



HCPS PERFORMANCE ON NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS

DATA AND KEY FINDINGS

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HCPS Office of Accountability



Executive Summary

Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) demonstrated significant progress in student participation and achievement on key national assessments during the 2024–25 school year. These assessments serve as critical indicators of college and career readiness and provide a national comparison for student performance. They include: PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, Advanced Placement (AP), and International Baccalaureate (IB).

Key Highlights

1. **PSAT/NMSQT**
 - *Participation:* Increased by nearly 50%, from 1,345 students in 2024–25 to 2,013 students in 2025–26, due to administration of the assessment now occurring during the school day.
 - *College and Career Readiness:* Qualifying scores now count toward readiness benchmarks, expanding opportunities for students to meet the Maryland College and Career Readiness outcomes.
2. **SAT**
 - *Performance Gains:* HCPS achieved a mean score of 567 in Reading/Writing and 549 in Math for the Class of 2025 (up from 556 and 541 respectively).
 - *State Comparison:* HCPS outperformed Maryland averages by 53 points in reading/writing and 61 points in mathematics, reinforcing national academic competitiveness.
3. **Advanced Placement (AP)**
 - *Participation:* 5,426 exams administered, which was a 33.5% increase from the prior year.
 - *Achievement:* AP pass rate reached 64.2%, the highest since 2006, marking a 2% improvement over the previous school year, which is not typical when increasing number of exams taken.
4. **International Baccalaureate (IB)**
 - *Performance:* IB exam pass rate rose to 85.6%, up from 84.4% the previous year, maintaining strong outcomes in this rigorous program offered at Edgewood High School. IB assessments are only administered to IB students who are enrolled in the IB program at Edgewood High School.

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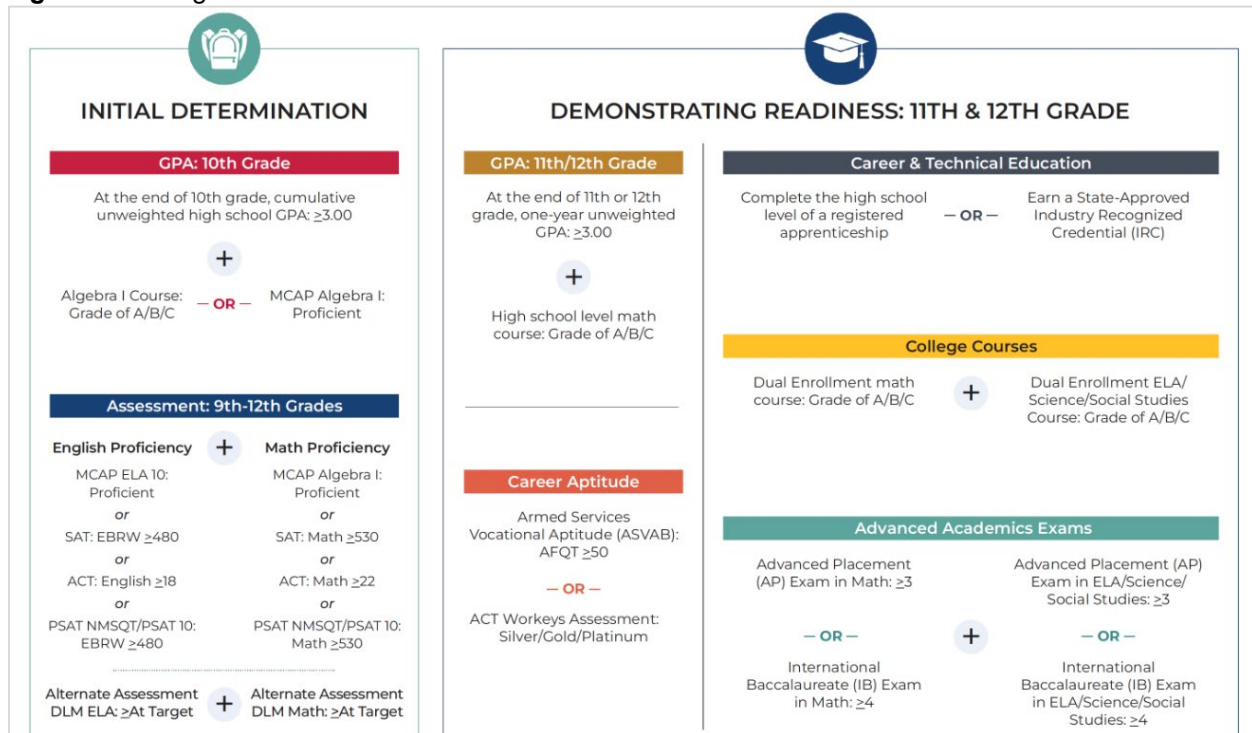
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1. Introduction

Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) administers well-known national assessments to high school students for a variety of purposes including acceptance into an institution of higher learning, the potential to receive college credit, and earning College and Career Readiness by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

College and Career Readiness is a standard established by MSDE that prepares graduates for success after high school by entering college or seeking employment. The Blueprint for Maryland's Future aims to have all students meet CCR by the end of grade 10. School systems developed support pathways for students who do not meet this metric. In March 2025, the Maryland State Board of Education adopted the current CCR Standard that went into effect at the start of the 2025-26 school year and provides multiple opportunities for students to meet this standard. Figure 1 indicates the various ways that students can meet CCR.

