

Press Release

Harford County Public Schools



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Harford County national test scores remain steady School system continues to focus on accelerating the achievement of minority students

Harford County students scored above the state and national averages on the Critical Reading and Mathematics sections of the SAT Reasoning Test, according to data released by the College Board today.

Compared to 2008, Harford County test-takers' overall performance improved in Critical Reading (two points), remained steady in Mathematics, and dropped by two points in Writing. Harford County mean scores exceed the state in Critical Reading (507 versus 500) and in Mathematics (521 versus 502) while dropping below the state in Writing (488 versus 495).

The number of test-takers in Harford County decreased in 2009 with 1,350 graduates participating; approximately 26 percent of these were minority students. Compared to the state, African-American students in Harford County scored higher than their Maryland counterparts in both Critical Reading and Mathematics, but averaged slightly lower in writing.

"We are aligning our curriculum to ensure that our students have the skills necessary to do well on national tests," said Superintendent Robert M. Tomback. "While progress has been made, there is still work to be done to increase student readiness and participation on these assessments."

Meanwhile, Harford County participation in Advanced Placement (AP) assessments increased slightly from 1,230 students in 2008 to 1,253 students in 2009, at the same time total high school enrollment in the county dropped by approximately 240 students.

The total number of AP participants and the number of tests given has increased each year since 2005. Females continued to lead males in participation in 2009, with 719 females versus 534 males taking an AP test that year.

Bel Air, C. Milton Wright and Fallston high schools accounted for nearly 60 percent of AP test takers in Harford County in 2009. As a part of school improvement efforts, schools are accelerating student performance to ensure greater participation in AP courses. In particular, the school system continues to address its goal of increasing minority student participation and success in all AP courses.

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