

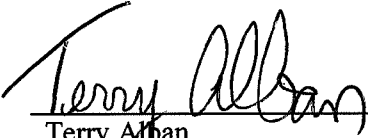
**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HOWARD COUNTY
MEETING AGENDA ITEM**

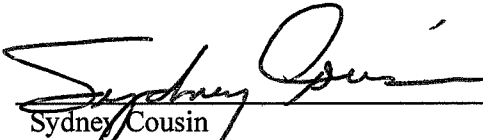
TITLE: Report on Participation and Performance in Advanced Placement Courses and Exams for 2008 **DATE:** October 21, 2008

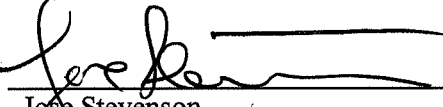
OVERVIEW: Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) has seen an increase in the number of students taking Advanced Placement (AP) courses and exams in 2008. There were 3727 students enrolled in AP courses, which represents 24 percent of high school students. Of the 6210 exams taken in 2008, 82 percent received a score of 3 or above; 56 percent received a score of 4 or above. Both of these figures represent an increase in performance over 2007. The attached report provides a summary of trend participation and performance in AP courses and exams for 2008 by student group and school.

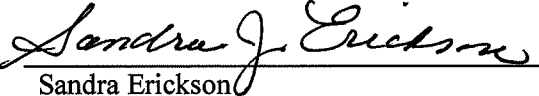
RECOMMENDATION/FUTURE DIRECTION:

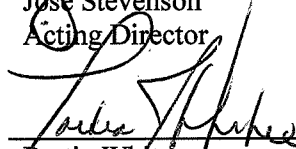
HCPSS students' participation and performance in AP courses is impressive. The system believes in encouraging students to seek academic challenges and participating in AP courses is one alternative that students may consider. School staff will continue efforts to identify students with AP potential and to increase enrollment and performance levels of students in all student groups.

Submitted by: 
 Terry Alban
 Chief Operating Officer

Approval/Concurrence: 
 Sydney Cousin
 Superintendent


 Jose Stevenson
 Acting Director


 Sandra Erickson
 Deputy Superintendent


 Portia White
 Coordinator of Testing

Introduction

The participation of HCPSS students in Advanced Placement courses and exams has grown steadily since 2006. More students are enrolled in AP courses and taking more AP exams. As this participation is increasing, the performance of students continues to be strong with nearly 82 percent of the exams taken by HCPSS students receiving a score of 3 or above, which earns college credit in most universities.

Trend Performance

As listed in Table 1 below, the number of students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses has increased at every grade from 2006 - 2008.

Table 1: Number and Percent Enrolled in Advanced Placement Courses By Grade, Three-Year Trend

	2006		2007		2008	
	Number Enrolled	Percent Enrolled	Number Enrolled	Percent Enrolled	Number Enrolled	Percent Enrolled
Grade 12	1563	43%	1687	47%	1753	46%
Grade 11	751	20%	1129	29%	1258	34%
Grade 10	644	16%	646	16%	704	17%
Grade 9	3	0%	4	0%	12	> 0.01%
County Total	2961	19%	3466	22%	3727	24%

In 2008, the number of advanced placement test takers and the number of exams taken increased substantively for students overall – 397 more test takers and 877 more exams taken than in 2007. Most of the student groups saw increases in either the number of test takers or number of exams taken. (Note: The American Indian student group is not included due to numbers fewer than 5 for all three years.)

Table 2: Participation in AP Testing, Three-Year Trend

	Number of Test Takers			Number of AP Exams Taken		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
All Students	2404	2574	2971	4885	5333	6210
Male	1104	1160	1371	2341	2507	2950
Female	1300	1414	1600	2544	2826	3260
Asian	596	602	712	1416	1491	1758
African Am.	151	159	187	252	271	330
White	1599	1753	2006	3103	3474	3997
Hispanic	53	59	56	103	93	104
ELL	*	9	6	*	13	11
FARMS	46	59	68	72	112	125
Special Ed.	24	15	17	44	29	25

*Fewer than 5 students in group.