Figure 1. College and Career Readiness Measures



This report will focus on four national assessments that are administered in HCPS: PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, Advanced Placement (AP) exams, and the International Baccalaureate (IB) assessments. The purposes of each assessment, along with HCPS historical data, are provided in this report.

2. PSAT/NMSQT

The [Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test \(PSAT/NMSQT\)](#) is designed to mirror the SAT in format and content, giving students an opportunity to experience the test, timing, and types of questions. The students receive scores in reading, writing, and mathematics. Students in grades 10 and 11 generally take this assessment. Grade 11 students earning qualifying scores may become a finalist for the [National Merit Scholarship Program](#). This program can provide scholarships and other recognitions for students with high scores.

PSAT/NMSQT Highlights

*The PSAT/NMSQT exam was offered at all high schools during the school day this year, thus eliminating the need for students to secure transportation on a Saturday. HCPS saw an **increase in test participation of nearly 50%** from the previous school year.*

This year, this assessment qualifies as a CCR measure for MSDE and 594 students who tested this year earned the rigorous scores on both the reading/writing and mathematics sections to meet CCR.

2.1 Participation on the PSAT/NMSQT

In 2025-26, HCPS assessed students during the school day in the month of October. Prior to this, students were assessed on a Saturday. The shift to having this assessment administered during the school day led to 668 additional students being assessed this year, an increase of nearly 50% from the previous year. This shift also addressed transportation issues that students previously had by obtaining transportation on their own on a non-school day. Table 1 indicates the number of test takers for the past three years.

Table 1. Number of Students Assessed on the PSAT/NMSQT

Year	# Students Assessed
2023-24	1604
2024-25	1345
2025-26	2013

2.2 Performance on PSAT/NMSQT

Figure 2 provides historical data of HCPS, Maryland, and national results for the past three years with the mean score on the reading and writing section of this assessment. In 2026, HCPS outscored the state by 8 points and the nation by 18 points.



