbarr@smsd.org
Rh – Z: Brenda Tretbar brendatretbar@smsd.org
Real World Learning: Jodee Merriman jodeemerriman@smsd.org