**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY
MEETING AGENDA ITEM**

TITLE: SAT Results for the Class of 2010 **DATE:** September 23, 2010**PRESENTER(S):** _____**OVERVIEW:**

The performance of the Class of 2010 on the SAT continues a trend of excellence. The mean composite score for the Class of 2010 is 1639, which is 130 points higher than the national composite score and 137 points higher than Maryland's mean composite score. In addition, the number of HCPSS seniors taking the SAT in 2010 increased by 201 students when compared to the Class of 2009. All student groups were represented in this increase.

The results presented in this report will vary from those published by the College Board. The College Board relies on self-report information provided by students taking the test. Through an internal analysis process, the Howard County Public School System verifies and corrects the information provided by the students. The results presented in this report reflect only those students confirmed as HCPSS test takers and graduates of the Class of 2010. State and national results reflect those in the profile reports published by College Board.

RECOMMENDATION/FUTURE DIRECTION:

While the performance of the Class of 2010 continues to exceed state and national averages, the HCPSS will continue to support improvement in both participation and performance on the SAT. There are discrepancies among the performance of student groups that will continue to be addressed through a variety of strategies.

**Submitted
by:**

Handwritten signature of Theresa R. Alban in black ink.

Theresa R. Alban
Chief Operating Officer

**Approval/
Concurrence:**

Sydney L. Cousin
Superintendent

Portia White
Coordinator of Testing

Background

Published by the College Board and scored by the Educational Testing Service, the SAT is a standardized test designed to measure high-school level knowledge in three sections – Critical Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. Each section is scored on a scale that ranges from 200 (lowest) to 800 (highest). The maximum total score, comprised of scores from all three sections, is 2400. The scores from the SAT, in addition to other student information, are used by colleges and universities to evaluate students' readiness for college work.

The College Board reports that almost 1.6 million students took the SAT in 2010 nationally, more students than ever before.¹ In Maryland, 46,370 students took the SAT in 2010, a one percent decrease from 2009. The Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) tested 3,021 students in 2010, an increase of a little over six percent from 2009.

About this Report

This report presents scores on the SAT for the HCPSS students from the Class of 2010. The trend performance begins with the Class of 2006, the first year in which writing scores became available.

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HCPSS Participation in SAT

In 2010, a total of 3,021 students in the HCPSS (73.3 percent of the graduating class) took the SAT. This number represents a decrease of two percent from 2009 when 2,820 (75.3 percent) of the graduating class took the test.

When comparing the 2010 participation rate to the 2009 participation rate, the African American student group showed the greatest increase among the racial/ethnic groups. In 2009, 471 students or 16.8 percent of the entire testing population were African Americans. In 2010, the participation of African Americans increased by 90 students, 18.6 percent of the HCPSS' 2010 SAT testing population.

¹ Information from www.collegeboard.com, September 17, 2010

The number of HCPSS students taking the SAT from 2006 to 2010 by gender and racial/ethnic group is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Demographic Summary of HCPSS SAT Takers, 2006–2010

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Overall	2,739	2,815	2,834	2,820	3,021
Male	1,312	1,368	1,350	1,330	1,475
Female	1,427	1,447	1,484	1,490	1,546
Asian	428	468	454	459	489
African American	419	447	470	471	561
White	1,809	1,819	1,836	1,784	1,854
Hispanic	78	76	63	94	102

The number of American Indian/Alaskan students who participated is omitted because fewer than 10 students are included in this group across the trend years.

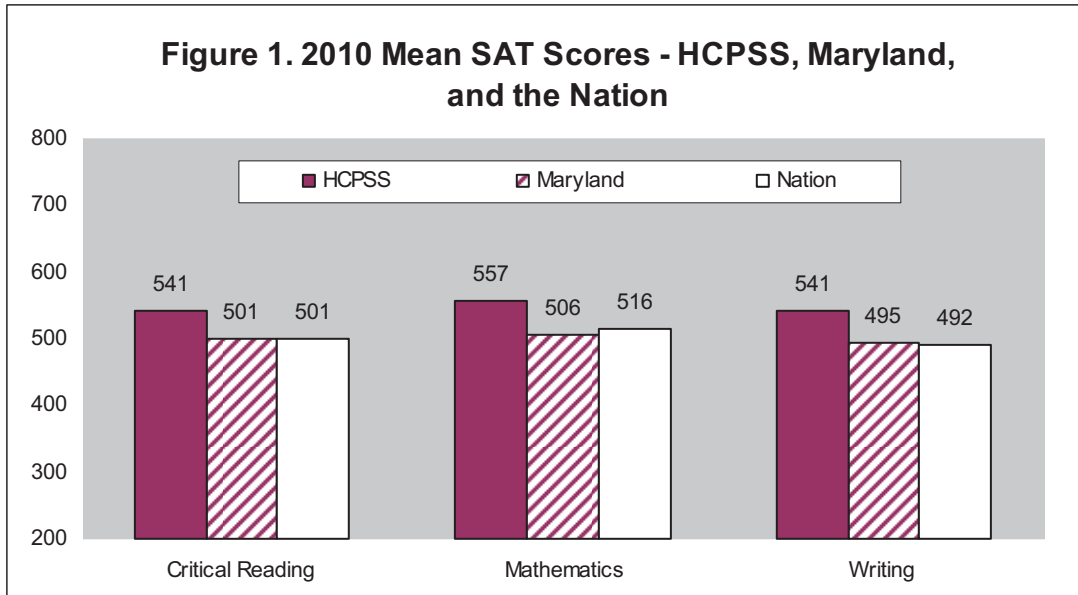
Overall Results for the Graduating Class of 2010

