

Open DOORS

National Recognition Program

Official academic awards that recognize high-achieving students and help strengthen college applications—at no cost to students.



What It Is

The College Board National Recognition Program is designed to shine a light on high-achieving 10th and 11th graders based on their PSAT-related assessments and/or AP® Exam performance. Students claim their award online and can share it directly on college applications. Awards recognize achievement across three community designations:



First-Generation Recognition Award

Student will be the first in their family to earn a bachelor's degree.



Rural & Small-Town Recognition Award

Based on the location of the high school the student attends.



School Recognition Award

Demonstrated academic excellence within their school community.

Why Students Should Claim Their Award



Get recruited by colleges

Top colleges across the country actively seek out National Recognition Program awardees.



Strengthen applications

Stand out on college and scholarship applications.



Minimal effort, real reward

No essays or recommendations—students submit verification in minutes with no cost.

Eligibility - Students Must Meet All Three Criteria

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Grade level

Currently in 10th or 11th grade



GPA

Cumulative B+ or higher (3.3/87–89% minimum)



Test scores—Option A

Score in the top 10% on the PSAT/NMSQT® or PSAT™ 10 among their school, state first-gen, or state rural/small-town test takers



Test scores—Option B

Score 3 or higher on 2 or more AP Exams taken in 8th, 9th, and/or 10th grade



Steps for Students to Claim Their Award

- 1 Spring**
Log in/Create College Board account
- 2 Spring/Summer**
Verify GPA & scores; submit application
- 3 Summer/Fall**
Students notified by email if awarded
- 4 Fall**
Download certificate; add to applications

Next Steps for Students



Encourage eligible students to apply early—it takes minutes and costs nothing. Visit bigfuture.org/NRP.

How You Can Help



Check the K-12 reporting portal in the spring to see which of your students are eligible for the National Recognition Program.



Reach out to eligible students to encourage them to log in or create their College Board account and claim their award.



Remind students to submit their form by the deadline—the verification form closes by early summer and takes only a few minutes to complete



Check the K-12 reporting portal again in the fall to see which students were awarded—so your school can celebrate them at an award ceremony.