



*Preliminary SAT (PSAT)
and the
National Merit Scholarship Program(NMSP)*



PSAT Background Information

- Measures: Critical Reading, Math Problem Solving, and Writing
- Grade Levels Assessed: 9th - 11th
 - 9th and 10th grades for practice
 - 11th graders can qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program
 - 12th graders take the SAT (or ACT)



PSAT Recognition

Recognitions possible for 11th grade students:

- Commended Recognition
- National Merit Semifinalists
- National Merit Finalists
 - National Merit Finalists can be selected for:
 - National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship
 - Corporate Sponsored Merit Scholarship Awards
 - College Sponsored Merit Scholarship Awards



PSAT Scoring

- Highest score: 240 (80 points possible on each of three sections)
- Commended recognition represents approximately the top 2 - 3% of test takers from each state
- National Merit Semifinalists represent the top 1% of test takers from each state
- National Merit Finalists are selected based upon an application process



PSAT Scoring

“To ensure that academically talented young people from all parts of the United States are included in this talent pool, Semifinalists are designated on a state-representational basis. They are the highest scoring entrants in each state.”

Examples of scores required to qualify as a semifinalist:

West Virginia: 203 (lowest)

Iowa: 210

Pennsylvania: 217

Texas: 219 (42nd highest)

District of Columbia: 224 (highest)

Qualifying scores may change each year



National Data

Approximate National Numbers:

Students Testing: 1,500,000 (Approx.)

Commended Rating: 34,000 (top ≈3 %)

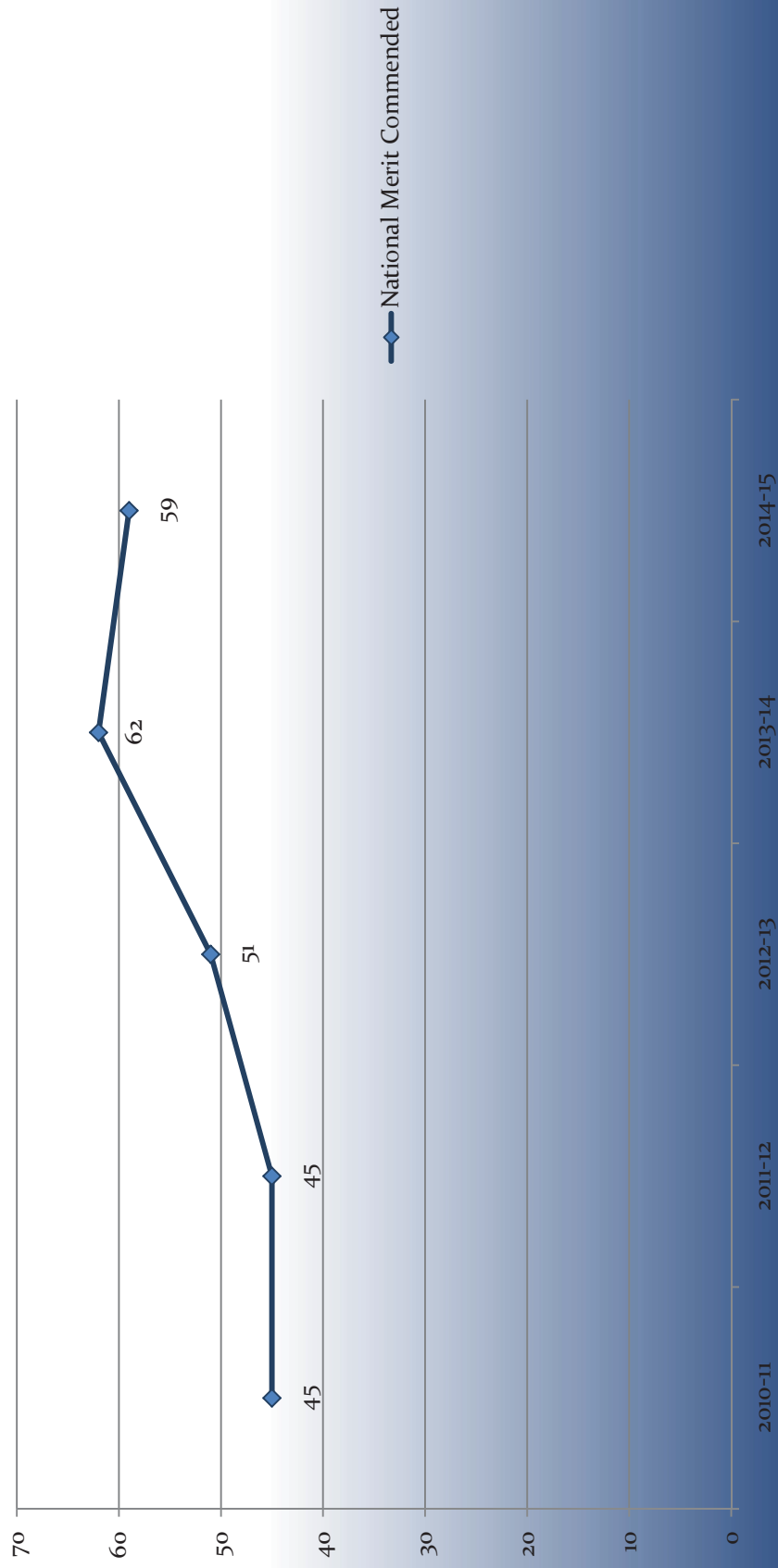
Semifinalists Rating: 16,000 (top ≈1%)

