

One Score. Two Lines. Not Two Steps.

Commended Student and Semifinalist aren't sequential stages — both come from the exact same PSAT/NMSQT score, checked against two different cutoff lines, decided the moment scores are released.

THE SHARED FLOOR

208

the national Commended cutoff — every state's Semifinalist line sits at or above this number

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COMMENDED — FIXED NATIONALLY

SEMIFINALIST — VARIES BY STATE



~41,000

Commended Students
named nationally

~16,500–17,000

Semifinalists — roughly 1%
of PSAT/NMSQT test-takers

Same score. Same day.

Both statuses are decided from the identical PSAT/NMSQT score, at the moment scores are released. There's no retest, application, or later step that moves a student from Commended to Semifinalist.