



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL

RESEARCH, EVALUATION, & ASSESSMENT

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RESEARCH STUDY: FY22 through FY26 PSAT 8/9 AND PSAT/NMSQT RESULTS

May 21, 2026

The Preliminary SAT 8/9 (PSAT 8/9) is offered to students in grade 8 and the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) is offered to students in grades 9, 10, and 11.¹ Both assessments provide students with recommendations for Advanced Placement (AP) courses based on their potential to receive a score of 3 or higher on a given AP exam (AP Potential). The District offers both assessments to students free-of-cost during the Fall of each school year.²

The Department of Research, Evaluation, & Assessment (DREA) developed an interactive [PSAT 8/9 and PSAT/NMSQT Results Dashboard](#) summarizing participation and performance data by school and student subgroup for FY22, FY23, FY24, FY25, and FY26.³ Data includes the number of test-takers, average scores, percentage of test-takers meeting College and Career Readiness Benchmarks, and the percentage of test-takers demonstrating AP Potential by subject.

Summary of Results⁴

PSAT scores are from test-takers in grades 8, 9, and 10 from FY22 to FY26. Table 1 displays the average PSAT scores for Evidence-based Reading and Writing (ERW), Math, and Total scores. The percentage of test-takers meeting Reading, Math, and both Reading and Math College-Readiness Benchmarks are shown in Table 2.

Participation

- Grade 8 participation in the PSAT 8/9 remained similar from FY24 to FY26; however, participation decreased compared to earlier years (FY22: 85%; FY23: 84%; FY24: 80%; FY25: 79%; FY26: 77%).
- Participation in the PSAT from FY22 to FY25 remained stable for grade 9 (FY22: 81%; FY23: 84%; FY24: 82%; FY25: 85%; FY26: 85%) and grade 10 (FY22: 82%; FY23: 81%; FY24: 80%; FY25: 82%; FY26: 83%) test-takers; see Table 1.

¹ Starting in FY24 grade 9 test-takers participated in the PSAT/NMSQT rather than the PSAT 8/9

² Participation is encouraged for all students in grades 8, 9, and 10. Participation for grade 11 is targeted to students seeking the National Merit Scholarship Award or students attempting an Algebra 1 concordant score.

³ The PSAT 8/9 and PSAT/NMSQT Results Dashboard may be found at http://l.sdpbc.net/PSAT_DB

⁴ Results are summarized for traditional District-operated schools. Additional results by school type are available on the dashboard.

Table 1. Participation by Grade Level

Grade	FY22		FY23		FY24		FY25		FY26	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
8	11,357	85%	10,710	84%	10,052	80%	10,321	79%	9,093	77%
9	11,595	81%	12,024	84%	11,506	82%	11,757	85%	11,605	85%
10	11,542	82%	11,454	81%	11,491	80%	11,468	82%	10,933	83%

Average PSAT Scores: PSAT 8/9: Grade 8, PSAT/NMSQT: Grade 9, PSAT/NMSQT: Grade 10

- When comparing ERW scores from FY22 to FY26, a decrease of 8 or more points was evident across grade levels. However, in FY26, ERW, Math, and Total average scores increased or remained stable compared to FY25. This improvement suggests a reversal of prior trends and signals a positive shift in performance (Table 2).

Table 2. Average PSAT Scores by Subject and Grade Level

Assessment	Grade	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY25-26 1-Year Change	FY22-26 4-Year Change
Evidence-based Reading and Writing								
PSAT 8/9	8	420	417	392	398	410	12	-10
PSAT/NMSQT	9 ⁵	444	439	413	421	422	1	-22
	10	457	455	437	447	449	2	-8
Math								
PSAT 8/9	8	406	411	395	385	396	11	-10
PSAT/NMSQT	9 ⁵	426	426	415	405	403	-2	-23
	10	450	451	432	426	428	2	-22
Total								
PSAT 8/9	8	826	829	787	783	806	23	-20
PSAT/NMSQT	9 ⁵	870	864	828	826	825	-1	-45
	10	907	906	869	873	877	4	-30

Percentage of Test-takers Meeting College Readiness Benchmarks

- From FY25 to FY26 the percentage of test-takers meeting Reading, Math, and both Reading and Math College-Readiness Benchmarks remained stable at each grade level, aside from an improvement in reading for grade 8 test takers. However, From FY22 to FY26, the percentage of students meeting College-Readiness Benchmarks were relatively stable for all subjects for grades 8 and 10. Long-term grade 9 declines may be attributed to the change in administration from the PSAT 8/9 to the PSAT/NMSQT in FY24, as Math and Both Math and Reading benchmarks have remained stable and Reading has improved from FY24 to FY26 (Table 3).