Finalists Rating: 15,000

Frisco ISD Data



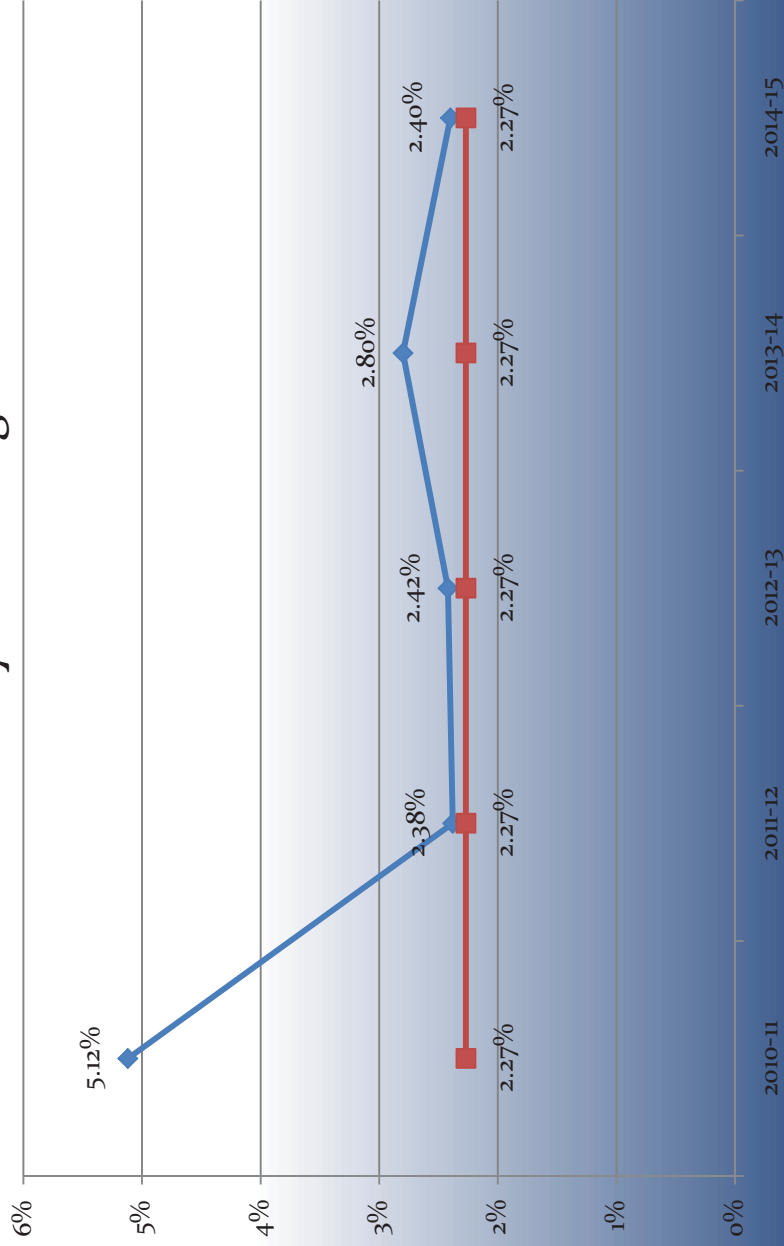
National Merit Commended Students





Frisco ISD Data

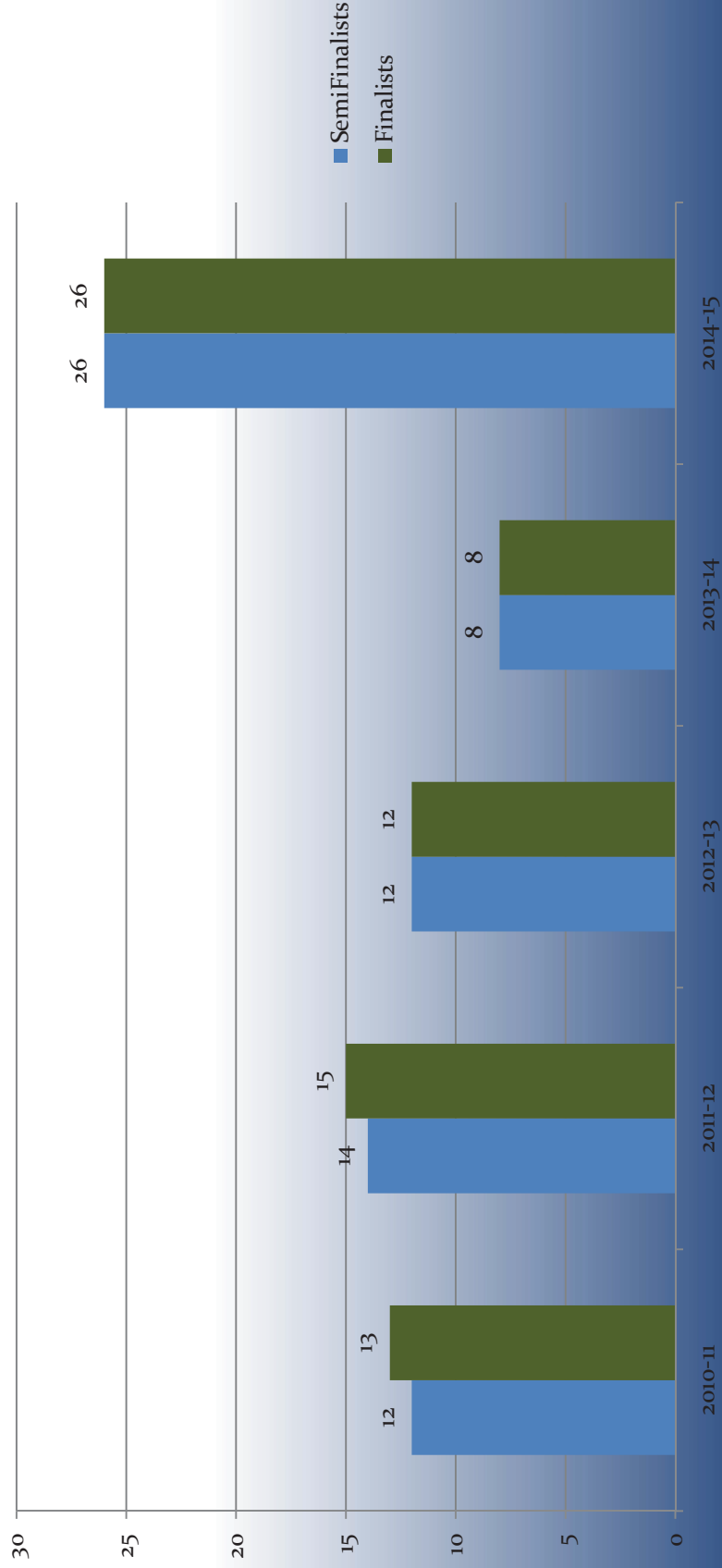