The three-year trend performance of students scoring 3 or above, or 4 or above is presented in Figures 1 and 2. (Note: The ELL student group is not included since there were fewer than 10 test takers in all three years.)

A score of 3 or above on an AP exam is often considered by colleges and universities to award credit for a college level course in that subject. Many of our student groups scored 3 or above on exams with the majority of the groups reaching 80 percent or better. In looking at the exams of student groups scoring 4 or above, we see that most groups are at or approaching 50 percent.

Performance of students overall and most student groups has improved since 2006. The percent of all students and the Female, White, Hispanic, FARMS, and special education student groups scoring 3 or above dropped in 2007, but the percentages for all of those groups improved in 2008 – three groups (All, Female, White) over their 2006 percentages. In 2006 and 2007, the percentage of students scoring 3 or above remained the same for Male and Asian student groups and FARMS scoring 4 and above. Each of these groups improved in 2008. Most student groups show a steady increase of improvement in percentages of exams scored at 4 or above.

Figure 1: Percent of Scores at 3 or Above on AP Exams, Three-Year Trend

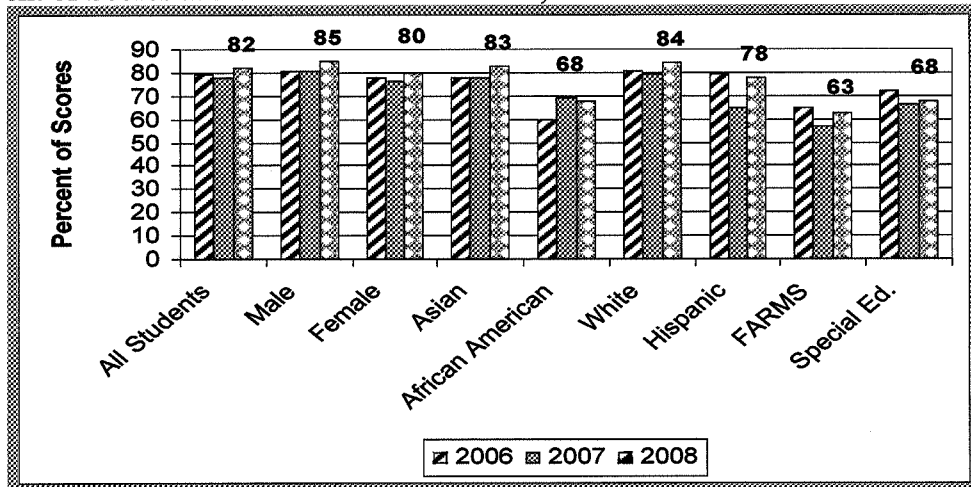
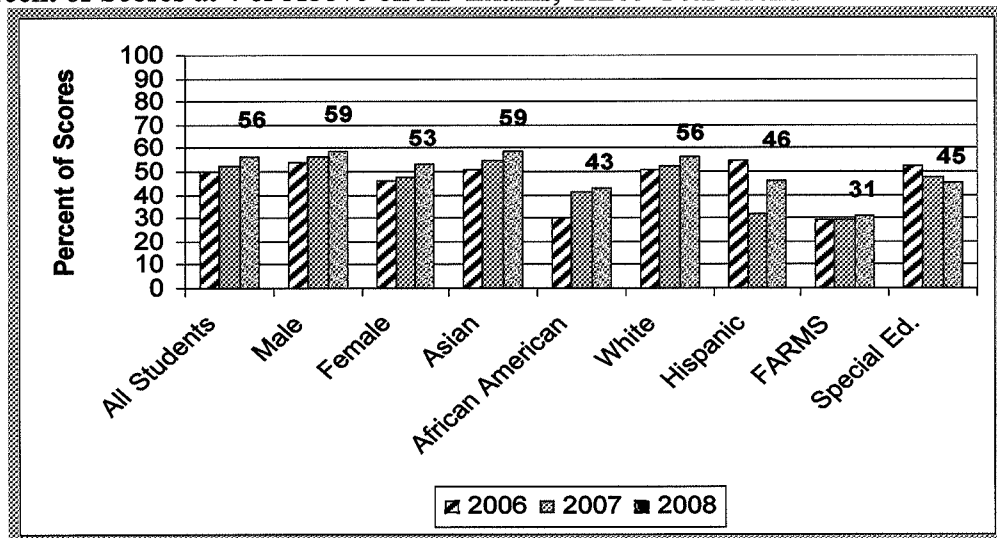