Figure 2. PSAT/NMSQT Mean Scores for Reading and Writing

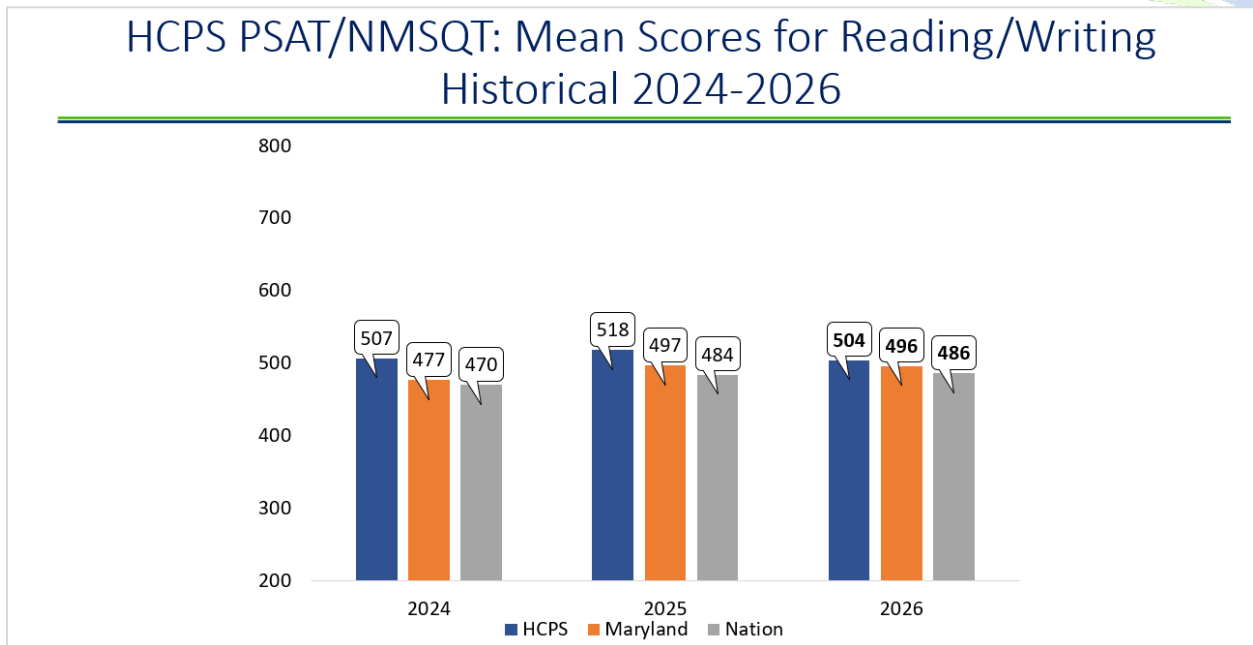
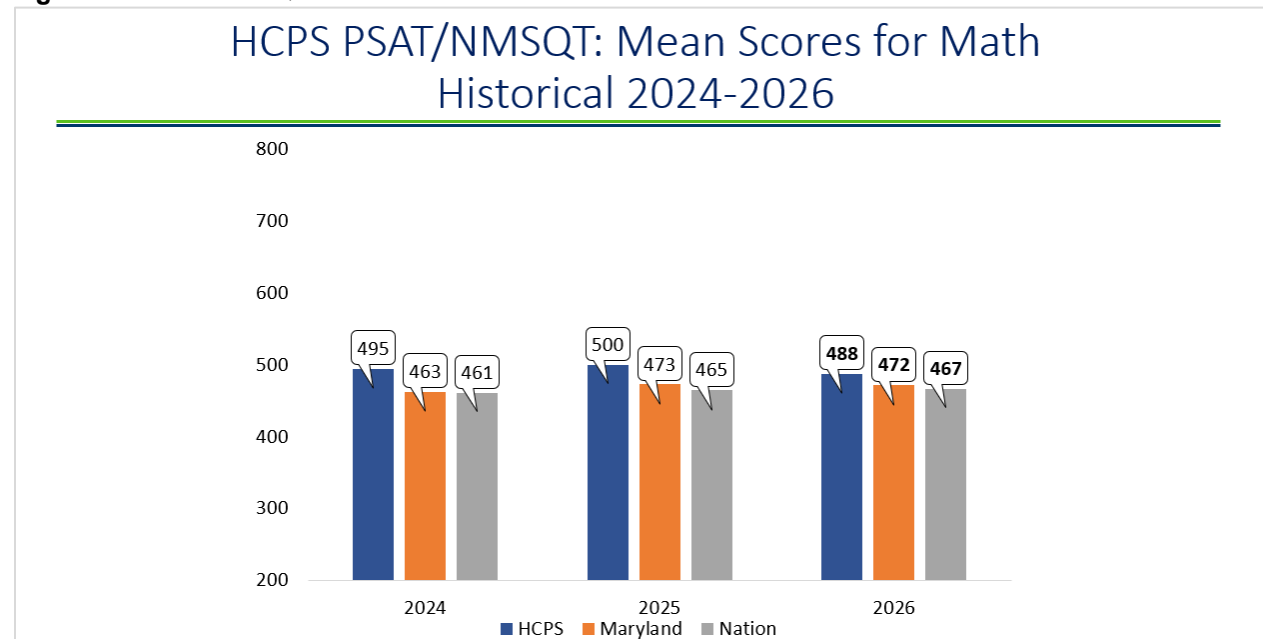


Figure 3 provides historical data of HCPS, Maryland, and national results for the past three years with the mean score for the mathematics section of this assessment. In 2026, HCPS outscored the state by 16 points and the nation by 21 points.

Figure 3. PSAT/NMSQT Mean Scores for Mathematics



2.3 Maryland College and Career Readiness Measure

Effective in the 2025-26 school year, this assessment can now count as a College and Career Readiness measure if students meet the qualifying score of 480 on the reading and writing section and at least 530 on the mathematics section. 594 students who tested in 2025-26 met the rigorous scores to earn CCR.

3. SAT

The [SAT](#) is a standardized assessment widely used by colleges and universities as a part of their admissions process. It provides a common measure to compare applicants from a variety of states, schools, and backgrounds. The SAT assesses skills in reading, writing, and mathematics and strong scores can help determine readiness for rigorous coursework. Generally, students in grades 11 and 12 take this assessment. Many scholarship opportunities rely on the SAT scores as a part of eligibility criteria for institutions of higher learning.

The SAT data in this report includes students who graduated from high school and is known as a cohort report. The latest data available to HCPS includes data from the 2025 cohort. This data looks historically through students' years in high school and includes their highest score on the SAT. Results for the 2025-26 school year will not be available until late summer 2026.

