



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*****REVISED*****

Harford County realizes significant gains in AP participation *SAT scores hold steady and exceed state and national data*

Harford County Public Schools realized a 20 percent increase in participation in Advanced Placement (AP) assessments from 1,525 students in 2011 to 1,824 students in 2012, this at the same time total high school enrollment in the county remained steady. Total enrollment in AP courses in 2012 was 4,591, a 12 percent jump from the previous year, with many students taking multiple AP courses. With a focus on rigor at every level, Harford County anticipates continuing increases in AP participation and performance.

This year, the number of AP exams given in Harford County scored at “college mastery level,” was 64 percent, up more than four percent from the previous year and staying consistent with Maryland and the nation. Achievement of this performance level qualifies students to receive credit at many colleges and universities.

AP exams were administered in all high schools, and the number of AP exams administered rose from 2,319 in 2011 to 2,946 in 2012, at total increase of 27 percent. By the time they graduated, approximately 19.4* percent of the members of the Class of 2012 had demonstrated college mastery or higher on one or more AP exams.

“Our Board of Education remains focused on college and career readiness for all students, and as a system, we are working tirelessly to raise the bar for success on these national tests each year,” said Superintendent of Schools Robert M. Tomback. “The increased level of AP participation in Harford County illustrates that our students understand and value the importance of setting goals and preparing for their future.”

The participation rate in the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) remained relatively the same from the previous year. Compared to 2011, Harford County test-takers’ overall performance in mathematics improved four points (516), held steady in writing (481) and dipped slightly in critical reading (503).

Harford County mean scale scores exceed the state and the nation in critical reading (503 versus 497 and 496, respectively) and in mathematics (516 versus 502 and 514, respectively) and remain slightly behind in writing (481 versus 488).

HCPS is expanding opportunities to ensure greater participation in AP courses, as well as to increase scores in every tested area of the SAT. In particular, the school system continues to focus on supporting students in mastering coursework, resulting in increased achievement on these rigorous assessments.

“College Readiness Coordinators in every high school work with faculty to promote high expectations for all students,” said Keri Guilbault, coordinator of accelerated programs. “SAT and AP prep courses, after-school tutoring, summer readiness programs and family engagement have contributed to our students’ success.”

Test scores, demographics and individual school information can be found on the school system website (www.hcps.org) by visiting each School Profile.

****There was an error in the original press release that was distributed September 24, 2012, which has since been corrected. The actual percentage of students in the class of 2012 that demonstrated college mastery or higher on one or more AP exam is 19.4 percent as this release indicates, not 44 percent as originally reported.***

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