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**INFORMATION**

Office of Shared Accountability  
 MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
 Rockville, Maryland

March 25, 2009

MEMORANDUM

To: High School Principals

From: Stacy L. Scott, Associate Superintendent, Office of Shared Accountability

Subject: INFORMATION: 2008–2009 Grade 10 PSAT Participation

In school year 2008–2009, more than 90 percent of Montgomery County Public Schools’ (MCPS) Grade 10 students took the PSAT. The high level of PSAT participation is important because the PSAT is a practice test for the SAT and test results yield data used to identify students enrolled in regular-level classes who have the potential to perform well in Honors-level and Advanced Placement (AP) classes.

MCPS has set the ambitious strategic plan target of 95 percent participation on the PSAT for all Grade 10 student groups in all MCPS high schools by 2010. The 2008–2009 Grade 10 PSAT participation target (93.7 percent) was met by Asian American and White students. However, the target was not met for all students; African American and Hispanic students; and students who received Free and Reduced-price Meals System (FARMS), special education, or English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) services. There was an improvement in PSAT participation results in all subgroups in 2008–2009 compared with PSAT participation results for 2007–2008 with the exception of students eligible for FARMS services (Table 1).

Table 1  
 Percentage of MCPS Grade 10 Students Who Met the Student Performance Target for PSAT Participation in 2007–2008 and 2008–2009

Student Group	2007–2008		2008–2009		Diff.
	% Took PSAT	Target Met (≥ 92.5%)	% Took PSAT	Target Met (≥ 93.7%)	
All Students	91.7		92.3		0.6
African American	88.1		88.8		0.7
Asian American	96.6	Yes	97.6	Yes	1.0
Hispanic	84.4		86.1		1.7
White	95.1	Yes	95.4	Yes	0.3
FARMS	85.1		84.8		-0.3
Special Education	81.3		84.6		3.3
ESOL	85.2		87.6		2.4

Thirteen high schools met the 2008–2009 PSAT participation targets for all Grade 10 students (Table 2). Twenty-two high schools met the PSAT target for Asian American and/or White Grade 10 students. Ten high schools met the target for African American and/or Hispanic Grade 10 students. Eight high schools met the PSAT target for Grade 10 students who received FARMS, special education, and/or ESOL services.

Table 2  
Number of High Schools That Met the District Performance Target  
for Grade 10 Students' PSAT Participation in  
2007–2008 and 2008–2009

Student Group	2007-2008 (≥ 92.5% Took PSAT)	2008-2009 (≥ 93.7% Took PSAT)	Diff.
All Students	13	13	0
African American	7	7	0
Asian American	22	22	0
Hispanic	7	5	-2
White	20	20	0
FARMS	5	1	-4
Special Education	2	3	1
ESOL	4	6	2

The PSAT also was administered to all students in Grade 11 in school year 2008-2009. The attached tables provide additional data about PSAT participation by school and student group for students in Grades 10 and 11. If you have questions about the PSAT participation data, please contact Dr. Clare Von Secker, supervisor, Applied Research Unit, OSA, at 301-279-3925 or via e-mail at [Clare\\_E\\_VonSecker@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Clare_E_VonSecker@mcpsmd.org).

SLS:vr

Attachment

Copy to:

Executive Staff  
Ms. Blum  
Dr. Von Secker  
Dr. Newman

Approved: 

Frieda K. Lacey, Deputy Superintendent of Schools

Table A1  
 MCPS Students Who Met the Target for Grade 10 PSAT Participation in  
 2008–2009 by Cluster Group, High School, Race/Ethnicity, and Special Services

Cluster Group and High School	Met 2009 Target for Grade 10 ( $\geq 93.7\%$ ) <sup>a</sup>							
	All	African Amer.	Asian Amer.	Hispanic	White	FARMS	Special Ed.	ESOL
MCPS			Yes		Yes			
Blair	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes			
Einstein			Yes		Yes			
Kennedy			Yes		Yes			Yes
Northwood	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes
Churchill	Yes		Yes		Yes			--
R. Montgomery			Yes		Yes			
Rockville	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes
Wootton	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes	
Northwest	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes			--
Poolesville	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	--
Quince Orchard		Yes	Yes		Yes			
Seneca Valley	Yes			Yes	Yes			Yes
Blake					Yes			
Paint Branch	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			--
Sherwood	Yes		Yes		Yes			Yes
Springbrook			Yes					
Clarksburg			Yes					Yes
Damascus					Yes			--
Gaithersburg			Yes		Yes			
Magruder			Yes					
Watkins Mill	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes			
B-CC			Yes					
Walter Johnson	Yes		Yes		Yes			
Wheaton			Yes					
Whitman	Yes		Yes		Yes			

