

# Press Release

## Harford County Public Schools



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 12, 2010

### Harford County national test scores remain steady; participation up

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.

Compared to 2009, Harford County test-takers' overall performance held steady in Critical Reading (507), increased two points in Mathematics, and dropped by five points in Writing. Harford County mean scale scores exceed the state in Critical Reading (507 versus 501) and in Mathematics (523 versus 506) while remaining below the state in Writing (483 versus 495). The mean SAT Composite earned by Harford County students in 2010 was 1513 compared to the state's average of 1502.

The number of test-takers in Harford County also increased in 2010 with 1,440 graduates participating, an increase of 90 students from the previous year. Compared to the state, Harford County experienced a higher rate of participation in 2010 whereas Maryland saw a decrease of 192 test-takers.

"We are pleased with the progress made with regard to student participation on the SAT and AP exams," said Superintendent Robert M. Tomback. "Harford County scores continue to outpace the state and the nation, however, we will strive to increase rigor based on the needs of our students and set expectations even higher for all instructional areas, specifically the core subject areas."

Harford County participation in Advanced Placement (AP) assessments realized a 14 percent increase from 1,255 students in 2009 to 1,427 students in 2010, this at the same time total high school enrollment in the county remained steady. With a focus on rigor at every level, Harford County will continue to see scores and participation rise.

The total number of AP participants and the number of tests given in Harford County has increased each year since 2005. Compared to 2009, the number of exams given in 2010 increased by about 17 percent. With 61.13 percent of the exams given scored as "college mastery level," Harford County exceeded the state average by two percentage points for the second consecutive year.

As a part of school improvement efforts, schools are accelerating opportunities for students to ensure greater participation in AP courses, as well as increased scores in every tested area of the SAT. In particular, the school system will continue to focus on supporting students in mastering coursework, as well as increasing achievement on these rigorous assessments.

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

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