

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

TITLE:	Report on the Results of the 2007 Maryland High School Assessments	DATE:	September 20, 2007
	Portia White, Coordinator of Testing		Elisa Monalvo, Hispanic Achievement Specialist
	Clarissa Evans, Executive Director of Secondary		Vera Wilkins, Achievement Specialist for
PRESENTER(S):	Curricular Programs		Secondary BSAP
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OVERVIEW:

Results of the Algebra, Biology, English 10, and Government 2007 Maryland High School Assessments (HSA) for middle and high schools have been finalized. In all four content areas, more than 86 percent of HCPSS students passed the test. The 2007 results are the highest ever for HCPSS students. The overall percent of students passing the 2007 HSA in our system was:

- Algebra 87.5% (increase of 2.1%)
- Biology 87.5% (increase of 5.1%)
- English 10 86.0% (increase of 7.5%)
- Government 89.6% (increase of 4.3%)

In addition to reviewing the results for all students who participated in the HSA in 2007, there were many questions about the performance of students in the Class of 2009 as they are the first group of students required to pass the tests as a graduation requirement. Several different reports have addressed these questions, and the numbers vary slightly due to enrollment figures constantly changing. The numbers presented throughout this report related to the Class of 2009 and 2010 are based on enrollment figures through September 5, 2007 and match the numbers sent to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) for their website. For HCPSS students in the Class of 2009, the news is good. Based on students who have taken the tests, the overall percent of students passing ranged from 89% to 94%.

RECOMMENDATION/FUTURE DIRECTION:

The 2007 HSA results are encouraging. Many HCPSS students have met or are positioned to meet the HSA requirement. HSA continues to be a priority. The system has targeted efforts and resources to prepare every student to meet the HSA requirement. Every department that has a direct connection to the HSA and its requirement has collaborated to provide the best services to students and their families and to schools.

Submitted by:		Approval/	
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Introduction

The Maryland High School Assessments (HSA) are end-of-course tests in algebra/data analysis, biology, English, and government. Typically, students take the biology, government, and assessed English course in Grade 10. Algebra/Data Analysis is offered as early as middle school and many of our students are enrolled. It is also offered to many students in Grade 9. As students complete the courses, they are administered the exams. Currently, there are two different graduation requirements for students regarding the HSA. Students who are currently in Grade 12 have only to take the HSA; whereas, students who entered Grade 9 or lower in 2005-2006 are required to take and pass the HSA to meet their graduation requirement.

Students who must pass the HSA in order to earn a Maryland High School Diploma have several options for fulfilling this requirement:

1. Pass all four HSAs by earning the passing scale score or higher.
2. Earn a minimum score or more on each test **and** earn the combined score of 1602 for all tests. The minimum score for each test is lower than the passing scores but the combined score is equal to the total of all HSA passing scores.
3. Earn passing scores on state-approved substitute tests and substitute one or more of those scores for passing scores on the HSA. (The Maryland State Department of Education recently approved several Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate tests as possible substitute tests.)

The minimum score and passing score for each HSA are presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Passing and Minimum Scores for the Maryland High School Assessments

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 10	386	396	396	429
Government	387	394		
Total Combined Score Option		1602		

Two of the HSA tests, algebra/data analysis and English 10, are also used as the Maryland School Assessment to measure high school performance in reading and mathematics. These tests are also used in the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) calculations for high schools. These data will be released after all appeals are processed and represent the scores of first-time test takers only. All other data presented relative to the HSA include students who are re-taking the test as well.

Results and Trend Performance for the HSA

The performance of students throughout the HCPSS on the 2007 HSA improved over the last four years, and this year's results are the highest scores ever achieved on each of the tests.

Table 2 presents the countywide 2007 HSA performance for students overall and all student groups. The following pass rates for each content are displayed in the table:

- Algebra 87.5%
- Biology 87.5%
- English 10 86.0%
- Government 89.6%

Included in these numbers are the scores of every student taking the HSA during 2007—first time test takers required to pass, first time test takers required to take the test, and students retaking the test to pass or improve a score.