*Note.* Results are calculated for students who were enrolled in Grade 10 on October 17, 2008, excluding students who were enrolled in special schools, students enrolled in ESOL levels 1 or 2, and special education students who were eligible to take the Alternate Maryland School Assessment (Alt-MSA) (e.g., students enrolled in learning for independence, extension, or community-based special education programs). Results are not reported (--) for groups with fewer than five students. American Indian students are not reported separately but are included with all students.

<sup>a</sup> Students who took the PSAT received scores for all three subtests, namely, critical reading, math, and writing. Students who completed at least part of a subtest received a score for that test. PSAT test takers missing scores for one or more subtests were less than 0.4% in Grade 10.

Table A2  
 Number and Percentage of MCPS Students Who Met the Target for Grade 10 and  
 Grade 11 PSAT Participation in 2008–2009 by Cluster Group and High School

Cluster Group and High School	Grade 10				Grade 11 <sup>b</sup>		
	All	N Took PSAT <sup>a</sup>	% Took PSAT <sup>a</sup>	Met Target	All	N Took PSAT <sup>a</sup>	% Took PSAT <sup>a</sup>
MCPS	10754	9930	92.3		10683	9677	90.6
Blair	645	616	95.5	Yes	639	590	92.3
Einstein	363	331	91.2		325	298	91.7
Kennedy	383	349	91.1		358	319	89.1
Northwood	336	319	94.9	Yes	285	254	89.1
Churchill	519	499	96.1	Yes	537	514	95.7
R. Montgomery	489	435	89.0		492	445	90.4
Rockville	298	280	94.0	Yes	294	244	83.0
Wootton	591	573	97.0	Yes	613	591	96.4
Northwest	490	467	95.3	Yes	486	441	90.7
Poolesville	280	278	99.3	Yes	278	260	93.5
Quince Orchard	448	416	92.9		423	394	93.1
Seneca Valley	319	301	94.4	Yes	296	277	93.6
Blake	458	405	88.4		403	350	86.8
Paint Branch	444	427	96.2	Yes	469	432	92.1
Sherwood	512	482	94.1	Yes	515	466	90.5
Springbrook	442	351	79.4		425	354	83.3
Clarksburg	395	356	90.1		413	352	85.2
Damascus	346	320	92.5		371	353	95.1
Gaithersburg	463	393	84.9		474	387	81.6
Magruder	464	395	85.1		506	440	87.0
Watkins Mill	393	371	94.4	Yes	352	331	94.0
B-CC	440	410	93.2		442	411	93.0
Walter Johnson	493	473	95.9	Yes	475	440	92.6
Wheaton	275	238	86.5		335	286	85.4
Whitman	468	445	95.1	Yes	477	448	93.9

*Note.* Results are calculated for students who were enrolled in Grades 10 and 11 on October 17, 2008, excluding students who were enrolled in special schools, students enrolled in ESOL levels 1 or 2, and special education students who were eligible to take the Alt-MSA (e.g., students enrolled in learning for independence, extension, or community-based special education programs).

<sup>a</sup> Students who took the PSAT received scores for all three subtests, namely, critical reading, math, and writing. Students who completed at least part of a subtest received a score for that test. PSAT test takers missing scores for one or more subtests were less than 0.4% in Grade 10 and 0.3% in Grade 11, respectively.

<sup>b</sup> The MCPS strategic plan currently has no target for PSAT participation in Grade 11.