National Merit Commended Students by Percentages





Frisco ISD Data

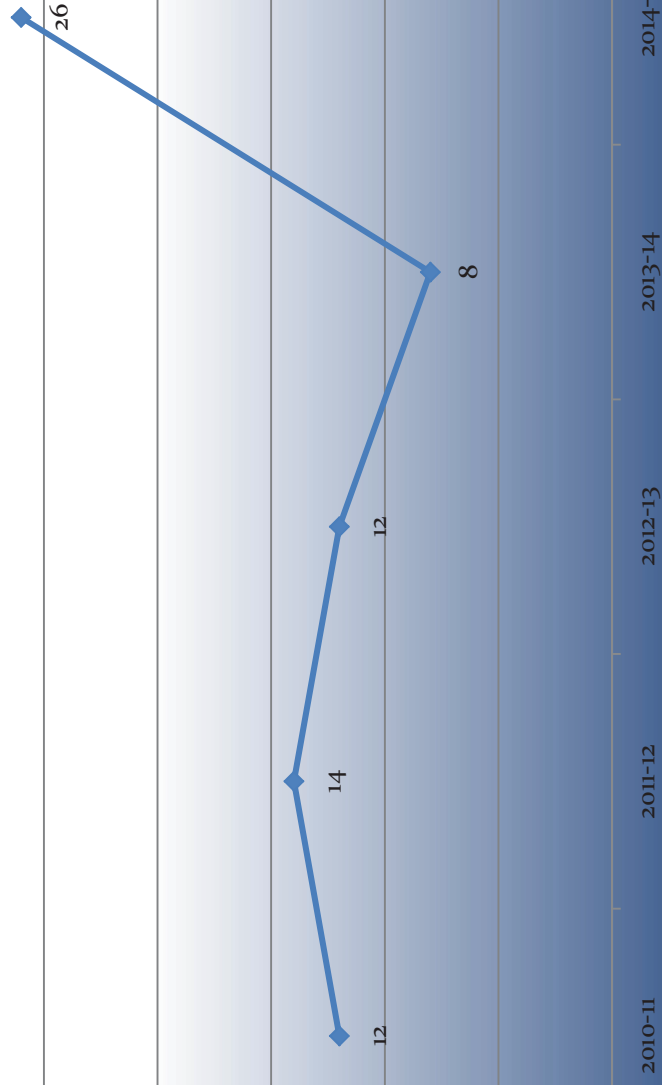
FISD National Merit Students Semifinalists vs. Finalists