SAT Highlights

*HCPS increased the mean scores on both the reading/writing and mathematics sections of this assessment. **For reading and writing, the mean score increased from 551 in 2022-23 to 567 in 2024-25, up 16 points. For mathematics, the mean score increased from 537 in 2022-23 to 549 in 2024-25, up 12 points.** 640 students from the Class of 2025 met the rigorous cut scores on this assessment in both sections to meet the CCR standard.*

3.1 Participation on the SAT

Students take the SAT on Saturday administrations throughout the school year. Table 2 indicates the number of test takers for the past three years.

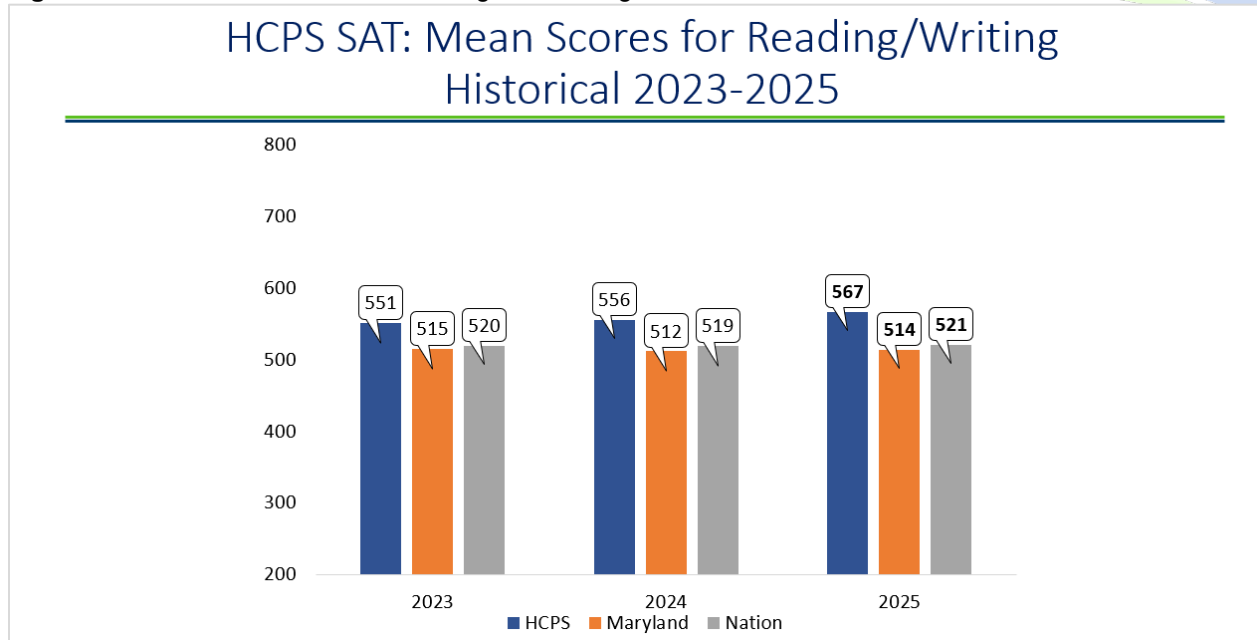
Table 2. Number of Students Assessed on the SAT

Year	# Students Assessed
2022-23	1149
2023-24	1148
2024-25	1077

3.2 Performance on SAT

On the reading and writing section of this test, HCPS earned a mean score of 567, increasing the mean score from 556 the previous school year. HCPS outscored the state by 53 points and the nation by 46 points for the Class of 2025. Figure 4 indicates the mean scores for HCPS, Maryland, and the nation for the past three years on the reading and writing section.

