



**TYLER ISD**

SUCCESSFUL STUDENT OUTCOMES

# **Scholars of Academic Rigor (SOAR)**

**March 25, 2019**



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## OUTLINE

- **Background**
- **SOAR Program**
- **Questions**



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## **BACKGROUND**

**The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955.**



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## **BACKGROUND**

**Each year approximately 1.6 million high school students take the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which serves as the initial screening for recognition as a National Merit Scholar.**



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## **BACKGROUND**

**The score attained on the PSAT/NMSQT administered during the junior year of high school is utilized to determine Commended Scholars, Hispanic Scholars, and National Merit Scholar Semifinalists.**



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## **BACKGROUND**

**Of the roughly 1.6 million participants, approximately 16,000 (1%) with the highest PSAT/NMSQT scores qualify for recognition as National Merit Semifinalists at the beginning of their senior year of high school.**



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## **BACKGROUND**

**Following a rigorous application process, approximately 15,000 students are recognized as National Merit Finalists in February of their senior year.**



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## **BACKGROUND**

**Tyler ISD has had one student in each of the past three school years achieve this highest level of recognition of being named a National Merit Scholar.**





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**The following plan of action outlines current and proposed strategies to increase the number of Tyler ISD students who earn recognition in the National Merit Scholarship Program.**



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## FALL 2018

- **All 8<sup>th</sup> graders took the PSAT/8-9.**
- **All 10<sup>th</sup> graders took the PSAT/NMSQT.**
- **All students have access to online test preparation.**



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## SPRING 2019

- **Develop and communicate strategies for increasing college-readiness exam scores and National Merit Scholars.**
- **Identify teachers who will work with PSAT Team and instruct test-prep courses.**
- **Extra-curricular pilot test-prep courses offered.**



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**SUMMER 2018**

- **Identified Tyler ISD high school teachers will attend professional learning sessions to be prepared to offer comprehensive test preparation classes and tutorials.**



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## FALL 2019

- **All 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders will take the PSAT/8-9.**
- **All 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders will take the PSAT/NMSQT.**
- **All students have access to online test preparation.**
- **After-hours test prep sessions offered.**



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**SPRING 2020**

**Sophomores who score in the top 5%  
from their assigned campus or in the  
90%, or higher, National Percentile will  
be invited to join the TISD PSAT Team.**

***(approximately 65 students)***



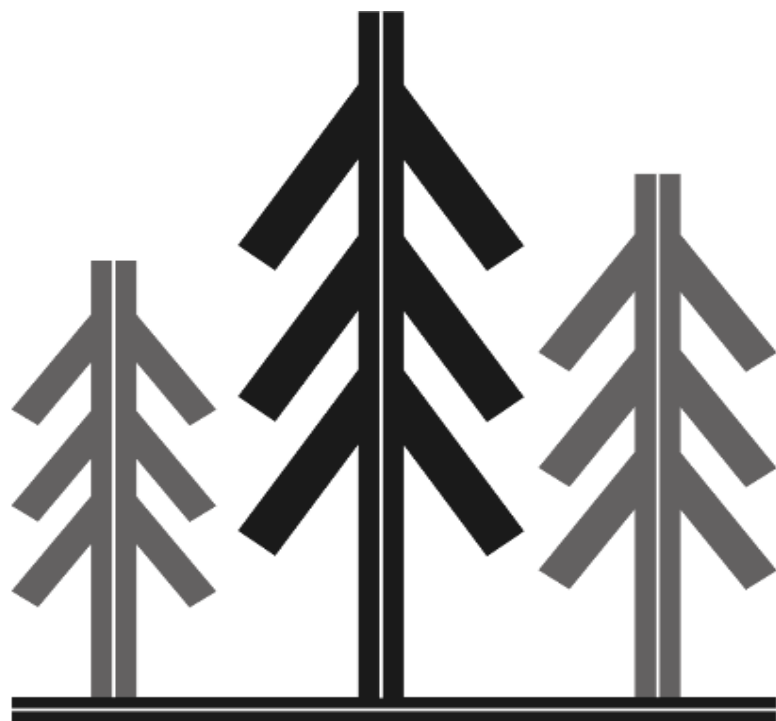
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## SPRING 2020

**Top 25 scoring 10<sup>th</sup> graders in TISD will  
be recognized as SOAR students.**





**S**  **A R**

SCHOLARS OF ACADEMIC RIGOR





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**SPRING 2020**

**Sophomore SOAR students and senior  
Commended Students, Hispanic  
Scholars, and National Merit Scholars  
will be recognized formally at a Tyler  
ISD ceremony.**



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**SUMMER 2020**

**PSAT Team and SOAR students will be invited to participate in a summer test-prep course to maximize their potential for achieving National Merit Scholar recognition based on their Fall 2019 PSAT/NMSQT scores.**



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**FALL 2020**

**A one-semester local elective course will be offered to 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders to support their preparation for success on the PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, ACT, and TSIA.**



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