Table 2: Countywide Performance on the 2007 HSA – All Students and Student Groups

Group	Algebra		Biology		English 10		Government	
	Number of Students	Percent Passing	Number of Students	Percent Passing	Number of Students	Percent Passing	Number of Students	Percent Passing
All Students	4449	87.5	3949	87.5	3971	86.0	3994	89.6
Males	2269	87.8	1985	86.6	1999	83.2	2008	88.5
Females	2180	87.2	1964	88.4	1972	88.7	1986	90.8
Asian	640	96.5	550	91.2	547	86.8	561	91.2
African American	1033	70.2	758	68.3	809	67.9	803	76.8
White	2534	93.4	2475	93.7	2422	92.7	2448	94.0
American Indian	7	100	10	12	12	58.3	9	77.7
Hispanic	221	76.4	147	70.7	173	73.4	160	81.8
ELL	108	71.3	65	47.6	72	36.1	77	62.3
FARMS	497	63.1	360	56.9	376	55.8	366	66.9
Special Education	332	55.7	289	50.5	289	45.3	272	53.3

Trend performance is presented in Figures 1 through 4. To help with reading and interpreting the tables, it must be noted that the American Indian student group is not represented on some graphs if the number of students for a particular year is fewer than five, and English 10 was administered for the first time in 2005; therefore, no data exists for 2004.

Performance in every content is on the rise and gains have been made by every student group in all contents. Overall, students in Algebra have gained 13.3 percentage points since 2004; Biology, 8.9 points; English, 9.3; Government, 6.4

When looking at trend performance by racial/ethnic groups within contents, there are many impressive gains as noted below:

- In Algebra, Hispanic and African American students have made very strong gains since 2004 – 26.1 and 20.9 respectively.
- In Biology, African American students gained 11 percentage points, and White and Asian students have gained (8.5 and 6.5) to lift their passrates above 90% (93.7 for Whites and 91.2 for Asians).
- Since the first administration of the English HSA in 2005, African American students have gained 11.4 points.
- In Government, the Hispanic student group has gained 13.5 points.

Among students receiving special services, the ELL student group has gained 33.5 points in Algebra. The other student groups, FARMS and Special Education, also have strong gains – FARMS, 20.1 and Special Education, 26.3. In the other contents of Biology, English, and Government, all of these student groups have also demonstrated gains of 12 percentage points or more.