The average SAT scores for the HCPSS students from 2006 to 2010 are shown in Table 2. The Graduating Class of 2010 demonstrated results similar to their peers from previous years. This relatively flat performance is consistent at both the state and national levels as well.

Table 2. Mean SAT Scores, 2006–2010 – HCPSS, Maryland, Nation

		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Critical Reading	HCPSS	537	537	540	542	541
	Maryland	503	500	499	500	501
	Nation	503	502	502	501	501
Mathematics	HCPSS	557	556	557	558	557
	Maryland	509	502	502	502	506
	Nation	518	515	515	515	516
Writing	HCPSS	536	537	544	541	541
	Maryland	499	496	497	495	495
	Nation	497	494	494	493	492

The HCPSS 2010 average scores surpass those of Maryland and the nation in all areas. The average scores for HCPSS, Maryland, and the nation are displayed in Figure 1.



Results by Gender

Males outperformed female students on two sections, scoring five points higher in Critical Reading and 40 points higher in Mathematics. On the Writing portion of the 2010 SAT, female students performed higher than males by twelve points.

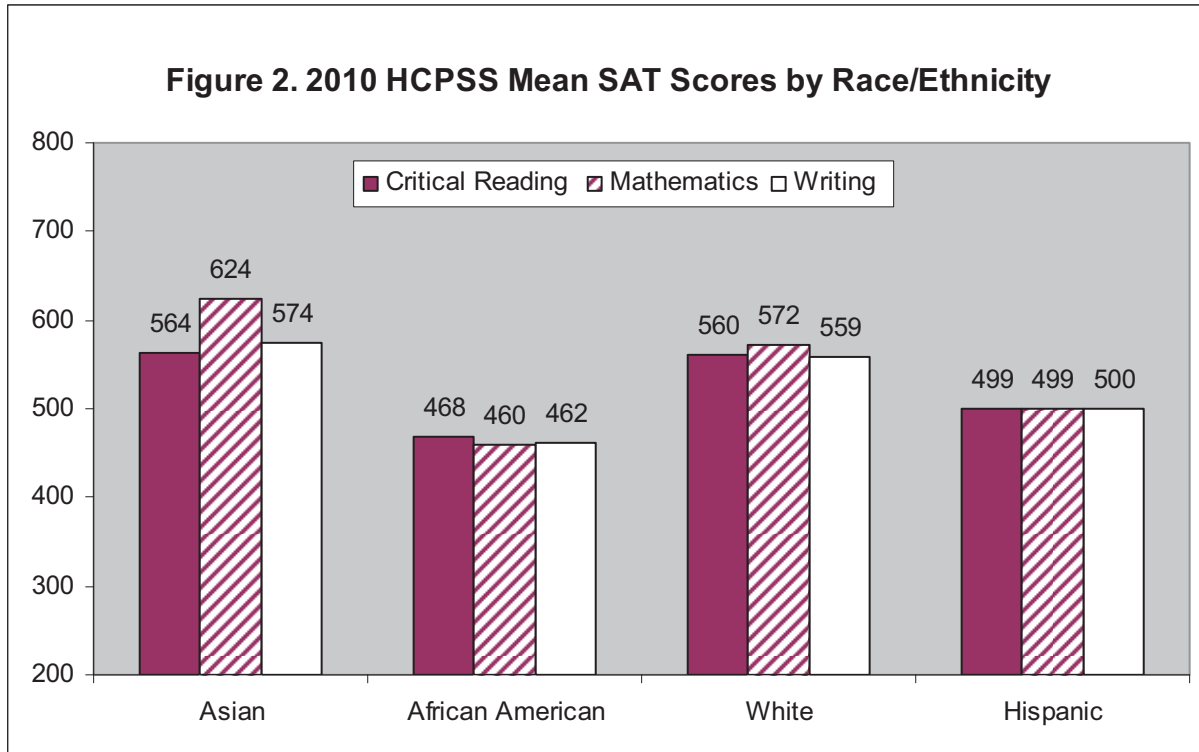
The results for HCPSS' male and female students in 2010 mirror the trends from 2006 to 2009. Similar trends are seen in analyzing the results by gender for the state and the nation. These data are presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Mean SAT Scores by Gender, 2006–2010 – HCPSS, Maryland, Nation

