

This communication is to inform you that all 8th and 9th grade students in Fort Bend ISD will take the PSAT 8/9 (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test), on October 19, 2016. The PSAT 8/9 is the first in the College Board's "SAT Suite of Assessments," and is aligned with the newly designed SAT that went into effect March 2016. At several points along its path, the SAT Suite of Assessments connects students to programs that recognize academic excellence and award college scholarships. Scores from the PSAT 8/9 ARE NOT used in any scholarship or recognition programs. The purpose of the PSAT 8/9 is to establish a starting point in terms of college and career readiness at the time when students are transitioning to high school. This exam serves as a "check-in" on progress, allowing students, parents and teachers to pinpoint areas for focused practice as students progress through high school.

The PSAT 8/9 includes 2 hours and 45 minutes of actual testing time and 15 minutes of breaks. There will be tests in reading, writing and language, math (given in 2 portions – one with no calculator and one on which a calculator is permitted, although not required) and a variable section with questions from all three of those areas.

Regarding calculator use and approved calculators, the College Board states, "***All questions can be solved without a calculator, but a scientific or graphing calculator is recommended [for the portion of the math test on which a calculator is permitted].....Students are encouraged to bring their own calculators.*** Students may **NOT** use:

- laptops or other computers, tablets, cell phones, or smartphones;
- models that can access the Internet, have wireless, Bluetooth, cellular, audio/video, recording and playing, camera or any other smartphone-type feature;
- models that have typewriter-like keypad, pen-input, or stylus; or
- models that use electrical outlets, make noise, or have paper tape."

The following calculators ARE ALLOWED on the PSAT 8/9 Math Portion that permits calculator use.

All scientific calculators are acceptable to use on the PSAT 8/9. **Any four-function calculator** can be used (though not recommended). The following is a **list of approved graphing calculators** for the PSAT 8/9. No other graphing calculator may be used.

Casio		Hewlett-Packard	Radio Shack	Sharp	Texas Instruments	
FX-6000 series	FX-8700 series	HP-9G	EC-4033	EL-5200	TI-83	TI-85
FX-6200 series	FX-8800 series	HP-28 series	EC-4034	EL-9200 series	TI-80	TI-86
FX-6300 series	FX-9700 series	HP-38G	EC-4037	EL-9300 series	TI-81	TI-89
FX-6500 series	FX-9750 series	HP-39 series		EL-9600 series**	TI-82	TI-89 Titanium
FX-7000 series	FX-9860 series	HP-40 series		EL-9900 series	TI-83	TI-Nspire
FX-7300 series	CFX-9800 series	HP-48 series			TI-83 Plus	TI-Nspire CX
FX-7400 series	CFX-9850 series	HP-49 series		Other	TI-83 Plus Silver	TI-Nspire CM-C
FX-7500 series	CFX-9970 series	HP-50 series		Datexx DS-883	TI-84 Plus	TI Nspire CAS
FX-7700 series	FX 1.0 series	HP Prime		Micronta	TI-84 Plus CE	TI-Nspire CX CAS
FX-7800 series	Algebra FX 2.0 series			Smart ²	TI-84 Plus Silver	TI-Nspire CM-C CAS
FX-8000 series	FX-CG-10 (PRIZM)				TI-84 Plus C Silver	TI-Nspire CX-C CAS
FX-8500 series	FX-CG-20					

**The use of the stylus is not permitted.

As stated above, it is recommended that students bring their own calculators, although the use of a calculator is not required since all questions can be solved without a calculator. **Schools will not provide calculators on test day.** It is not necessary for you to purchase a graphing calculator. Scientific calculators, which many households already have, will be sufficient for this exam. Also, many of them can be purchased inexpensively.

Khan Academy and the College Board (makers of SAT) have partnered to provide free and affordable SAT practice at the following website. <https://sat.collegeboard.org/practice>

If you have questions, feel free to contact Allison Pike allison.pike@fortbendisd.com.