

# College Board Suite of Assessments: Preparation in College Awareness/Planning Options and Parental Consent

## Guidance to Districts and Schools from the Michigan Department of Education (MDE)

Updated September 2020

Students who are under the age of eighteen and are participating in one of the Michigan SAT Suite of Assessments on a school day—SAT® with Essay, PSAT™/NMSQT®, or PSAT™10—will need parental consent to opt into the Student Search Service® and to complete the optional student questionnaire.

By opting into the Student Search Service and completing the optional questionnaire, students are allowing the College Board to share personal information, such as college preferences and plans for the future, with colleges and scholarship organizations.

This will provide students with:

- information about colleges and universities that match the student’s academic interests
- information on financial aid and scholarships, helping deserving students to access the assistance they are eligible to receive
- information about academic majors, courses, and degree options

The College Board only shares student data with eligible colleges, universities, and scholarship and educational opportunity programs that have signed an agreement to communicate with students only for the purposes listed above. These entities most often connect with students based on expected graduation date, cumulative grade point average (GPA), score range, and intended college major.

### Guidelines for Districts and Schools:

- Parental consent must be collected by schools before students opt into the Student Search Service and complete the optional questionnaire during school day testing.
- Schools should gather parental consent in accordance with their district policy. The [SAT Suite of Assessments Participation in College Planning Options Consent Form](#) is available on the Michigan Department of Education’s [MME web page](#) ([www.michigan.gov/mme](http://www.michigan.gov/mme)) and [PSAT web page](#) ([www.michigan.gov/psat](http://www.michigan.gov/psat)) for schools to use if they choose.

**Helpful Tip:** Schools may distribute the consent form in the beginning of the year welcome/orientation packets, at parent/teacher conferences, or electronically to parents and collect the form back early before testing.

- Consent forms are not required to be returned to College Board. They must be retained at the school for 3 years.

**Helpful Tip:** Schools can place the parental consent form in the student's CA-60 Cumulative Student Record Folder to follow the student if the student changes schools.

- Students will only have to obtain parental consent once.
  - » If a student takes an additional College Board assessment at the school where parental consent is already on file, the student will not be required to obtain parental consent the second time, and the student will be able to make changes to their personal information and preferences in Student Search.
- For Fall 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, additional flexibility is being provided in how students may complete the optional questionnaire. In order to minimize the time needed for the in-person pre-administration tasks, students may opt into Student Search Service and complete the [online questionnaire](http://studentsearch.collegeboard.org) (<http://studentsearch.collegeboard.org>) outside of school day testing.
  - » A College Board flyer, [Connect with Colleges: Student Search Service](#), is available for distribution to parents on the [MME](#) and [PSAT](#) web pages under **Parent/Student Information**.
    - » Schools must notify parents if students are encouraged, by the school, to complete this process online.
    - » This flexibility option will be reevaluated for spring 2021 school day testing.
- The SAT Study Guide describes what the student questionnaire asks and how student information is used. The [SAT Study Guide](https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/inside-the-test/study-guide-students) (<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/inside-the-test/study-guide-students>) can be accessed from the [College Board website](#).
- PSAT 8/9 does not require parental consent since students taking the PSAT 8/9 will not have the opportunity to opt into Student Search or complete the questionnaire.
- Parents may learn more at the [College Board Privacy Center](https://about.collegeboard.org/privacy-center) (<https://about.collegeboard.org/privacy-center>).
- Districts and schools can also find additional [guidance on parental consent from the U.S. Department of Education](#) on the [MME](#) and [PSAT](#) web pages.

