

Memorandum



Coeur d'Alene Public Schools
DIVISION OF TEACHING AND LEARNING
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To: Board of Trustees
Superintendent Dr. Shon Hocker

From: Libbi Barrett, Assistant Superintendent, Director of Secondary

Date: Jan 28, 2022

Re: Principal Input Re: PSAT 2022-2023

Dear Board of Trustees and Superintendent Hocker,

This Board Memo offers input from Coeur d'Alene School District 271 high school principals on when to offer the PSAT and their rationale. The number of PSAT participants dropped dramatically for the 2021-2022 school year, potentially indicating that students had difficulty accessing the test which was offered on a Saturday. Additionally, the PSAT data was not representative of our student populations due to the low numbers of participants. Last year, the decision was made at the District level to offer the PSAT on Saturday (in part due to Covid-19). Building principals were not asked to give input last year. The secondary team of administrators greatly appreciate the opportunity to give input on when to offer the PSAT.

All three building principals agree that embedding the PSAT into the school day is best for students.

Building Principal Input and Rationale for Embedding the PSAT into the School Day:

"Offering the PSAT to all 11th graders during the school day ensures that all of our students have access to the assessment. I would further advocate for going back to embedding the PSAT for all 9th-11th grade students during the school day. Over the many years that this opportunity has been in place in our district, not only did we experience PSAT and SAT average score growth, we were able to track average cohort score growth from 9th-10th and 10th-11th grade. Ultimately the PSAT prepares students for the SAT which carries more weight and meaning for students than the other state required assessment, the ISAT." LCHS

(Growth at LCHS is below the national average at LCHS but growth is a positive outcome regardless)

"Embedding the PSAT into the school day affords those who lack transportation or work on weekends the opportunity to discover their own potential for success, to receive college readiness feedback, and to gain better insight into the SAT." CHS

"Offering the PSAT to all students on a school day ensures equitable access for all students. Students in grades 9-11 benefit from taking the test each year so that their growth can be tracked and monitored and interventions offered to provide the support necessary for their success." Venture

Again, the high school administrators from all three schools wish to express their appreciation for the opportunity to give input to the Board regarding when the 2022-2023 PSAT is offered to secondary students.