



Participation in PSAT/NMSQT & SAT

Guidance Document

STATE-SPONSORED COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

The Idaho Department of Education offers the PSAT/NMSQT to all public high school sophomores and the SAT to all public high school juniors at no cost to districts, schools, parents, or students. For details on testing requirements, please see the [College Entrance Exam \(CEE\) Guidance Document](#).

STUDENT QUESTIONS ON PSAT/NMSQT AND SAT

Any student who takes the PSAT/NMSQT or SAT (provided by College Board) is asked by the vendor to answer questions prior to the exam. **These questions are optional.** College Board indicates the stated purpose for these questions is to ensure test validity, and that personally identifiable information is not shared with third parties. Learn more at the [College Board Privacy Center](#).

Questions for the PSAT/NMSQT and SAT include the following:

- Home/Mailing Address
- Email Address
- Race
- Ethnicity
- First Language
- Best Language
- GPA
- Intended College Major
- Level of Education Aspirations
- Parents' Level of Education

The following questions are asked in the PSAT/NMSQT:

- Whether the student is enrolled in high school traditional or homeschooled
- Whether the student will complete or leave high school and enroll full-time in college
- How many total years the student will spend in grades 9-12
- Whether the student is a U.S. citizen (for students testing outside the United States)

PARENTAL RIGHTS IN EDUCATION

[Idaho Code §33-6001\(7\)](#) states, “Before any public school employee administers any noncurricular-related student survey, well-being questionnaire, or health screening to any student, the employee must first obtain consent from the school's superintendent or designee. If the content of any such survey, questionnaire, or screening regards an individual student's sexuality, sex, religion, personal political beliefs, mental or psychological problems, personal family information, or individual or family financial information, the public school shall provide the survey, questionnaire, or screening form to the student's parent or legal guardian in advance and obtain the permission of the parent or legal guardian.”

The Department has identified the question relating to parents’ level of education as potentially violative of this statute if asked without parent or guardian consent as it may relate to “personal family information.”

CONSIDERATION: PARENTAL RIGHTS & STUDENT QUESTIONS

The Idaho Department of Education and Office of the Attorney General carefully considered this topic. Consideration included three main points:

1. The PSAT/NMSQT and SAT are not tied to any specific classroom curriculum.
2. College Board uses the student questions to ensure that the test is valid and fair.
3. There is no definition of “non-curricular” in the code or legislative meeting minutes.

POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION

In an effort to reduce the burden on local schools, the Department of Education has developed potential courses of action that schools may take when offering the PSAT/NMSQT and/or SAT. LEAs are encouraged to share key information with parents and guardians, including Idaho Code §33-6001(7), College Board’s student questions, and details from the [College Board Privacy Center](#). LEAs should act in accordance with what is appropriate for their students and families and speak to their attorney about any questions or concerns. The following sections outline potential courses of action.

Gain Consent from the Parent/Guardian

Provide College Board's student questions to parents and guardians, in advance, and obtain their written permission. This could be part of a broader consent process for the PSAT/NMSQT and/or SAT.

Instruct Students to Skip the Questions

Before the test begins, teachers, staff members, and/or proctors instruct test-takers to skip the student questions. Because the questions are optional, students are not required to complete this section to take the test.

For Questions Contact

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