

Howard County Public School System

PROFILE

2009-10

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Howard County Department of Education

Howard County, Maryland is a suburban community of over 274,000 situated midway along the Baltimore-Washington corridor. It is a county of contrasts - a blend of old and new, urban and rural, historical and progressive. The county's borders encompass Ellicott City, one of the country's oldest towns, and Columbia, a planned community conceived and designed 40 years ago by The Rouse Company.

A great community deserves great schools, and the Howard County Public School System is a recognized source of local pride. The school system consistently ranks among Maryland's top school districts based on student performance on the Maryland School Assessments. Howard County students score above the national averages on standardized tests and over 90% of graduates continue their education beyond high school.

Our Mission and Goals

The mission of the Howard County Public School System is to ensure excellence in teaching and learning so that each student will participate responsibly in a diverse and changing world.

Goal 1 - Each child, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, disability or socioeconomic status, will meet the rigorous performance standards that have been established. All diploma-bound students will perform on or above grade level in all measured content areas.

Goal 2 - Each school will provide a safe and nurturing school environment that values our diversity and commonality.

Our Staff

- 4,647 teachers, 63% of whom hold a master's degree or above
- Average teacher has taught 12.9 years
- Average age is 41
- Total staff: 7,875

Fast Facts

72 Schools

39 elementary schools
1 preK - grade 8 school
18 middle schools
12 high schools
2 special schools

Total Enrollment

Elementary (K-5) - 21,307
Middle (6-8) - 11,659
High (9-12) - 16,697
Special School - 85

Student Mobility 2008-09

5.6% Entrants
4.7% Withdrawals

Ethnicity

| | |
|------------------|-------|
| White | 49.7% |
| African American | 21.1% |
| Asian | 17.9% |
| Hispanic | 6.2% |
| Native American | 0.4% |
| Not Reported | 4.7% |

Students Receiving Special Services 2008-09

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Title I (Elementary only) | 2.3% |
| Ltd. English Proficient | 3.7% |
| Free/Reduced Lunch | 12.7% |
| Special Education | 9.0% |

Attendance Rate

| | |
|-------------|-------|
| Elementary: | 96.4% |
| Middle: | 96.0% |
| High: | 95.2% |

Graduation Rate: 93.6%

Dropout rate: 1.4%*

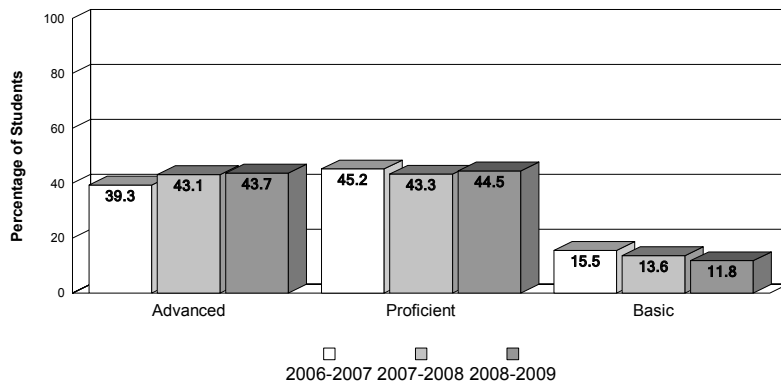
*State Satisfactory standard is 3% or less

Per Pupil Expenditure

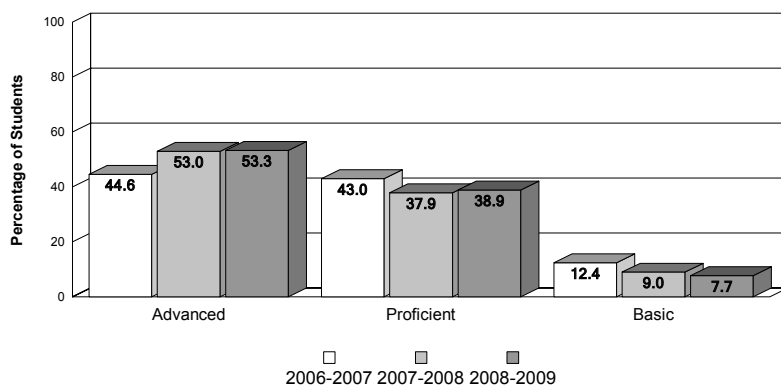
\$74 per day/\$13,320 per year

Achievement Data

MSA - Mathematics



MSA - Reading



HSA Passrates for Class of 2009

| Subject | Takers | Passed | Bridge Plan Accepted | Met Requirement |
|-------------------------|-------------------|--------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Algebra | 3636 | 3562 | 33 | 98.8% |
| Biology | 3636 | 3449 | 51 | 96.2% |
| English | 3636 | 3423 | 51 | 95.5% |
| Government | 3635 | 3547 | 38 | 98.6% |
| Met with Combined Score | 8.6% (314/3636) | | | |
| Met Requirement | 99.7% (3628/3636) | | | |

SAT Scores and Participation

| School Year | N | Percent Participating | Mean Scores | | |
|-------------|------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------|---------|
| | | | Critical Reading | Mathematics | Writing |
| 2006-2007 | 2781 | 78.4 | 537 | 556 | 537 |
| 2007-2008 | 2806 | 74.7 | 540 | 557 | 544 |
| 2008-2009 | 2820 | 75.3 | 542 | 558 | 541 |

More Facts

Class Size Targets

| Grade Level | Teacher/student ratio |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| Kindergarten | 1:22 |
| Grades 1-2 | 1:19 |
| Grades 3-5 | 1:25 |
| Middle | 1:20.5 |
| High | 1:23.5 |

ESOL Program

Over 2,000 students participate in the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program, representing 81 different languages (primarily Spanish and Korean) and 77 countries.

Gifted and Talented Program

Percentage of students who have participated in a variety of Gifted and Talented Education Program offerings:

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| K to Grade 5 | 43% |
| Grades 6 to 8 | 43% |
| Grades 9 to 12 | 41% |

Documented Decisions/Class of 2009

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Attend a 4-year college | 63% |
| Attend a 2-year college | 26% |
| Attend trade or technical school | 2% |
| Enter employment | 3% |
| Military | 2% |
| Other or unreported plans | 5% |

Before and After Care is offered at all Howard County public elementary schools and some middle schools. Care is provided by the Columbia Association or the Department of Recreation and Parks.

Bus transportation is provided for kindergarteners who live a 1/2 mile from their school, elementary and middle school students who live 1 mile from their school, and high school students who live 1-1/2 miles from their school.

Kindergarten

Every child who is five years-old on or before September 1 must be enrolled in a public school kindergarten or alternate program approved by the Maryland State Department of Education. Full Day Kindergarten is held at all Howard County public elementary schools.