

Percentiles

A student's percentile rank represents the percentage of students that score equal to or below the score the student obtained. For example, if a student's score is in the 75th percentile, 75% of a comparison group achieved scores at or below that student's score. Two types of percentile ranks, comparing student scores to two different reference populations, are provided in this publication for both total and section scores.

Nationally representative percentiles are derived from a research study of U.S. students in 8th or 9th grade, weighted to represent all U.S. students in those grades, regardless of whether they typically take the PSAT 8/9.

User group percentiles are based on the actual scores of students who took the PSAT 8/9 administered in 2015-16 and 2016-17.

Percentiles for Total Scores

Score	8th GRADE		9th GRADE	
	PERCENTILES		PERCENTILES	
	Nationally Representative Sample	PSAT 8/9 User	Nationally Representative Sample	PSAT 8/9 User
1440	99+	99+	99+	99+
1430	99+	99+	99+	99+
1420	99+	99+	99+	99+
1410	99+	99+	99+	99+
1400	99+	99+	99+	99+
1390	99+	99+	99+	99+
1380	99+	99+	99+	99+
1370	99+	99+	99+	99+
1360	99+	99+	99+	99+
1350	99+	99+	99+	99+
1340	99+	99+	99+	99+
1330	99+	99+	99+	99+
1320	99+	99+	99+	99+
1310	99+	99+	99+	99
1300	99+	99+	99	99
1290	99+	99+	99	99
1280	99+	99+	99	99
1270	99+	99+	99	99
1260	99+	99+	99	99
1250	99+	99	99	98
1240	99+	99	98	98
1230	99	99	98	98
1220	99	99	98	98
1210	99	99	98	97
1200	99	99	97	97
1190	99	99	97	97
1180	99	99	96	96
1170	98	98	96	96
1160	98	98	95	95
1150	98	98	94	94
1140	98	98	94	94
1130	98	97	93	93
1120	97	97	92	92
1110	97	96	91	92
1100	97	96	90	91
1090	96	95	89	90
1080	96	95	88	89
1070	95	94	87	88
1060	94	94	86	86
1050	94	93	84	85
1040	93	92	83	84
1030	92	91	81	82
1020	91	90	80	81

Percentiles for Total Scores (continued)

8th GRADE					9th GRADE				
Score	PERCENTILES		PERCENTILES		Score	PERCENTILES		PERCENTILES	
	Nationally Representative Sample	PSAT 8/9 User	Nationally Representative Sample	PSAT 8/9 User		Nationally Representative Sample	PSAT 8/9 User	Nationally Representative Sample	PSAT 8/9 User
1010	89	89	78	79	600	3	5	1	3
1000	88	88	76	78	590	2	4	1	3
990	86	87	74	76	580	2	4	1	2
980	85	86	72	74	570	1	3	1	2
970	83	85	70	73	560	1	3	1-	1
960	80	83	68	71	550	1-	2	1-	1
950	78	82	66	69	540	1-	2	1-	1
940	77	80	64	67	530	1-	2	1-	1
930	75	79	62	65	520	1-	1	1-	1
920	73	77	60	63	510	1-	1	1-	1
910	71	75	57	61	500	1-	1	1-	1
900	69	73	55	59	490	1-	1	1-	1
890	67	72	53	57	480	1-	1	1-	1-
880	65	70	50	55	470	1-	1	1-	1-
870	62	68	48	52	460	1-	1	1-	1-
860	60	65	46	50	450	1-	1-	1-	1-
850	57	63	43	48	440	1-	1-	1-	1-
840	55	61	41	46	430	1-	1-	1-	1-
830	52	59	38	44	420	1-	1-	1-	1-
820	50	56	36	41	410	1-	1-	1-	1-
810	47	54	33	39	400	1-	1-	1-	1-
800	44	51	31	37	390	1-	1-	1-	1-
790	41	48	29	35	380	1-	1-	1-	1-
780	38	45	26	32	370	1-	1-	1-	1-
770	35	43	24	30	360	1-	1-	1-	1-
760	32	40	22	28	350	1-	1-	1-	1-
750	29	37	20	26	340	1-	1-	1-	1-
740	26	34	18	23	330	1-	1-	1-	1-
730	23	31	16	21	320	1-	1-	1-	1-
720	21	28	14	19	310	1-	1-	1-	1-
710	19	26	12	17	300	1-	1-	1-	1-
700	16	23	11	15	290	1-	1-	1-	1-
690	14	20	9	14	280	1-	1-	1-	1-
680	13	18	8	12	270	1-	1-	1-	1-
670	11	16	7	10	260	1-	1-	1-	1-
660	9	14	5	9	250	1-	1-	1-	1-
650	8	12	4	8	240	1-	1-	1-	1-
640	6	10	4	6	Mean Score	835	814	889	870
630	5	8	3	5	Standard Deviation	137	150	154	166
620	4	7	2	4					
610	3	6	2	4					