Figure 1: Trend Performance on the Algebra HSA

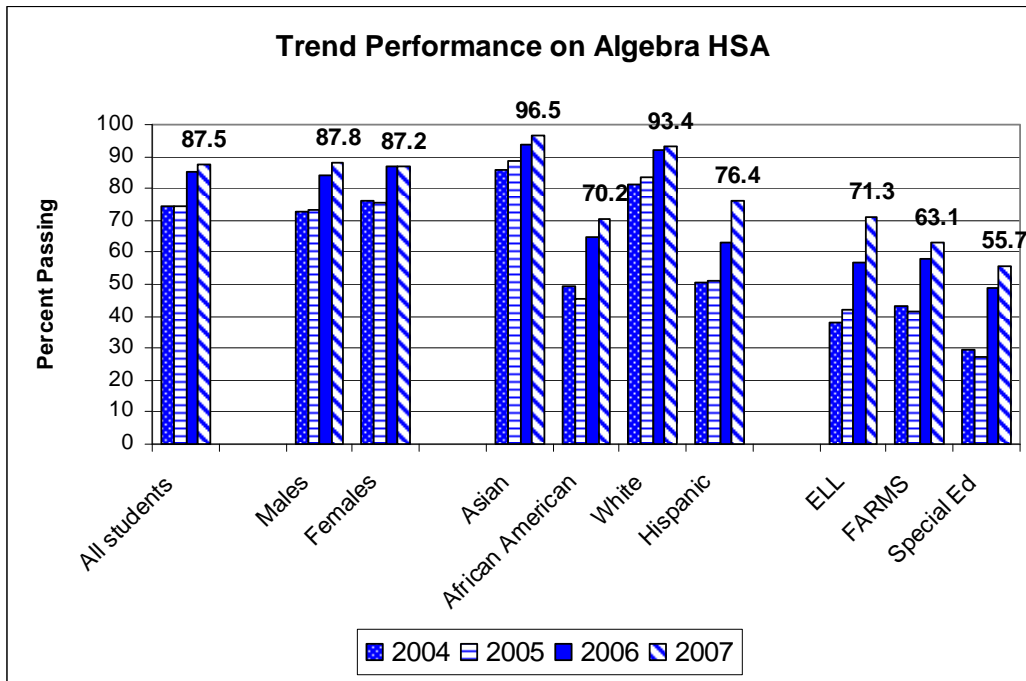


Figure 2: Trend Performance on the Biology HSA

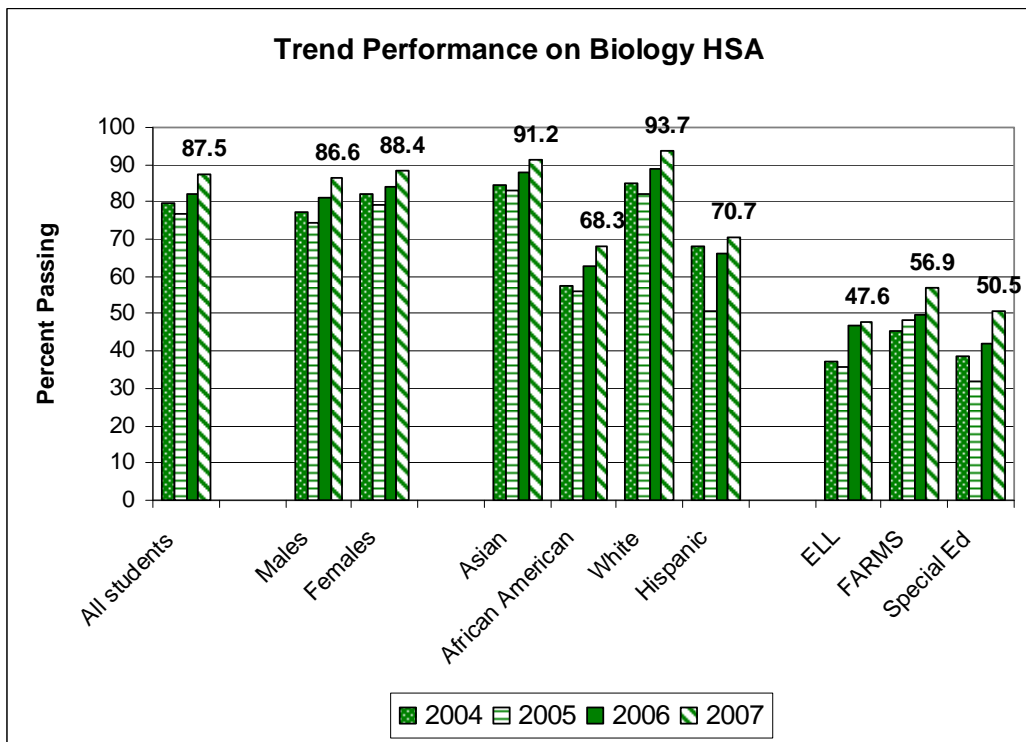


Figure 3: Trend Performance on the English 10 HSA

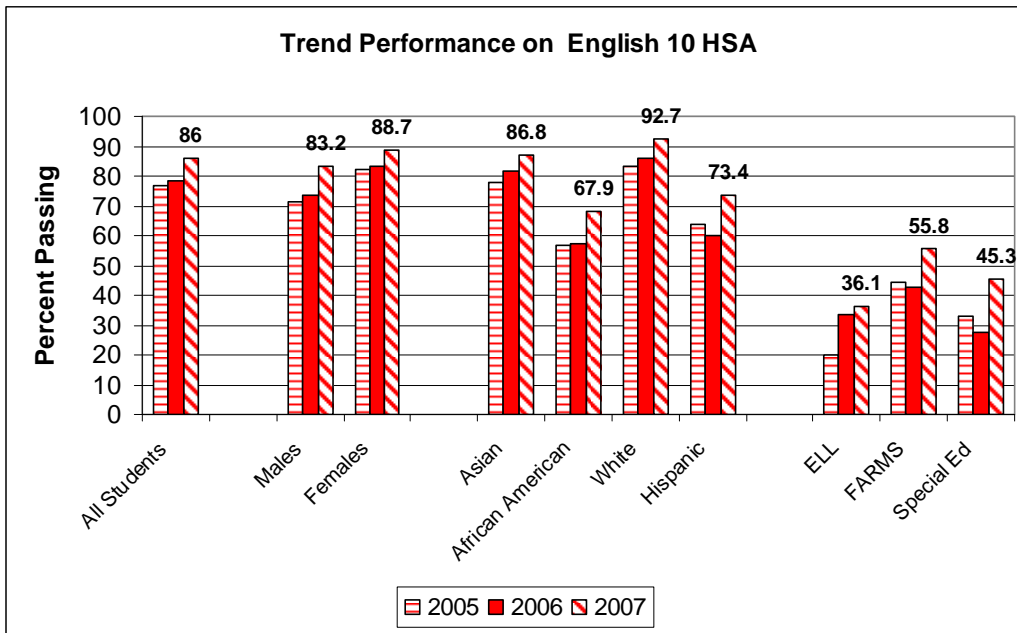
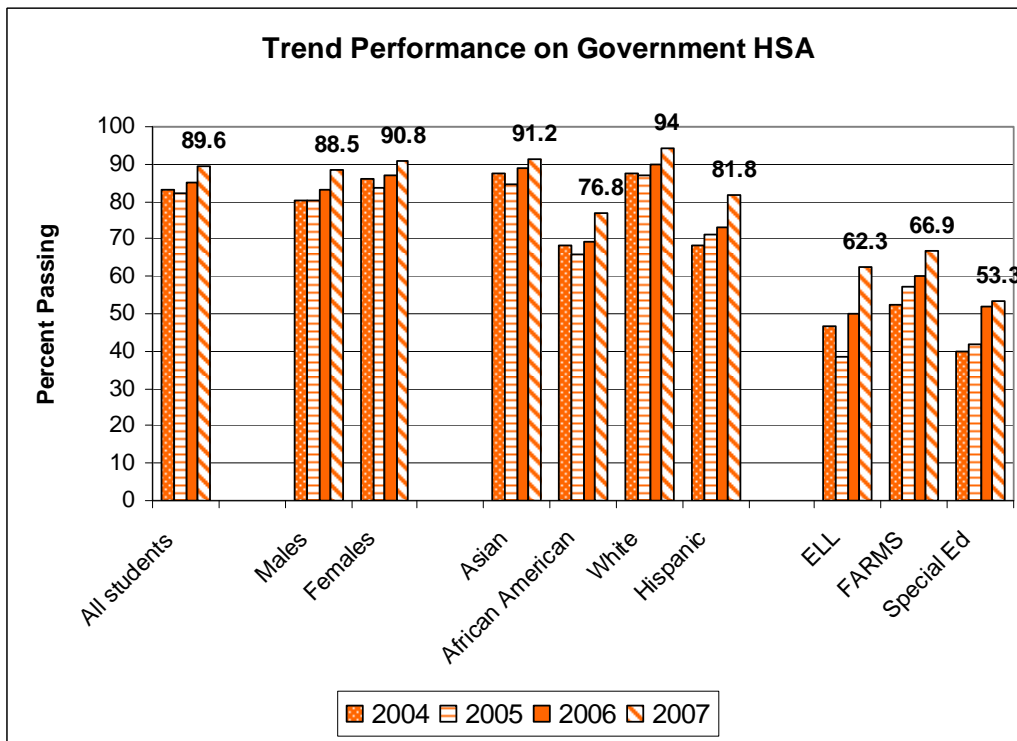


Figure 4: Trend Performance on the Government HSA



School Results

HCPSS high schools have reason to celebrate, but there are still some challenges ahead. Displayed in Table 3 are the HSA 2007 results for each high school. Most high schools have passrates above 80% in each content area. Government posts the strongest passrates overall, while algebra presents the greatest challenge to most students.