Figure 2: Percent of Scores at 4 or Above on AP Exams, Three-Year Trend



Performance by Schools

Table 3 presents the three-year trend of participation and performance of students on AP exams by school. As noted, the number of test takers and the number of exams taken increased for HCPSS students as a whole. For some schools, the number of takers has declined, some for the second year in a row. However, most schools are seeing an increase in the number of AP exams taken.

The percent of scores at 3 or above at schools has increased over all 3 years for most schools with a range of 66 percent to 91 percent (compared to 56 percent to 91 percent in 2007). A like trend of increase can be seen with the percent of scores at 4 or above.

Table 3: Participation and Performance on AP Exams by School, Three -Year Trend

	Number of Test Takers			Number of AP Exams Taken			Percent of Scores at 3 or Above			Percent of Scores at 4 or Above		
	06	07	08	06	07	08	06	07	08	06	07	08
All HCPSS	2404	2574	2971	4885	5333	6210	79	78	82	50	52	56
Atholton	180	184	237	349	401	505	83	91	83	51	61	53
Centennial	469	430	408	1122	1001	980	83	84	88	55	59	66
Glenelg	204	235	264	385	422	525	73	76	79	38	39	43
Hammond	163	149	148	322	288	289	80	80	81	54	51	53
Howard	173	215	240	284	421	474	67	68	66	39	41	37
Long Reach	168	157	147	320	277	257	70	56	73	41	34	41
Marriotts Ridge	*	*	301	*	*	650	*	*	82	*	*	57
Mt. Hebron	232	257	248	517	653	537	89	76	91	67	57	72
Oakland Mills	94	133	132	155	231	263	79	79	81	41	51	52
Reservoir	152	182	229	274	360	452	74	74	80	39	46	50
River Hill	367	392	391	841	888	874	80	85	87	50	56	61
Wilde Lake	202	240	226	316	391	405	75	72	82	47	48	56

* Marriotts Ridge High School did not have students participating in AP testing until school year 2007-2008.

A summary of AP participation in courses and exams for every student group at each high school in 2008 is included as an attachment to this report. Additional reports on AP participation and performance can be found on INROADS, the assessment data mart.

Equity and Excellence Index

The Washington Post will present its annual report on AP performance in December. This report is created by Jay Mathews and includes a ranking of schools based on his Challenge Index. This Challenge Index does not consider participation in AP courses, but rather counts only the number of AP exams taken divided by the number of graduating seniors. In response to concerns raised by the limitations of this index, Mr. Mathews will also include information for an Equity and Excellence Index. This index reflects the percentage of the entire senior class who received a 3 on at least one AP exam some time during their high school career. While this index examines AP exam performance over the course of a high school career, it still does not consider a student's participation in AP courses. The 2008 Equity and Excellence indices reported by College Board for the HCPSS high schools are presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Equity and Excellence Index for Each High School

School	Equity and Excellence Index 2008
Atholton	25.2%
Centennial	40.8%
Glenelg	31.7%
Hammond	16.4%
Howard	19.3%
Long Reach	18.8%
Marriotts Ridge	34.7%
Mt. Hebron	30.2%
Oakland Mills	18.7%
Reservoir	29.8%
River Hill	42.2%
Wilde Lake	24.2%

Summary and Future Direction

HCPSS has seen an increase in the number of students taking AP courses and exams in 2008. Enrollment in the AP courses increased by 261 students over 2007 and represents almost one-quarter of the high school population. Almost 50 percent of seniors participated in AP classes.