Figure 4. SAT Mean Scores for Reading and Writing

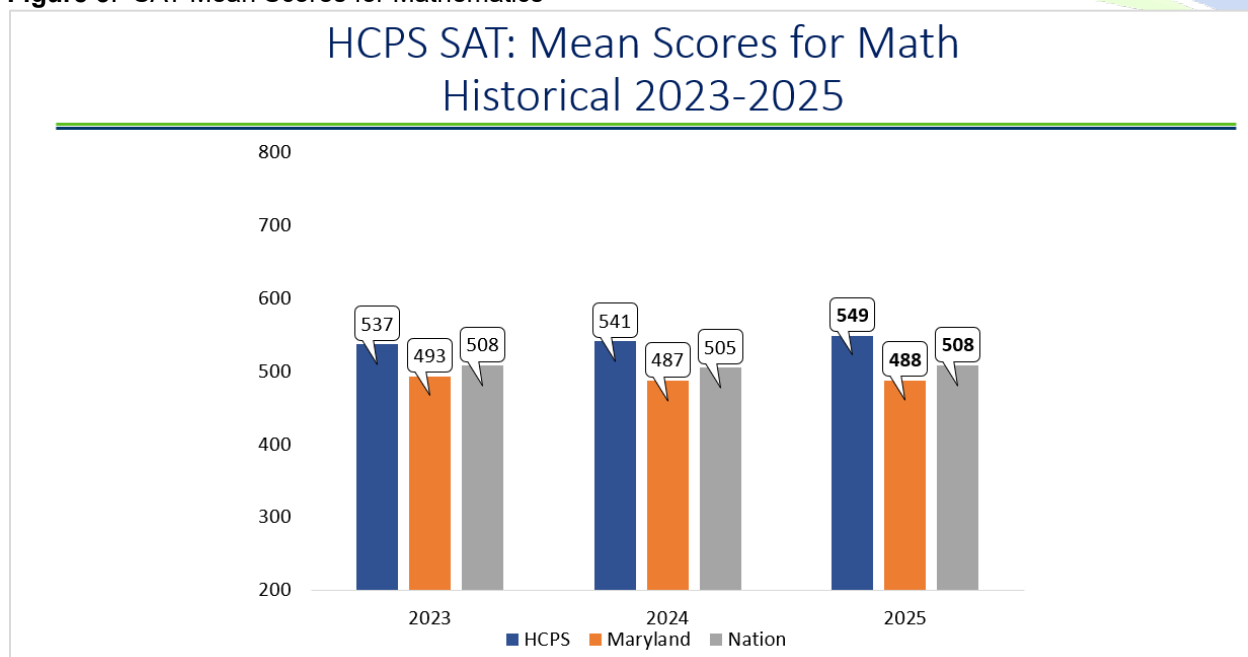


On the mathematics section, HCPS earned a mean score of 549, increasing the mean score from 541 the previous school year. HCPS outscored the state by 61 points and the national by 41 points for the Class of 2025. Figure 5 indicates the mean scores for HCPS, Maryland, and the nation for the past three years on the mathematics section.

3.3 Maryland College and Career Readiness Measure

Students earning a qualifying score of 480 on the reading and writing section and 530 on the mathematics section will meet the College and Career Readiness (CCR) Standard. For the Class of 2025, 640 students met the rigorous SAT scores to earn CCR.



Figure 5. SAT Mean Scores for Mathematics

4. Advanced Placement

In 2024-25, HCPS offered 27 different [AP courses](#) across high schools. Course offerings vary by school and depend on staffing and student interest. Students enroll in AP courses for several reasons, including the possibility of receiving college credit if they perform well on the corresponding exam. Colleges and universities establish criteria that students need to receive college credit for AP exams. AP courses demonstrate academic rigor and AP courses are weighted at a higher level which impacts a student's grade point average (GPA).

As required by the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, HCPS paid for all AP exams taken by all students in grades 11 and 12. For students in grades 9 and 10, HCPS paid for all AP exams for students receiving free or reduced meals (FaRMS). This eliminated the barrier of students having to pay for their own exams and increased participation.

In 2026-27, HCPS will add AP Precalculus (pending HCPS Board of Educational approval) as a course offering as this course was recently approved by the College Board. This course will replace Honors Precalculus currently offered at our high schools.

Advanced Placement Highlights

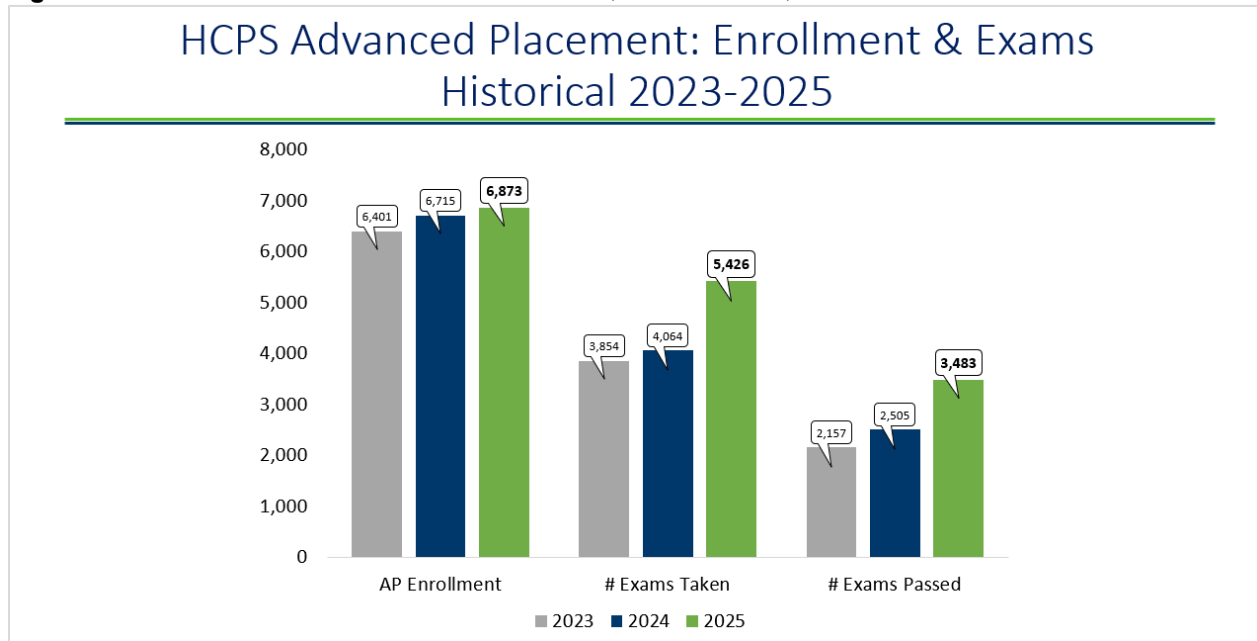
*Due to HCPS now funding the cost of these exams for all students in grades 11 and 12 and students who receive free or reduced meals in grades 9 and 10, a tremendous increase occurred in course enrollment, test participation, and the number of passed exams. From the prior school year, **HCPS increased enrollment by 158 students, the number of exams taken increased by 1,362, and the pass rate increased from 62.2% to 64.2%.** These metrics demonstrate the success of students and educators in these rigorous courses and prepare students for success after high school.*