⁵ Starting in FY24 grade 9 test-takers participated in the PSAT/NMSQT rather than the PSAT 8/9

Table 3. Percent of Test-Takers Meeting Benchmarks by Subject and Grade Level

Assessment	Grade	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY25-26 1-Year Change	FY22-26 4-Year Change
Reading								
PSAT 8/9	8	60%	59%	49%	53%	59%	6	-1
PSAT/NMSQT	9 ⁶	63%	60%	42%	48%	47%	-1	-16
	10	58%	57%	52%	58%	59%	1	-1
Math								
PSAT 8/9	8	34%	38%	34%	31%	34%	3	0
PSAT/NMSQT	9 ⁶	40%	39%	23%	22%	21%	-1	-19
	10	34%	36%	31%	29%	31%	2	-3
Both								
PSAT 8/9	8	32%	34%	31%	29%	32%	3	0
PSAT/NMSQT	9 ⁶	37%	36%	21%	20%	20%	0	-17
	10	32%	33%	29%	28%	29%	1	-3

AP Potential

- The percentage of test-takers in grade 8 demonstrating AP Potential from FY25 to FY26 remained similar except for notable increases (above a 3-percentage point difference) in English Language and Composition, Human Geography, Physics, Psychology, and Seminar (Table 4).
- The percentage of test-takers in grade 9 demonstrating AP Potential from FY25 to FY26 remained similar across all subjects aside from an increase in Human Geography.
- The percentage of grade 10 test-takers demonstrating AP Potential remained stable across all subjects from FY25 to FY26, aside from increases in English Literature and Composition, English Language and Composition, Human Geography, and Psychology.
- Detailed comparisons across school years for the percentage of test-takers demonstrating AP Potential by grade level, school, student subgroup, and subject area are available on the PSAT 8/9 and PSAT/NMSQT Results [Dashboard](#).

⁶ Starting in FY24 grade 9 test-takers participated in the PSAT/NMSQT rather than the PSAT 8/9

Table 4. AP Potential by Grade Level and School Year

Subject	Grade 8					Grade 9					Grade 10				
	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
Art History	22%	22%	17%	21%	20%	21%	31%	24%	26%	27%	39%	38%	34%	35%	38%
Biology	10%	16%	13%	14%	14%	11%	23%	0%	0%	0%	24%	24%	27%	26%	28%
Calculus	5%	8%	5%	7%	6%	6%	11%	0%	0%	0%	14%	13%	11%	14%	14%
Chemistry	5%	6%	17%	18%	18%	6%	10%	0%	0%	0%	13%	14%	31%	31%	33%
Comparative Gov and Politics	9%	14%	12%	12%	12%	10%	20%	0%	0%	0%	22%	23%	24%	23%	25%
Computer Science	7%	9%	7%	8%	8%	8%	13%	0%	0%	0%	18%	19%	16%	17%	17%
Computer Science Principles	24%	20%	17%	18%	18%	22%	27%	22%	22%	23%	43%	42%	31%	31%	33%
English Language	15%	18%	14%	16%	38%	15%	25%	0%	0%	0%	30%	30%	28%	29%	59%
English Literature	6%	28%	22%	26%	28%	7%	38%	0%	0%	0%	16%	17%	39%	43%	49%
Environmental Science	7%	11%	9%	10%	23%	8%	16%	0%	0%	0%	18%	19%	20%	20%	41%
European History	13%	15%	12%	27%	28%	13%	21%	16%	34%	35%	28%	29%	25%	44%	46%
Human Geography	19%	22%	18%	19%	35%	19%	29%	23%	24%	43%	37%	37%	33%	33%	54%
Macroeconomics	5%	7%	10%	11%	11%	6%	10%	0%	0%	0%	14%	15%	21%	21%	22%
Microeconomics	8%	10%	12%	12%	12%	9%	15%	0%	0%	0%	21%	21%	24%	23%	25%
Music	15%	18%	14%	15%	15%	16%	24%	0%	0%	0%	31%	32%	28%	28%	30%
Physics	3%	4%	3%	3%	12%	4%	6%	0%	0%	0%	8%	8%	6%	8%	25%
Physics Mechanics	6%	7%	6%	7%	6%	7%	11%	0%	0%	0%	16%	16%	14%	14%	14%
Physics Electricity and Magnetism	3%	4%	3%	4%	4%	4%	7%	0%	0%	0%	9%	9%	7%	8%	10%
Psychology	18%	20%	17%	18%	28%	18%	27%	0%	0%	0%	35%	36%	31%	31%	46%
Statistics	6%	7%	6%	7%	7%	7%	11%	0%	0%	0%	16%	16%	14%	14%	15%
US Gov & Politics	7%	9%	7%	23%	23%	8%	13%	0%	0%	0%	18%	19%	16%	38%	41%
US History	12%	14%	12%	30%	32%	12%	20%	0%	0%	0%	27%	27%	24%	48%	50%
World History	19%	28%	23%	24%	25%	19%	35%	30%	31%	31%	37%	37%	40%	40%	42%

Next Steps

Principals can monitor their school's PSAT 8/9 and PSAT/NMSQT data by accessing up-to-date information available in the District's Educational Data Warehouse (EDW) and College Board AP Potential tool. The PSAT Potentials Summary Report (Report number: RSTUA0640) is a student-level report showing current enrollment status, cumulative GPA, PSAT scores, and AP Potential flags by school. The College Board AP Potential tool allows users to generate rosters of students who are likely to score a 3 or higher on a given AP exam based on their PSAT 8/9 or PSAT/NMSQT performance. Instructions for accessing this tool can be obtained by contacting Ashley Ahern, State Assessment Specialist at 561-434-8644.

For questions regarding this report, please contact Dr. Paul Houchens, Director, Research, Evaluation, & Assessment at 561-434-8780 or Dr. Adam Miller, Chief of Performance Accountability at 561-434-8851.

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