

# Press Release

## Harford County Public Schools

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Harford County AP/SAT participation up; scores hold steady *Harford County outpaces state and nation in critical reading*

Harford County participation in Advanced Placement (AP) assessments realized a nearly seven percent increase from 1,427 students in 2010 to 1,525 students in 2011, this at the same time total high school enrollment in the county remained steady. Total enrollment in AP courses exceeded 4,000, 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.

Slightly more than 60 percent of the AP exams given in Harford County were scored as “college mastery level,” 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 increased in five high schools compared to 2010. In 2011, one out of every four students enrolled in grades 10 through 12 took at least one AP course and one in six took an AP exam. By the time they graduated, one in five members of the Class of 2011 had demonstrated college mastery or higher on one or more AP exams.

“As our Board of Education’s strategic plan shines a light on college readiness, we will work to build on the successes of our students with respect to the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) and AP coursework,” said Superintendent Robert M. Tomback. “The increased level of SAT/AP participation in Harford County illustrates that our students understand and value the importance of these national tests as the foundation and keys to their future.”

Nearly eight percent more Harford County students took the SAT in 2011 compared to 2010. The number of test-takers in Harford County jumped in 2011 with 1,585 graduates participating, an increase of 145 students from the previous year, which exceeds the state’s rate of increase in participation in 2011.

Compared to 2010, Harford County test-takers’ overall performance held steady in critical reading (507) and writing (481), and dropped by ten points in mathematics, consistent with state and national data. Harford County mean scale scores exceed the state and the nation in critical reading (507 versus 499 and 497, respectively). Students in Harford County also outpaced the state in mathematics (512 versus 502) while falling slightly behind in writing (481 versus 491).

As a part of the school system’s efforts to improve college and career readiness for all students, schools are accelerating 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 will continue to focus on supporting students in mastering coursework, resulting in increased 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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