4.1 Participation in AP Courses

In 2024-25, HCPS saw an increase in enrollment in AP courses with a total of 6,873 seats. This is the total enrollment of all AP courses as students often take more than one AP. A total number of 5,426 exams were taken by HCPS students in 2024-25, an increase of 33.5% from the previous school year.

Figure 6 outlines historical data for course enrollment, exams taken, and exams passed over the past three years.

Figure 6. Advanced Placement Course Enrollment, Exams Taken, and Exams Passed

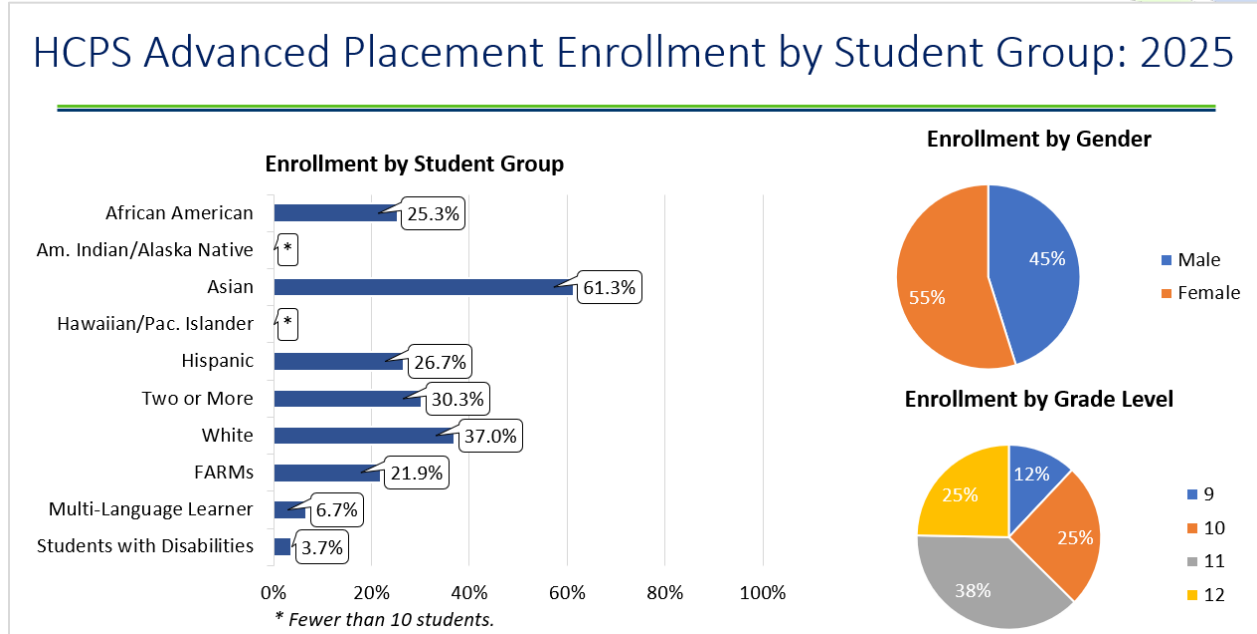


AP course enrollment includes representation of all student groups. Figure 7 indicates the percentage of students enrolled in at least one AP course by student group including race, ethnicity, FaRMS, multilanguage learners, and students with disabilities. The data is also presented by gender and grade level.

The College Board provides detailed information for each [AP course](#).



