

The Howard County Public School System

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November 8, 2005

To: Board of Education Members

From: Sydney Cousin
Superintendent

Subject: English II and Preliminary Adequate Yearly Progress Results for High Schools

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has announced that they will tentatively release the 2005 High School Assessment (HSA) preliminary proficiency results for English II on the state website at www.mdreportcard.org on November 10, 2005. In addition, preliminary Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) decisions for reading for high schools will be released. While we have not seen exactly what MSDE will release, we have conducted our own preliminary analysis using the data file MSDE provided to us. **The HSA and AYP information is embargoed until the official release by MSDE, but we wanted you to be informed of some general findings in preparation for the complete release of results.** A report containing the same information that you are receiving today and a summary of previously released HSA results will be presented at the Board of Education meeting on November 10, 2005

When considering the preliminary results, it is important to remember several things:

1. English II was a new test administered for the first time in May 2005. It serves as both the reading accountability measure for high schools and as an individual student graduation requirement. Students who took the test in May 2005 are only required to take the test; students taking the test in May 2006 will be required to pass the test.
2. High schools will be given an opportunity to appeal preliminary AYP decisions.

Summary of English II Results

There were 3,756 students who took the English II HSA and 76.7 percent passed the test. This includes 40.5 percent of the students who scored advanced and 36.2 percent of the students who scored proficient. This exceeds the Annual Measurable Objective of 40 percent established by the state for school systems; however, it does not meet our systemwide target to have 95 percent of all students pass the HSA on their first attempt. The overall percent of students passing the English II HSA ranged from 65 to 90 percent across our high schools.

Countywide performance on the English II HSA is presented in the following table for all student groups. Two local standards are presented since the English II test is part of both the HSA and MSA testing programs.

Group	Local Standard MSA/HSA	2005 Percent Advanced	2005 Percent Proficient	2005 Percent Passing (Proficient and Advanced)
All Students	70/95	40.5	36.2	76.7
Males	70/95	32.7	38.7	71.4
Females	70/95	48.7	33.6	82.3
Asian	70/95	46.1	31.5	77.6
African American	70/95	16.1	40.4	56.5
White	70/95	47.5	35.6	83.1
Hispanic	70/95	19.3	44.7	64.0
American Indian	70/95	40.0	20.0	60.0
Not Reported	70/95	50.0	40.0	90.0
ELL	70/95	3.3	16.7	20.0
FARMS	70/95	10.7	33.6	44.3
Special Education	70/95	6.9	26.2	33.1

Current AYP Status for High Schools

With both the geometry and English II results available, MSDE has released preliminary AYP status for high schools in mathematics and reading. At this point, two schools did not meet the AYP requirements. Cedar Lane Special Center did not meet AYP for attendance. Hammond High School did not meet AYP for special education students in mathematics. All schools met AYP for reading (English II). We will work with both of the schools that did not make AYP to determine if there is any basis for appeal and will keep you informed.

A hard copy of this email along with tables presenting performance on all of the HSAs by student group for every high school will be sent to you as well. Additional reports will be available on the Open District Wizard after public release by MSDE.

Future Changes

This will be the last year that the geometry test is used. The State Board of Education agreed to eliminate the geometry test and use the algebra/data analysis HSA as the mathematics test for high school accountability.

Additionally, with the new standards set for the English II test, MSDE has released a summary of the scores needed to pass the HSA tests or to accrue a composite score that meets or exceeds the state standard by combining scores above the minimum score on all four HSA tests. The minimum score and passing score for each HSA is presented in the table below.

High School Assessment				
Content	Minimum Scale Score	Passing Scale Score	Proficient Scale Score	Advanced Scale Score
Algebra	402	412	412	450
Biology	391	400		
English II	386	396	396	429
Government	387	394		
Total Combined Score Option		1602		

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