Table 3: HSA 2007 Results for High Schools

High School	Algebra Percent Passing	Biology Percent Passing	English 10 Percent Passing	Government Percent Passing
Atholton	86.0	90.7	93.1	91.7
Centennial	90.9	94.1	96.0	95.5
Glenelg	87.7	90.9	92.7	95.7
Hammond	63.6	74.5	73.6	82.1
Howard	78.4	93.4	89.8	92.0
Long Reach	74.5	75.1	74.1	80.9
Marriotts Ridge	82.4	93.0	90.4	97.1
Mount Hebron	86.8	89.4	88.1	88.9
Oakland Mills	68.7	80.4	78.1	87.5
Reservoir	71.4	79.4	77.7	85.5
River Hill	98.6	96.7	92.2	94.2
Wilde Lake	67.1	88.0	82.7	85.1

Middle school results on the HSA are displayed in Table 4. All of the middle schools had more than 92 percent of their students passing, and 11 middle schools had 100 percent pass rates.

Table 4: HSA 2007 Results for Middle Schools – Algebra/Data Analysis

Middle School	Percent Passing
Bonnie Branch	100
Burleigh Manor	100
Clarksville	99.2
Cradlerock	92.7
Dunloggin	98.8
Elkridge Landing	100
Ellicott Mills	99.2
Folly Quarter	100
Glenwood	100
Hammond	100
Harper's Choice	100
Lime Kiln	100
Mayfield Woods	100
Mount View	98.8
Murray Hill	94.0
Oakland Mills	100
Patapsco	100
Patuxent Valley	93.5
Wilde Lake	92.2

CLASS OF 2009 and 2010

As mentioned, passing the HSA as a graduation requirement became effective with the students who entered grade 9 in 2005 – 2006, the Class of 2009. Table 5 presents a profile of that class as of the May 2007 administration, at which time most of the students have taken all four tests. The number of students passing the algebra HSA includes students who retook the test in 2007. For the other content areas, students were taking the test for the first time as 10th graders in 2007.

Table 5: HSA 2007 Class of 2009 Number and Percent Passers and Nonpassers

	# Takers	# Passers	% Passers	# Nonpassers	% Nonpassers
Algebra/Data Analysis	3601	3396	94.3%	205	5.7%
Biology	3562	3231	90.7%	331	9.3%
English	3650	3262	89.4%	388	10.6%
Government	3494	3289	94.1%	205	5.9%

There are 3234 students in the Class of 2009 who have already taken all four HSAs and 2580 (88.1%) have passed all four tests! An additional 151 (4.7%) have met the combined score option. This leaves only 233 students who will need to retake at least one test.

The class of 2010 is entering Grade 10 in 2007 – 2008. To date, some members of this class have already taken the algebra and biology HSA. Table 6 displays the results which reveal the impressive performance of these students to date.

Table 6: HSA 2007 Class of 2010 Number and Percent Passers and Nonpassers

	# Takers	# Passers	% Passers	# Nonpassers	% Nonpassers
Algebra/Data Analysis	3455	3262	94.4%	193	5.5
Biology	953	942	98.8%	11	1.2%

SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS

Data supports that HCPSS has been successful in preparing its students for the rigorous HSA requirements. Many students have met the HSA graduation requirement as of the May 2007 administration. However, there are still students who have not met the requirement. The HSA therefore, continues to be a priority. The system has targeted its efforts and resources to prepare each student to meet the HSA requirement.

Students who have not yet met the requirement have been given individual attention as a result of the collaborative efforts of several departments. Students and their families were notified shortly after the results were available and have made informed decisions about the choice of options available to prepare them for the next administration. Students who do not pass on their first attempt have several options for intervention including enrolling in a mastery course, participating in school-specific activities, or retaking the course. Students who need to retake any of the tests (as well as students who choose to increase their scores for the combined score option), may participate in the test in October, January, May, or August administrations.

Alternative opportunities for meeting the requirement are being offered by MSDE. MSDE is moving ahead with plans to develop the Modified HSA for students with Individualized Education Plans.

Additionally, a comparable HSA for students who have difficulty demonstrating their understanding on traditional pencil and paper tests is being piloted during the 2007 – 2008 school year.

Given the initiatives that are in place, HCPSS should be confident that all students will have the opportunity to meet the HSA graduation requirement in 2009 and beyond.