Table A3  
 Percentage of MCPS Students Who Met the Target for Grade 10 PSAT Participation in 2008–2009 by Cluster Group,  
 High School, and Racial/Ethnic Group

Cluster Group and High School	N Grade 10 Students <sup>a</sup>					% Grade 10 Students Took PSAT					Met 2009 Target for Grade 10 (≥ 93.7%)				
	All	African Amer.	Asian Amer.	Hispanic	White	All	African Amer.	Asian Amer.	Hispanic	White	All	African Amer.	Asian Amer.	Hispanic	White
MCPS	10754	2608	1618	2084	4412	92.3	88.9	97.6	86.1	95.4			Yes		Yes
Blair	645	190	116	154	185	95.5	94.7	98.3	91.6	97.8	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
Einstein	363	99	24	173	65	91.2	92.9	95.8	87.9	96.9			Yes		Yes
Kennedy	383	183	32	135	32	91.1	91.3	96.9	88.9	93.8			Yes		Yes
Northwood	336	101	30	130	73	94.9	93.1	100.0	95.4	94.5	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes
Churchill	519	35	123	26	334	96.1	91.4	99.2	92.3	95.8	Yes		Yes		Yes
R. Montgomery	489	101	125	63	198	89.0	75.2	96.0	76.2	95.5			Yes		Yes
Rockville	298	58	40	79	118	94.0	86.2	100.0	93.7	96.6	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes
Wootton	591	31	197	31	332	97.0	96.8	98.0	87.1	97.3	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
Northwest	490	153	83	84	167	95.3	95.4	97.6	91.7	95.8	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
Poolesville	280	13	62	12	190	99.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	98.9	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Quince Orchard	448	80	63	88	215	92.9	93.8	100.0	85.2	94.0		Yes	Yes		Yes
Seneca Valley	319	111	29	88	91	94.4	92.8	89.7	95.5	96.7	Yes			Yes	Yes
Blake	458	221	46	53	137	88.4	85.5	93.5	81.1	94.2					Yes
Paint Branch	444	218	87	47	90	96.2	94.0	98.9	97.9	97.8	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sherwood	512	93	53	48	317	94.1	93.5	98.1	87.5	94.6	Yes		Yes		Yes
Springbrook	442	213	73	95	60	79.4	78.9	95.9	63.2	86.7			Yes		
Clarksburg	395	117	63	75	139	90.1	83.8	96.8	88.0	93.5			Yes		
Damascus	346	29	16	46	255	92.5	82.8	87.5	93.5	93.7					Yes
Gaithersburg	463	132	47	136	147	84.9	79.5	97.9	74.3	95.2			Yes		Yes
Magruder	464	87	66	117	193	85.1	78.2	98.5	70.1	92.7			Yes		
Watkins Mill	393	145	43	130	75	94.4	93.8	100.0	93.1	94.7	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
B-CC	440	77	31	49	281	93.2	93.5	96.8	87.8	93.6			Yes		
Walter Johnson	493	37	74	57	322	95.9	89.2	95.9	91.2	97.8	Yes		Yes		Yes
Wheaton	275	69	35	141	30	86.5	89.9	100.0	80.9	90.0			Yes		
Whitman	468	15	60	27	366	95.1	86.7	96.7	88.9	95.6	Yes		Yes		Yes

*Note.* Results are calculated for students who were enrolled in Grade 10 on October 17, 2008, excluding students who were enrolled in special schools, students enrolled in ESOL levels 1 or 2, and special education students who were eligible to take the Alt-MSA (e.g., students enrolled in learning for independence, extension, or community-based special education programs). American Indian students are not reported separately but are included with all students.

<sup>a</sup> Students who took the PSAT received scores for all three subtests, namely, critical reading, math, and writing. Students who completed at least part of a subtest received a score for that test. PSAT test takers missing scores for one or more subtests were less than 0.4% in Grade 10.

Table A4  
 Percentage of MCPS Grade 11 Students' PSAT Participation in 2008–2009 by Cluster Group,  
 High School, and Racial/Ethnic Group