			2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	
Critical Reading	HCPSS	Male	539	532	544	543	544	
			Maryland	505	503	501	501	503
			Nation	505	504	504	503	503
	HCPSS	Female	539	542	537	541	539	
			Maryland	502	498	497	498	499
			Nation	502	502	500	498	498
Mathematics	HCPSS	Male	576	567	578	576	578	
			Maryland	527	522	521	520	525
			Nation	536	533	533	534	534
	HCPSS	Female	543	547	538	542	537	
			Maryland	493	488	487	487	489
			Nation	502	499	500	499	500
Writing	HCPSS	Male	529	524	535	532	535	
			Maryland	493	490	489	487	487
			Nation	491	489	488	486	486
	HCPSS	Female	545	551	552	550	547	
			Maryland	504	502	504	502	501
			Nation	502	500	501	499	498

Results by Race/Ethnicity

The average SAT scores by race/ethnicity of HCPSS students is shown in Figure 2. The average scores of every racial/ethnic group in HCPSS exceed the average scores of their counterparts in the state and nation; however, the analysis of the data supports the school system's continued efforts to eliminate the discrepancies among student groups.



The average scores by race/ethnicity for the HCPSS, Maryland, and the nation since 2006 are displayed in Table 4. These data show that HCPSS students performed highest on all three sections of the SAT every year. The average score is greater than 40 points for some groups, particularly in comparing HCPSS scores to the average scores of the nation.

Table 4. 2006–2010 Mean SAT Scores by Race/Ethnicity – HCPSS, Maryland, Nation

			2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	
Critical Reading	Asian	HCPSS	543	543	559	554	564	
		Maryland	528	528	531	538	542	
		Nation	510	514	513	516	519	
	African American	HCPSS	469	462	459	474	468	
		Maryland	430	428	423	427	430	
		Nation	434	433	430	429	429	
	White	HCPSS	553	555	558	558	560	
		Maryland	539	540	540	540	539	
		Nation	527	527	528	528	528	
	Hispanic	HCPSS	505	479	498	511	499	
		Maryland	487	478	476	480	480	
		Nation	456	458	455	454	454	
	Mathematics	Asian	HCPSS	613	613	615	612	624
			Maryland	585	582	584	591	595
			Nation	578	578	581	587	591
African American		HCPSS	465	459	451	466	460	
		Maryland	418	415	411	414	420	
		Nation	429	429	426	426	428	
White		HCPSS	567	568	571	572	572	
		Maryland	548	545	547	546	547	
		Nation	536	534	537	536	536	
Hispanic		HCPSS	504	494	504	499	499	
		Maryland	488	481	479	477	484	
		Nation	463	463	461	461	462	
Writing		Asian	HCPSS	555	555	570	564	574
			Maryland	533	530	538	545	549
			Nation	512	513	516	520	526
	African American	HCPSS	466	460	463	466	462	
		Maryland	427	425	423	422	422	
		Nation	428	425	424	421	420	
	White	HCPSS	549	554	561	558	559	
		Maryland	535	535	536	534	532	
		Nation	519	518	518	517	516	
	Hispanic	HCPSS	503	477	495	496	500	
		Maryland	481	474	475	475	479	
		Nation	451	450	447	447	447	

Results by School

The 2010 average results by school reveal that in most cases, the HCPSS schools exceeded the state and national averages. Table 5 presents these data.

Table 5. 2010 Mean SAT Participation and Mean Scores by School

	Number Tested	Critical Reading	Mathematics	Writing	Composite
HCPSS	3,021	541	557	541	1639
Maryland	46,370	501	506	495	1502
Nation	1,547,990	501	516	492	1509
Atholton	283	557	572	561	1690
Centennial	311	585	618	591	1794
Glenelg	215	546	559	544	1649
Hammond	202	515	518	505	1538
Howard	303	530	540	531	1601
Long Reach	197	499	509	500	1508
Marriotts Ridge	266	564	576	561	1701
Mount Hebron	272	538	564	545	1647
Oakland Mills	178	505	498	494	1497
Reservoir	244	508	530	512	1550
River Hill	308	578	604	578	1760
Wilde Lake	242	523	530	520	1573

Summary of Results

The graduating class of 2010 overall has continued the established trend of achieving average scores that are higher than the state and the nation – 137 and 130 points respectively. The same is true for the performance of each of the student groups. Also, the number of students taking the SAT in 2010 increased from the previous year for students overall and all student groups.

The accomplishments of the Graduating Class of 2010 are noteworthy. The discrepancy among the performance of student groups continues to be an area for improvement. The gaps in performance between gender and racial/ethnic groups are being addressed through a variety of programs, including STEM initiatives and the work of academic mentors and liaisons in the high schools.