



from

Anne Arundel County Public Schools

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS' SCORES ON SAT HIGHER THAN STATE, NATIONAL AVERAGES FOR 13TH STRAIGHT YEAR

*African American, Hispanic students post sharp increases in SAT scores;
Composite ACT scores meet state, beat national marks*

The average combined score of Anne Arundel County high school seniors on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) in the 2008-2009 school year exceeded average scores for the state of Maryland and the United States for the 13th consecutive year, according to data compiled by the College Board.

The average combined score for county seniors in the 2008-2009 school year was 1,518 points, 40 points better than the Maryland average and 25 points higher than the national average. Countywide, the average score was four points better than in the 2007-2008 school year. The test, a national assessment widely utilized by colleges and universities as admission criteria, is made up of critical reading, math, and writing components.

For the 13th consecutive year, the highest county score came on the math portion of the test, where students averaged 519 points, three points higher than a year ago. The math average was 21 points higher than the state average and nine points above the national average. The average on the reading portion of the exam was 504 points, two points above last year's average, 12 points higher than the state average and eight points above the national average. On the writing portion, county students averaged 495 points, one point below the 2007-2008 average but seven points higher than the state average and eight points above the national average.

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Among student groups, the average score of African American students rose 43 points and the average score of Hispanic students rose 25 points.

Across the county, 2,515 county seniors took the SAT, a 13 percent drop from a year ago that is largely due to a corresponding 13 percent drop in the number of county seniors entering 12th grade in the 2008-2009 school year. Changes in overall student participation for 2008-2009, compared to 2007-2008, are consistent with national changes.

Among county student groups, however, participation by Hispanic students rose 25 percent and participation by African American students rose by 4 percent. Average scores for African-American and Hispanic students were higher than the state and national averages in all three tested areas. Hispanic students bested the national average in reading, math, and writing for the fourth year in a row.

“These scores offer proof that our efforts to put programs in place and deliver instruction in a way that will help every student achieve his or her potential are paying off,” schools Superintendent Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell said. “I am particularly pleased with the performance of our African American and Hispanic students, whose scores rose significantly this year.”

This was the fourth year in which the SAT included a writing component. Prior to the 2005-2006 school year, the test had only math and verbal sections. The maximum possible score on this year’s exam was 2400.

More information on SAT scores for Anne Arundel County students can be found in the attached document (SATRESULTS2008-09).

ACT RESULTS

For the fifth straight year, participation increased among county students on the ACT exam, a curriculum-based measure of college readiness. A total of 534 seniors took the exam in the 2008-2009 school year, 68 more (14.6 percent) than in 2007-2008. Countywide participation in the ACT, which has English, math, reading, and science components, has more than doubled since 2005, when 223 students took the exam. Among student groups, African American students saw one of the biggest participation jumps in 2008-2009, a 57.9 percent jump to 120 test-takers.

The composite score of students countywide was 22.1 points, the same as a year ago. The score equals the state average and is one point higher than the national average. County students scored highest on the math portion of the exam, with an average score of 22.4 points.