Cluster Group and High School	N Grade 11 Students <sup>a</sup>					% Grade 11 <sup>b</sup> Students Took PSAT				
	All	African Amer.	Asian Amer.	Hispanic	White	All	African Amer.	Asian Amer.	Hispanic	White
MCPS	10683	2423	1716	1952	4563	90.6	86.7	96.1	83.0	93.8
Blair	639	196	126	147	170	92.3	92.3	97.6	85.0	94.7
Einstein	325	80	50	107	88	91.7	90.0	90.0	87.9	98.9
Kennedy	358	153	52	109	43	89.1	85.0	98.1	87.2	97.7
Northwood	285	109	16	84	76	89.1	89.0	93.8	86.9	90.8
Churchill	537	34	139	27	336	95.7	85.3	97.8	88.9	96.4
R. Montgomery	492	81	126	84	199	90.4	88.9	98.4	82.1	89.9
Rockville	294	52	35	71	134	83.0	78.8	97.1	74.6	85.1
Wootton	613	35	198	29	351	96.4	85.7	98.5	93.1	96.6
Northwest	486	157	81	73	174	90.7	86.0	92.6	91.8	93.7
Poolesville	278	14	45	16	201	93.5	92.9	100.0	93.8	92.0
Quince Orchard	423	72	62	68	221	93.1	87.5	98.4	86.8	95.5
Seneca Valley	296	93	44	55	102	93.6	88.2	100.0	94.5	95.1
Blake	403	147	38	72	144	86.8	86.4	92.1	72.2	93.1
Paint Branch	469	214	97	51	106	92.1	90.7	95.9	84.3	95.3
Sherwood	515	82	64	51	317	90.5	92.7	90.6	76.5	92.1
Springbrook	425	188	75	79	81	83.3	85.6	92.0	65.8	86.4
Clarksburg	413	128	62	82	138	85.2	80.5	91.9	80.5	91.3
Damascus	371	27	16	47	278	95.1	85.2	100.0	89.4	96.8
Gaithersburg	474	122	55	155	142	81.6	80.3	94.5	73.5	86.6
Magruder	506	102	66	104	232	87.0	80.4	93.9	73.1	94.0
Watkins Mill	352	139	50	87	75	94.0	92.1	100.0	93.1	94.7
B-CC	442	65	36	63	277	93.0	90.8	88.9	79.4	97.1
Walter Johnson	475	44	76	72	281	92.6	84.1	97.4	88.9	93.6
Wheaton	335	67	45	181	42	85.4	80.6	97.8	83.4	88.1
Whitman	477	22	62	38	355	93.9	63.6	95.2	97.4	95.2

*Note.* Results are calculated for students who were enrolled in Grade 11 on October 17, 2008, excluding students who were enrolled in special schools, students enrolled in ESOL levels 1 or 2, and special education students who were eligible to take the Alt-MSA (e.g., students enrolled in learning for independence, extension, or community-based special education programs). American Indian students are not reported separately but are included with all students.

<sup>a</sup> Students who took the PSAT received scores for all three subtests, namely, critical reading, math, and writing. Students who completed at least part of a subtest received a score for that test. PSAT test takers missing scores for one or more subtests were less than 0.3% in Grade 11.

<sup>b</sup> The MCPS strategic plan currently has no target for PSAT participation in Grade 11.

Table A5  
Percentage of MCPS Students Who Met the Target for Grade 10 PSAT Participation in 2008–2009 by Cluster Group,  
High School, and Special Service Group

Cluster Group and High School	N Grade 10 Students <sup>a</sup>				% Grade 10 Students Took PSAT				Met 2008 Target for Grade 10 (≥ 93.7%)			
	All	FARMS	Special Ed.	ESOL	All	FARMS	Special Ed.	ESOL	All	FARMS	Special Ed.	ESOL
MCPS	10754	2553	1131	451	92.3	84.8	84.6	87.6				
Blair	645	215	33	35	95.5	91.6	78.8	91.4	Yes			
Einstein	363	165	43	26	91.2	87.9	90.7	84.6				
Kennedy	383	186	45	20	91.1	89.8	93.3	95.0				Yes
Northwood	336	131	44	23	94.9	91.6	95.5	100.0	Yes		Yes	Yes
Churchill	519	16	70	0	96.1	81.3	92.9	--	Yes			--
R. Montgomery	489	85	41	30	89.0	78.8	78.0	76.7				
Rockville	298	73	37	15	94.0	87.7	73.0	100.0	Yes			Yes
Wootton	591	27	52	11	97.0	88.9	96.2	81.8	Yes		Yes	
Northwest	490	114	69	0	95.3	88.6	87.0	--	Yes			--
Poolesville	280	21	18	0	99.3	100.0	94.4	--	Yes	Yes	Yes	--
Quince Orchard	448	98	63	24	92.9	85.7	88.9	91.7				
Seneca Valley	319	105	37	22	94.4	87.6	91.9	100.0	Yes			Yes
Blake	458	117	42	2	88.4	77.8	78.6	50.0				
Paint Branch	444	120	32	0	96.2	92.5	87.5	--	Yes			--
Sherwood	512	73	41	25	94.1	86.3	90.2	96.0	Yes			Yes
Springbrook	442	177	41	29	79.4	72.3	46.3	86.2				
Clarksburg	395	101	37	23	90.1	82.2	81.1	100.0				Yes
Damascus	346	42	41	0	92.5	73.8	90.2	--				--
Gaithersburg	463	165	55	31	84.9	77.0	70.9	74.2				
Magruder	464	123	42	17	85.1	68.3	61.9	64.7				
Watkins Mill	393	158	72	27	94.4	91.8	91.7	88.9	Yes			
B-CC	440	45	33	14	93.2	88.9	87.9	85.7				
Walter Johnson	493	37	64	19	95.9	91.9	87.5	84.2	Yes			
Wheaton	275	149	25	32	86.5	85.2	80.0	84.4				
Whitman	468	10	54	26	95.1	70.0	87.0	84.6	Yes			