HCPSS continues to be successful in having an impressive number of students participate in the challenging coursework offered through AP classes. The system continues to emphasize the importance of encouraging all students to seek academic challenges, such as those offered in AP courses. HCPSS staff will continue to encourage as many students as possible to participate in AP courses.

Attachment

INROADS Accountability Report
School Participation in AP Testing
2007-2008

Atholton HS							
Group	EOY Enrollment	# Students Enrolled in AP	% AP Course Participation	# Students Enrolled in Course Taking AP Exam	% AP Course & Exam Participation	% of Enrollment Taking AP Exam	# Students Not Enrolled in Course with AP Exam
Overall	1431	296	20.7	227	76.7	15.9	11
Male	738	136	18.4	107	78.7	14.5	7
Female	693	160	23.1	120	75.0	17.3	5
Asian	202	75	37.1	58	77.3	28.7	4
African American	241	19	7.9	10	52.6	4.1	2
White	941	196	20.8	153	78.1	16.3	7
Hispanic	42	5	11.9	5	100.0	11.9	1
American Indian/Alas	2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	1
Not Reported	1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	1
FARMS	65	5	7.7	5	100.0	7.7	1
Special Ed	122	4	3.3	3	75.0	2.5	1

Centennial HS							
Group	EOY Enrollment	# Students Enrolled in AP	% AP Course Participation	# Students Enrolled in Course Taking AP Exam	% AP Course & Exam Participation	% of Enrollment Taking AP Exam	# Students Not Enrolled in Course with AP Exam
Overall	1468	450	30.7	369	82.0	25.1	30
Male	750	220	29.3	180	81.8	24.0	11
Female	718	230	32.0	189	82.2	26.3	20
Asian	396	164	41.4	141	86.0	35.6	14
African American	111	19	17.1	16	84.2	14.4	2
White	921	262	28.4	208	79.4	22.6	15
Hispanic	35	5	14.3	4	80.0	11.4	2
American Indian/Alas	1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	1
Not Reported	4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	1
ELL	22	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	2
FARMS	72	6	8.3	4	66.7	5.6	1
Special Ed	80	2	2.5	1	50.0	1.3	1

INROADS Accountability Report
School Participation in AP Testing
2007-2008

Glenelg HS							
Group	EOY Enrollment	# Students Enrolled in AP	% AP Course Participation	# Students Enrolled in Course Taking AP Exam	% AP Course & Exam Participation	% of Enrollment Taking AP Exam	# Students Not Enrolled in Course with AP Exam
Overall	1174	319	27.2	256	80.3	21.8	9
Male	600	146	24.3	116	79.5	19.3	1
Female	574	173	30.1	140	80.9	24.4	9
Asian	64	28	43.8	28	100.0	43.8	2
African American	57	4	7.0	1	25.0	1.8	3
White	1030	286	27.8	226	79.0	21.9	6
Hispanic	20	1	5.0	1	100.0	5.0	1
American Indian/Alask	2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	1
Not Reported	1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	1
FARMS	28	4	14.3	3	75.0	10.7	1
Special Ed	109	3	2.8	3	100.0	2.8	2

Hammond HS							
Group	EOY Enrollment	# Students Enrolled in AP	% AP Course Participation	# Students Enrolled in Course Taking AP Exam	% AP Course & Exam Participation	% of Enrollment Taking AP Exam	# Students Not Enrolled in Course with AP Exam
Overall	1206	186	15.4	134	72.0	11.1	13
Male	617	86	13.9	56	65.1	9.1	7
Female	589	100	17.0	78	78.0	13.2	7
Asian	101	29	28.7	20	69.0	19.8	1
African American	393	33	8.4	24	72.7	6.1	2
White	647	117	18.1	87	74.4	13.4	11
Hispanic	58	7	12.1	3	42.9	5.2	1
American Indian/Alask	3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	2
Not Reported	4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	1
ELL	40	2	5.0	1	50.0	2.5	1
FARMS	207	9	4.3	4	44.4	1.9	2
Special Ed	129	1	0.8	0	0.0	0.0	1