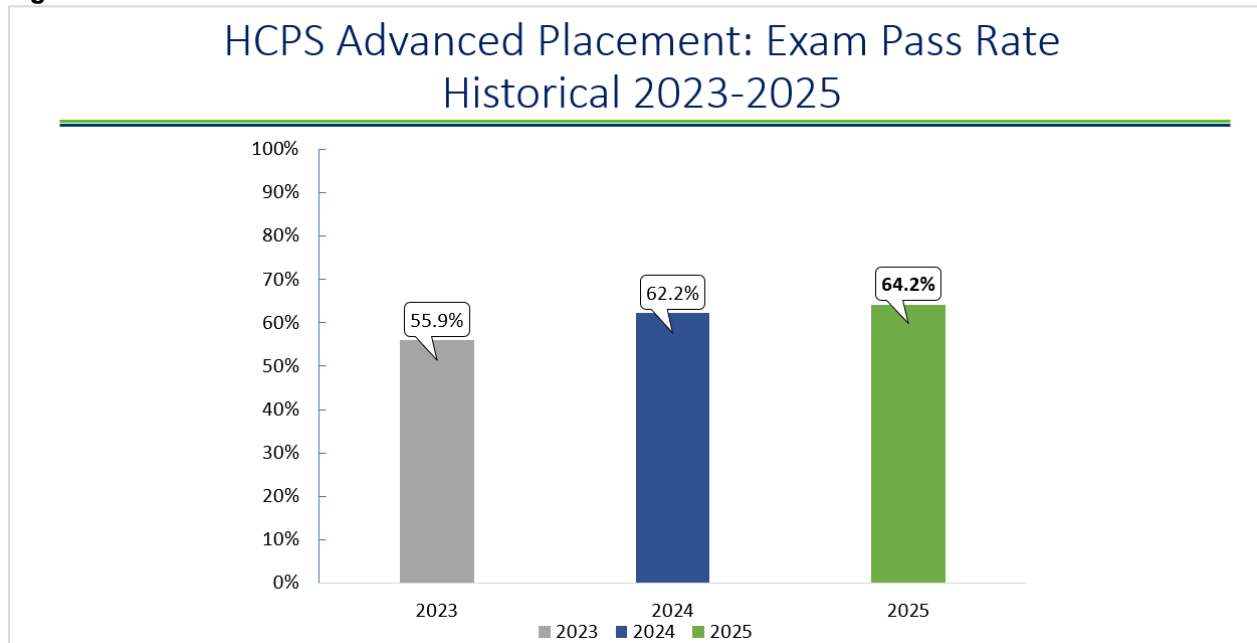
Figure 7. HCPS AP Enrollment by Student Groups



4.2 Performance on AP Exams

Passing an AP exam requires students to earn a score of 3, 4, or 5. In 2024-25, HCPS had the highest pass rate since 2006, 64.2%. This was a 2% increase from the prior school year. Figure 8 indicates the exam pass rates for the past three years.

Figure 8. AP Exam Pass Rates



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Table 3 outlines the number of AP exams passed for each course for the past three school years. From the 2022-23 school year to the 2024-25 school year, HCPS increased the number of exams passed by 1,326. This is a 61.5% increase.

Table 3. Number of AP Passed Exams by Year

AP Course	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
African American Studies	--	6	52
Biology	63	73	89
Calculus AB	122	138	148
Calculus BC	78	59	67
Chemistry	43	57	82
Comparative Government and Politics	--	51	--
Computer Science A	54	54	69
Computer Science Principles	137	138	172
English Language and Composition	327	360	513
English Literature	143	112	190
Environmental Science	84	123	243
European History	3	5	25
French Language	1	4	5
German Language	1	5	3
Human Geography	3	30	21
Macroeconomics	6	2	12
Microeconomics	14	7	18
Music Theory	3	1	12
Physics 1 and 2	37	55	110
Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism	6	4	13
Physics C: Mechanics	37	42	35
Psychology	159	149	297
Spanish Language	5	6	10
Statistics	86	113	176
Studio Art: 2D and 3D Design	6	7	20
Studio Art: Drawing	12	16	12
US Government and Politics	104	154	--
US History	152	308	1089
World History	471	482	--
TOTAL PASSED EXAMS	2157	2505	3483

5. International Baccalaureate

The [International Baccalaureate \(IB\) Program](#) is a globally recognized educational framework designed to develop students' intellectual, personal, emotional, and social skills for success in a rapidly changing world. Coursework is rigorous and emphasizes critical thinking, research, and writing skills. This program is offered exclusively at Edgewood High School in HCPS. Many colleges and universities award credits to students who earn high scores on the IB exams. Specific information about IB courses can be accessed [here](#).