*Note.* Results are calculated for students who were enrolled in Grade 10 on October 17, 2008, excluding students who were enrolled in special schools, students enrolled in ESOL levels 1 or 2, and special education students who were eligible to take the Alt-MSA (e.g., students enrolled in learning for independence, extension, or community-based special education programs). Results are not reported (--) for groups with fewer than five students. American Indian students are not reported separately but are included with all students.

<sup>a</sup> Students who took the PSAT received scores for all three subtests, namely, critical reading, math, and writing. Students who completed at least part of a subtest received a score for that test. PSAT test takers missing scores for one or more subtests were less than 0.4% in Grade 10.

Table A6  
Percentage of MCPS Grade 11 Students' PSAT Participation in 2008–2009 by Cluster Group, High School, and Special Service Group

Cluster Group and High School	N Grade 11 Students <sup>a</sup>				% Grade 11 <sup>b</sup> Students Took PSAT			
	All	FARMS	Special Ed.	ESOL	All	FARMS	Special Ed.	ESOL
MCPS	10683	2230	968	556	90.6	82.8	80.2	83.5
Blair	639	197	26	67	92.3	88.3	92.3	91.0
Einstein	325	120	23	37	91.7	87.5	78.3	81.1
Kennedy	358	149	40	36	89.1	88.6	67.5	97.2
Northwood	285	102	37	13	89.1	85.3	86.5	92.3
Churchill	537	17	47	0	95.7	70.6	85.1	--
R. Montgomery	492	94	40	29	90.4	83.0	67.5	86.2
Rockville	294	59	26	17	83.0	69.5	61.5	76.5
Wootton	613	26	39	9	96.4	88.5	79.5	77.8
Northwest	486	91	64	0	90.7	85.7	71.9	--
Poolesville	278	7	12	0	93.5	85.7	100.0	--
Quince Orchard	423	71	45	32	93.1	91.5	86.7	93.8
Seneca Valley	296	67	31	26	93.6	89.6	87.1	100.0
Blake	403	95	27	4	86.8	80.0	74.1	100.0
Paint Branch	469	110	29	2	92.1	91.8	86.2	100.0
Sherwood	515	66	28	37	90.5	74.2	92.9	64.9
Springbrook	425	134	26	26	83.3	73.9	84.6	69.2
Clarksburg	413	112	40	19	85.2	72.3	72.5	78.9
Damascus	371	42	44	0	95.1	81.0	81.8	--
Gaithersburg	474	140	68	59	81.6	73.6	76.5	71.2
Magruder	506	110	53	12	87.0	74.5	66.0	66.7
Watkins Mill	352	136	51	29	94.0	92.6	92.2	96.6
B-CC	442	48	36	12	93.0	77.1	91.7	91.7
Walter Johnson	475	39	67	21	92.6	89.7	79.1	76.2
Wheaton	335	185	26	52	85.4	85.4	80.8	88.5
Whitman	477	13	43	17	93.9	30.8	88.4	64.7

*Note.* Results are calculated for students who were enrolled in Grade 11 on October 17, 2008, excluding students who were enrolled in special schools, students enrolled in ESOL levels 1 or 2, and special education students who were eligible to take the Alt-MSA (e.g., students enrolled in learning for independence, extension, or community-based special education programs). Results are not reported (--) for groups with fewer than five students. American Indian students are not reported separately but are included with all students.

<sup>a</sup> Students who took the PSAT received scores for all three subtests, namely, critical reading, math, and writing. Students who completed at least part of a subtest received a score for that test. PSAT test takers missing scores for one or more subtests were less than 0.3% in Grade 11.

<sup>b</sup> The MCPS strategic plan currently has no target for PSAT participation in Grade 11.