INROADS Accountability Report
School Participation in AP Testing
2007-2008

Howard HS							
Group	EOY Enrollment	# Students Enrolled in AP	% AP Course Participation	# Students Enrolled in Course Taking AP Exam	% AP Course & Exam Participation	% of Enrollment Taking AP Exam	# Students Not Enrolled in Course with AP Exam
Overall	1420	389	27.4	229	58.9	16.1	4
Male	706	175	24.8	106	60.6	15.0	2
Female	714	214	30.0	123	57.5	17.2	3
Asian	94	44	46.8	24	54.5	25.5	1
African American	286	43	15.0	16	37.2	5.6	1
White	991	293	29.6	183	62.5	18.5	4
Hispanic	47	9	19.1	6	66.7	12.8	1
American Indian/Alas	1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	1
Not Reported	1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	1
FARMS	82	8	9.8	4	50.0	4.9	1
Special Ed	133	4	3.0	2	50.0	1.5	1

Long Reach HS							
Group	EOY Enrollment	# Students Enrolled in AP	% AP Course Participation	# Students Enrolled in Course Taking AP Exam	% AP Course & Exam Participation	% of Enrollment Taking AP Exam	# Students Not Enrolled in Course with AP Exam
Overall	1236	211	17.1	142	67.3	11.5	7
Male	610	90	14.8	62	68.9	10.2	6
Female	626	121	19.3	80	66.1	12.8	2
Asian	173	53	30.6	38	71.7	22.0	2
African American	394	34	8.6	18	52.9	4.6	2
White	564	117	20.7	83	70.9	14.7	4
Hispanic	89	6	6.7	2	33.3	2.2	1
American Indian/Alas	1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	1
Not Reported	11	1	9.1	1	100.0	9.1	2
ELL	60	2	3.3	1	50.0	1.7	2
FARMS	228	15	6.6	11	73.3	4.8	1
Special Ed	115	1	0.9	0	0.0	0.0	1

INROADS Accountability Report
School Participation in AP Testing
2007-2008

Marriotts Ridge HS							
Group	EOY Enrollment	# Students Enrolled in AP	% AP Course Participation	# Students Enrolled in Course Taking AP Exam	% AP Course & Exam Participation	% of Enrollment Taking AP Exam	# Students Not Enrolled in Course with AP Exam
Overall	1172	372	31.7	277	74.5	23.6	18
Male	602	184	30.6	135	73.4	22.4	7
Female	570	188	33.0	142	75.5	24.9	12
Asian	219	109	49.8	85	78.0	38.8	3
African American	82	17	20.7	12	70.6	14.6	2
White	843	239	28.4	175	73.2	20.8	15
Hispanic	21	5	23.8	3	60.0	14.3	1
American Indian/Alas	1	1	100.0	1	100.0	100.0	1
Not Reported	6	1	16.7	1	100.0	16.7	1
FARMS	36	3	8.3	2	66.7	5.6	1
Special Ed	86	5	5.8	2	40.0	2.3	1

Mt. Hebron HS							
Group	EOY Enrollment	# Students Enrolled in AP	% AP Course Participation	# Students Enrolled in Course Taking AP Exam	% AP Course & Exam Participation	% of Enrollment Taking AP Exam	# Students Not Enrolled in Course with AP Exam
Overall	1406	287	20.4	228	79.4	16.2	18
Male	713	148	20.8	112	75.7	15.7	4
Female	693	139	20.1	116	83.5	16.7	15
Asian	295	75	25.4	60	80.0	20.3	3
African American	199	19	9.5	10	52.6	5.0	2
White	867	187	21.6	154	82.4	17.8	14
Hispanic	37	5	13.5	3	60.0	8.1	1
American Indian/Alas	1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	1
Not Reported	5	1	20.0	1	100.0	20.0	2
ELL	41	2	4.9	2	100.0	4.9	1
FARMS	103	11	10.7	8	72.7	7.8	2
Special Ed	117	1	0.9	1	100.0	0.9	1