Frisco ISD Data



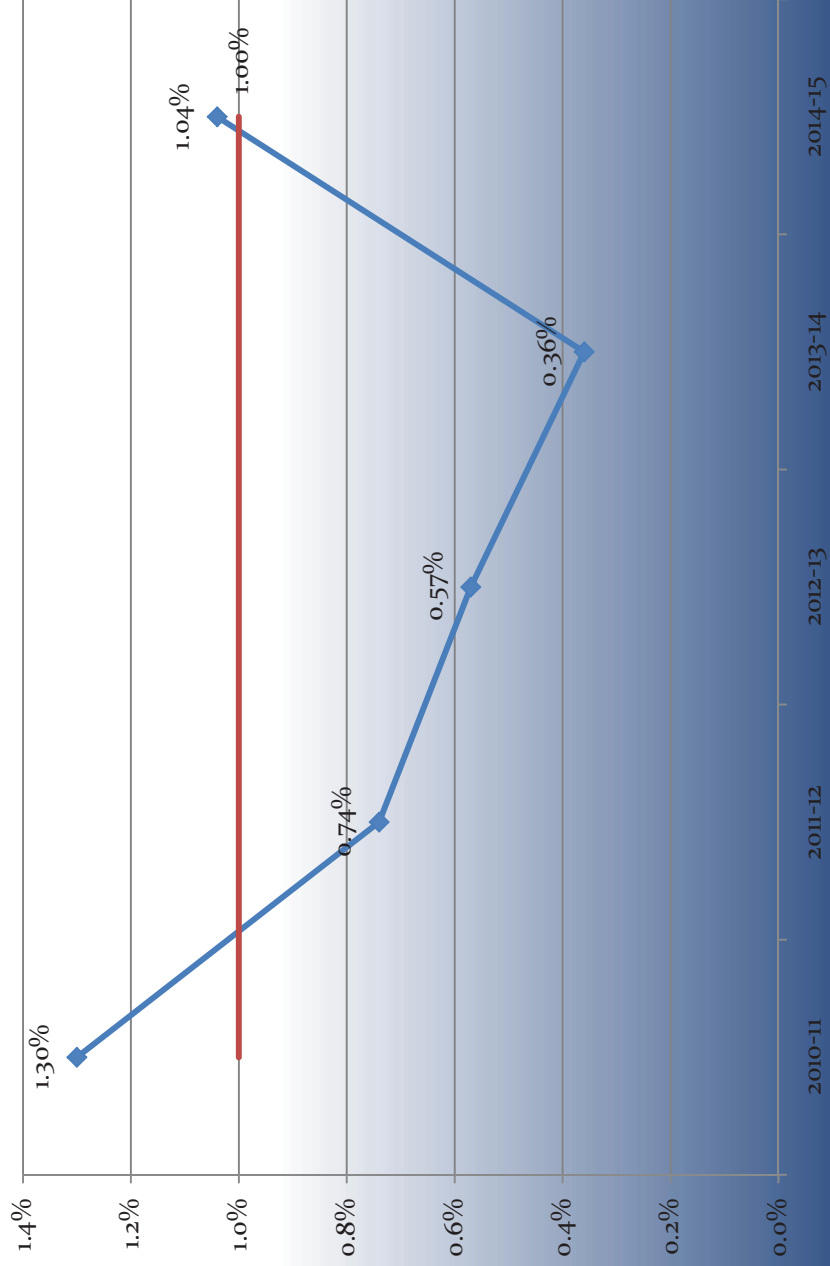
National Merit Scholar Finalists By Year





Frisco ISD Data

National Merit Scholar Finalists % of Juniors Tested





PSAT & SAT Changes

- There will be a redesign of the SAT in 2016
- Next year's Seniors will be able to take the current SAT in the Fall and the redesigned SAT in the Spring
- Purpose of the change is to more closely align with the college and readiness standards
- The College Board has partnered with the Khan Academy to offer free and personalized study plans (starting in May of 2015)