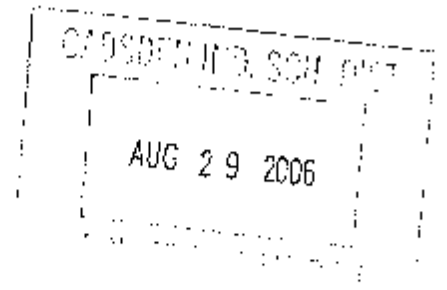




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ASSISTANT SECRETARY

August 24, 2006

To: Superintendents of Selected Districts and District Testing Coordinators

From: Dr. Patricia Parkinson, Assistant Secretary
Instructional Support Division

Re: PSAT Pilot Study- Time Sensitive

The New Mexico State Legislature has appropriated funds to implement a pilot study of the PSAT/NMSQT. We are pleased to inform you that based on past attendance at PSAT trainings and an expressed interest in the PSAT/NMSQT program, your district has been selected to participate in the study. All of the 10th grade students in your district will be eligible to take the PSAT/NMSQT test. The cost of the test will be billed to NMPEID. There will be no cost to your district.

In addition, the first of several free professional development workshops and trainings will be offered by the College Board to your designated test coordinators and counselors on Wednesday September 13, 2006 in Albuquerque from 9:00 a.m. - Noon, at the APS Rotunda Building, 801 University SE (505) 272-7902 (Lea) and on Thursday September 14 at the Las Cruces Board Room in Las Cruces, 505 South Main, Suite 249 Loretto Towne Center from 9:00 a.m.- Noon. Both sessions are identical and district/school personnel may choose the most convenient location. At this first training the 2006-07 PSAT calendar will be reviewed, roles and responsibilities of coordinators before, during and after the exam will be discussed, AP and PSAT data will be reviewed, and the benefits of the partnership between students and school districts will be addressed.

Further information on the ordering, dates, deadlines, and resources can be found at <http://www.collegeboard.com/prof/counselors/tests/psat/news.html>. Please order tests by Sept. 8, 2006.

The Southwest Representative for the College Board is Paul Sanders. His email address is: psanders@collegeboard.org. Please contact him for information regarding the PSAT testing

The test date for the PSAT/NMSQT has been designated as Wednesday, October 18. Wednesday testing will ensure maximum student participation and effective reporting.

Attached is the list of districts selected to participate in the pilot project, as well as testing coordinators and projected numbers of 10th grade students for 2006-07. Please let us know of any changes.

It is anticipated that participation in this pilot project will yield rich data and feedback for your schools from the various reports on the students' PSAT/NMSQT performance. AP Potential will allow schools to generate rosters of students who are likely to score a 3 or better on a given AP exam. Districts will be able to view reports for each school individually as well as assess the performance of the entire district.

AP Potential will give you the data needed to open access to AP programs to all students and ensure that every student is challenged. The PSAT/NMSQT scores have been utilized to identify underserved students who may be successful in AP courses. Complete research reports are available on appotential.collegeboard.com.

Please contact Rose Sherman, AP Director at (505) 827-6625 or by email: rosemarie.sherman@state.nm.us if you have any questions. We look forward to working in partnership with your district on this PSAT/NMSQT pilot project.