INROADS Accountability Report
School Participation in AP Testing
2007-2008

Oakland Mills HS							
Group	EOY Enrollment	# Students Enrolled in AP	% AP Course Participation	# Students Enrolled in Course Taking AP Exam	% AP Course & Exam Participation	% of Enrollment Taking AP Exam	# Students Not Enrolled in Course with AP Exam
Overall	1207	182	15.1	123	67.6	10.2	6
Male	614	74	12.1	53	71.6	8.6	5
Female	593	108	18.2	70	64.8	11.8	2
Asian	76	23	30.3	16	69.6	21.1	2
African American	525	37	7.0	15	40.5	2.9	1
White	485	115	23.7	85	73.9	17.5	2
Hispanic	112	6	5.4	6	100.0	5.4	4
American Indian/Alas	5	1	20.0	1	100.0	20.0	1
Not Reported	3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	1
ELL	14	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	1
FARMS	296	8	2.7	6	75.0	2.0	1
Special Ed	125	3	2.4	2	66.7	1.6	1

Reservoir HS							
Group	EOY Enrollment	# Students Enrolled in AP	% AP Course Participation	# Students Enrolled in Course Taking AP Exam	% AP Course & Exam Participation	% of Enrollment Taking AP Exam	# Students Not Enrolled in Course with AP Exam
Overall	1476	273	18.5	225	82.4	15.2	3
Male	759	134	17.7	101	75.4	13.3	1
Female	717	139	19.4	124	89.2	17.3	3
Asian	157	61	38.9	55	90.2	35.0	1
African American	388	32	8.2	22	68.8	5.7	2
White	798	170	21.3	139	81.8	17.4	2
Hispanic	125	10	8.0	9	90.0	7.2	1
American Indian/Alas	3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	1
Not Reported	5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	1
ELL	26	1	3.8	0	0.0	0.0	1
FARMS	194	7	3.6	6	85.7	3.1	1
Special Ed	138	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	1

INROADS Accountability Report
School Participation in AP Testing
2007-2008

River Hill HS							
Group	EOY Enrollment	# Students Enrolled in AP	% AP Course Participation	# Students Enrolled in Course Taking AP Exam	% AP Course & Exam Participation	% of Enrollment Taking AP Exam	# Students Not Enrolled in Course with AP Exam
Overall	1378	436	31.6	354	81.2	25.7	18
Male	689	197	28.6	161	81.7	23.4	6
Female	689	239	34.7	193	80.8	28.0	13
Asian	312	148	47.4	117	79.1	37.5	4
African American	92	17	18.5	11	64.7	12.0	2
White	923	268	29.0	224	83.6	24.3	14
Hispanic	45	3	6.7	2	66.7	4.4	1
American Indian/Alas	2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	1
Not Reported	3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	1
ELL	59	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	1
FARMS	64	3	4.7	1	33.3	1.6	1
Special Ed	63	1	1.6	0	0.0	0.0	1

Wilde Lake HS							
Group	EOY Enrollment	# Students Enrolled in AP	% AP Course Participation	# Students Enrolled in Course Taking AP Exam	% AP Course & Exam Participation	% of Enrollment Taking AP Exam	# Students Not Enrolled in Course with AP Exam
Overall	1329	326	24.5	214	65.6	16.1	6
Male	655	154	23.5	113	73.4	17.3	2
Female	674	172	25.5	101	58.7	15.0	5
Asian	141	44	31.2	32	72.7	22.7	1
African American	506	43	8.5	17	39.5	3.4	1
White	583	224	38.4	159	71.0	27.3	5
Hispanic	83	12	14.5	5	41.7	6.0	2
American Indian/Alas	4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	1
Not Reported	8	3	37.5	1	33.3	12.5	1
ELL	48	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	1
FARMS	271	15	5.5	7	46.7	2.6	2
Special Ed	126	3	2.4	1	33.3	0.8	1