

TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Bernard J. Sadusky, Ed.D. *BJS/CLW*
DATE: September 27, 2011
SUBJECT: Release of SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, and Advanced Placement Data

PURPOSE:

To provide an update on the SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, and Advanced Placement Data in the Student Achievement Report 2010-2011 released by the College Board on September 14, 2011.

BACKGROUND/HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

Each year, the College Board issues the Student Achievement Report for 2010-2011. The report contains the results for the high school class of 2011 on SAT, SAT Subject Tests, Advanced Placement Program, PSAT/NMSQT for both sophomores and juniors, and enrollment and participation data.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In Maryland, the most diverse group of graduating seniors in state history participated in the college-going process by taking the SAT. Of the 47,787 students in the class of 2011 who took the SAT, 48 percent were minority students, up from 46 percent in 2010 and 40 percent in 2007. The number of test takers represents 74 percent of the state's high school graduates. As in past years, Maryland students who completed a core curriculum and/or pursued more advanced course work tended to achieve greater success on the SAT.

Scores on the SAT exam registered a slight decline, both in Maryland and across the nation. Maryland's composite SAT score fell six points to 1492 on the 2400-point scale, mirroring the six-point national drop. Maryland students scored a 499 in critical reading (down one point), 502 in mathematics (down 3 points), and 491 in writing (down 2 points).

Scores on the PSAT/NMSQT test increased for juniors taking the exam, even as more students took the tests. The mean critical reading score for juniors was up .5 point to 46.9; the mean math score was up .9 point to 47.9 (both higher than the national average increase), while the writing skills mean fell back .4 points to 45.2.

More students took the PSAT as sophomores, and again the scores improved. The critical reading mean was up .7 points, the critical math mean was up 1.2 points, and the writing skills mean declined .3 points.

AP participation went up across racial subgroups. African American students tallied a 7.9 percent increase in participation, and a 10.1 percent jump in the number of tests taken. Hispanic student participation jumped 14.9 percent. Asian participation went up another 6.8 percent.

Success on the AP also was registered across many racial subgroups. The number of African American students scoring a 3 or better on an AP exam went up 9.1 percent; the number of Hispanic students scoring at College Mastery (3 or better) range jumped 12.2 percent. The number of Asian students reaching the College Mastery level was up 6.9 percent, while the number of White students hitting that mark rose 5.4 percent.

ACTION:

For information and discussion.

BJS:mlg