International Baccalaureate Highlights

Over the past three years, Edgewood High School's International Baccalaureate (IB) Program has demonstrated substantial growth, strong student outcomes, and consistent academic success. Every Diploma Candidate has passed at least one IB exam that qualifies for college credit, underscoring the program's commitment to rigorous academic preparation.

During this period, students completed **882 college-level IB exams**, with **763 exams passed**, resulting in an impressive **three-year pass rate of 86.5%**. This sustained level of achievement reflects both the dedication of IB students and the quality of instruction within the program.

Collectively, these achievements highlight Edgewood High School's strong and expanding IB culture, marked by rising participation, high exam success rates, and diploma outcomes that exceed both state and national benchmarks.

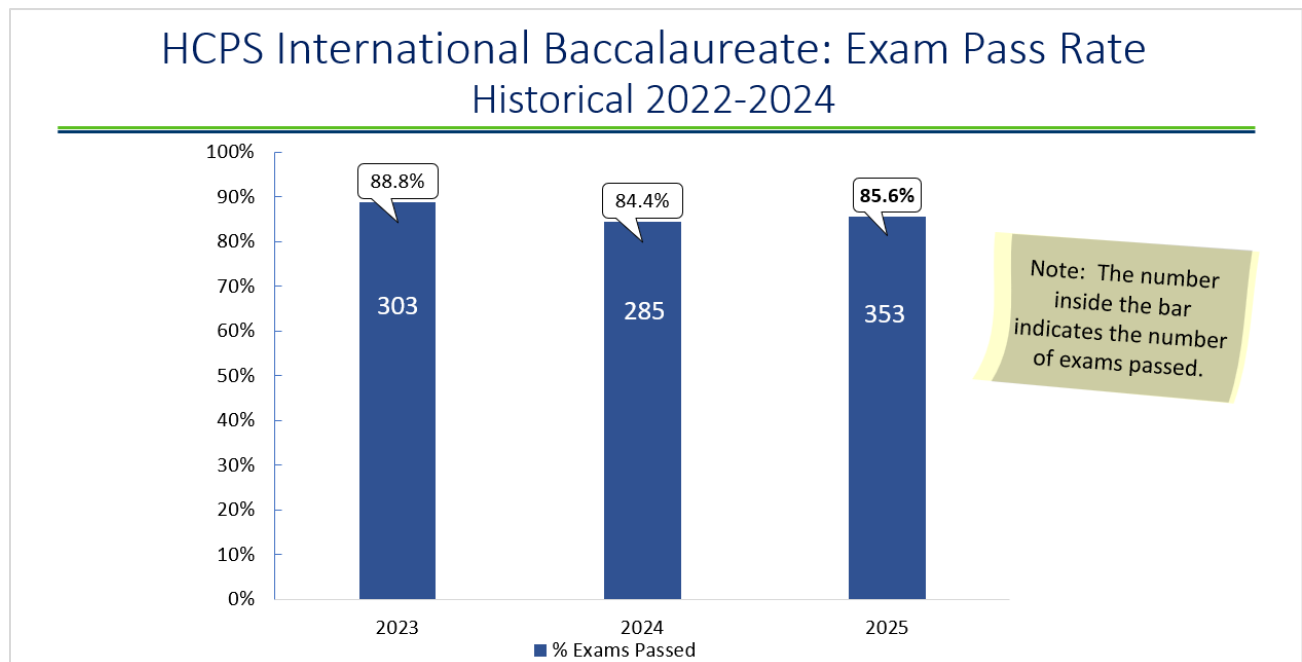
5.1 Participation in IB Exams

In 2024-25, 411 IB exams were taken by 78 students. In the IB program, students in grades 11 and 12 take the IB exams.

5.2 Performance on IB Exams

Figure 10 indicates the number of IB exams passed along with the passing rates for the past three years. In 2024-25, HCPS had a passing rate of 85.6%, up from 84.4% in the prior school year. IB exams are scored on a scale from 1 to 7 with 4 or higher that is considered as a passing score.

Figure 10. IB Exam Passing Rates



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Table 4 outlines the number of IB exams passed for each course for the past three school years. From the 2022-23 school year to the 2024-25 school year, Edgewood High School increased the number of exams passed by 45. This is a 25.1% increase.

Table 4. Number of IB Exams Passed by Year

IB Course	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Biology	22	8	12
Dance	--	7	2
English A: Literature	37	23	44
Film	5	--	18
French B	13	21	8
Geography	4	11	11
History of the Americas	31	21	37
Mathematics Analysis and Approaches	11	2	11
Mathematics Applications and Interpretation	16	20	16
Music	2	1	1
Psychology	6	--	13
Spanish AB	3	2	0
Spanish B	19	25	24
Sports Exercise Health Science	9	11	20
Theatre	1	2	2
Visual Arts	0	0	5
World Religion	--	36	--
TOTAL EXAMS PASSED	179	190	224

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