Percentiles for Section Scores

8th GRADE					9th GRADE			
Evidence-Based Reading and Writing			Math		Evidence-Based Reading and Writing		Math	
Score	PERCENTILES		PERCENTILES		PERCENTILES		PERCENTILES	
	Nationally Representative Sample	PSAT 8/9 User	Nationally Representative Sample	PSAT 8/9 User	Nationally Representative Sample	PSAT 8/9 User	Nationally Representative Sample	PSAT 8/9 User
720	99+	99+	99+	99+	99+	99+	99+	99+
710	99+	99+	99+	99+	99+	99+	99+	99+
700	99+	99+	99+	99+	99+	99+	99+	99+
690	99+	99+	99+	99+	99+	99+	99+	99+
680	99+	99+	99+	99+	99+	99+	99+	99
670	99+	99+	99+	99+	99+	99+	99	99
660	99+	99+	99+	99+	99	99	99	99
650	99+	99+	99+	99+	99	99	99	99
640	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	98
630	99	99	99	99	98	98	98	98
620	99	99	99	99	97	97	98	98
610	99	99	99	99	96	96	97	97
600	98	98	99	99	95	95	97	96
590	98	98	99	98	94	94	96	96
580	97	97	99	98	93	93	95	95
570	96	96	98	97	91	91	94	94
560	95	95	98	97	89	89	92	92
550	94	94	97	96	87	87	90	91
540	92	92	96	95	85	85	88	90
530	91	91	94	94	82	82	86	88
520	89	89	93	93	79	80	83	85
510	86	87	91	91	76	77	80	83
500	84	85	88	89	73	74	77	80
490	81	82	85	87	69	71	74	76
480	78	80	83	84	66	67	69	73
470	74	77	79	81	62	64	65	69
460	71	74	75	77	59	61	60	64
450	67	71	69	73	55	57	55	60
440	63	68	63	68	51	53	49	55
430	58	64	58	64	47	50	44	51
420	54	60	53	60	42	46	39	47
410	49	56	50	55	38	42	35	42

Percentiles for Section Scores (continued)

8th GRADE					9th GRADE			
Evidence-Based Reading and Writing		Math			Evidence-Based Reading and Writing		Math	
Score	PERCENTILES		PERCENTILES		PERCENTILES		PERCENTILES	
	Nationally Representative Sample	PSAT 8/9 User	Nationally Representative Sample	PSAT 8/9 User	Nationally Representative Sample	PSAT 8/9 User	Nationally Representative Sample	PSAT 8/9 User
400	44	52	46	49	33	38	32	37
390	39	47	38	44	29	34	27	33
380	33	42	30	38	25	29	21	28
370	27	37	26	32	21	25	18	24
360	22	32	22	26	17	21	15	19
350	17	26	19	23	13	18	12	16
340	13	21	16	19	10	14	10	14
330	9	16	13	15	7	11	8	10
320	6	12	11	12	4	8	6	8
310	4	9	8	9	3	5	4	7
300	3	6	6	7	2	4	3	5
290	2	5	5	6	1	3	2	4
280	1	3	3	4	1-	2	2	3
270	1	3	2	3	1-	1	1	2
260	1	2	2	3	1-	1	1	2
250	1-	2	2	2	1-	1	1	2
240	1-	1	1	2	1-	1	1-	1
230	1-	1	1	1	1-	1-	1-	1
220	1-	1	1-	1	1-	1-	1-	1
210	1-	1	1-	1	1-	1-	1-	1
200	1-	1-	1-	1	1-	1-	1-	1-
190	1-	1-	1-	1	1-	1-	1-	1-
180	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-
170	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-
160	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-
150	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-
140	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-
130	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-
120	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-	1-
Mean Score	422	408	414	406	446	439	443	432
Standard Deviation	76	84	75	79	85	91	81	87