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INFORMATION

Office of Shared Accountability
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

December 21, 2012

MEMORANDUM

To: High School Principals

From: Susan F. Marks, Acting Associate Superintendent *SFM*

Subject: INFORMATION: ACT Participation and Performance for Montgomery County Public Schools Students

The Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Class of 2012 consistently outperformed graduates across Maryland and the nation on all sections of the ACT, according to the ACT, Inc's annual report.

In 2012, 30 percent of MCPS graduates took the ACT exam. According to the ACT, Inc. report, ACT participation among MCPS students has risen steadily over the past five years, from 2,355 in 2008 to 3,181 in 2012. Participation by Black or African American students rose from 364 students in 2008 to 664 students in 2012; participation by Hispanic/Latino students also increased from 149 students in 2008 to 462 students in 2012.

In 2011, the average composite score for MCPS graduates was 23.2, compared with the Maryland and national averages of 22.1 and 21.1, respectively. MCPS graduates also outscored their state and national peers in each of the four subject areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science (Table 1):

Table 1
Class of 2012 ACT Mean Subtest and Composite Scores for
MCPS, Maryland, and the Nation

ACT Subtest	MCPS	Maryland	Nation
Composite	23.2	22.1	21.1
English	22.6	21.6	20.5
Mathematics	23.4	22.2	21.1
Reading	23.3	22.3	21.3
Science	22.8	21.7	20.9

Note. Results for MCPS are based on MCPS-verified records and may differ slightly from ACT records.

The average composite score for MCPS graduates decreased slightly from 23.8 in 2008 to 23.2 in 2012. The average composite score for graduates in Maryland and across the nation remained steady.

Table 2
Average Composite Scores for MCPS, Maryland, and the Nation,
2008 Through 2012

Year	MCPS	Maryland	Nation
2008	23.8	22.0	21.1
2009	23.5	22.1	21.1
2010	23.4	22.3	21.0
2011	23.2	22.1	21.1
2012	23.2	22.1	21.1

Note. Results for 2012 MCPS are based on MCPS-verified records and may differ slightly from ACT records.

ACT, Inc. has established subtest benchmark scores that indicate students' readiness for college-level coursework in English composition, algebra, social science, and biology. Based on the ACT, Inc. reports, among MCPS graduates who took the ACT, 75 percent were deemed ready for college English composition, compared with 72 percent statewide; 61 percent were ready for college algebra, compared with 53 percent statewide; 64 percent were ready for college social science, compared with 58 percent statewide; and 46 percent were ready for college biology, compared with 37 percent statewide. In 2012, 42 percent of MCPS graduates who took the ACT tested college ready in all four subject areas, compared with 33 percent and 25 percent, respectively, for graduates across Maryland and the nation.

The attached tables provide data on ACT participation and performance for graduates in the Class of 2012 by student groups and by high schools. The results are based on MCPS-verified records and may differ slightly from ACT records. Three high schools, Clarksburg, Seneca Valley, and Watkins Mill, showed an increase in ACT participation from 2010 to 2012 for all students and all racial/ethnic groups. However, a similar trend was not found for ACT performance.

This is the first time that the district is reporting ACT data by schools. This is because in a recent research report produced by the Office of Shared Accountability (OSA) that examined a five-year trend in ACT participation and performance from 2007 through 2011, it was found that an increasing number of MCPS students are taking the ACT instead of the SAT. A detailed description of the study is provided in the link below:

http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/sharedaccountability/reports/2012/Report%20of%20SATACT%20trends_final_publication.pdf

As noted in this study, schools may be able to use the College Readiness Tool developed by OSA to monitor, prepare, and encourage students to take ACT and/or SAT in a process that encourages increased student participation *and* performance.

If you have questions about ACT participation and performance, please contact Dr. Kecia Addison-Scott, supervisor, Applied Research Unit, OSA, at 301-279-3564. You also may find additional information about the ACT and college readiness at <http://www.act.org>.

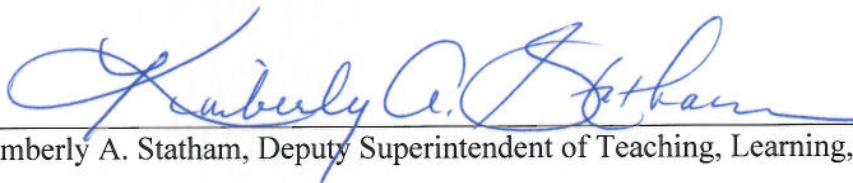
SFM:klas

Attachment

Copy to:

Executive Staff
Dr. Addison-Scott
Mrs. Collins
Mrs. Green
Ms. Liu
Ms. Powell
Dr. Steinberg
Dr. Mugge

Approved:



Kimberly A. Statham, Deputy Superintendent of Teaching, Learning, and Programs

Table A1
 ACT Participation and Most Recent Mean ACT Composite Scores for the MCPS Classes of 2010–2012 by Student Group

Student Group	N Graduates			N Took ACT			% Took ACT			Composite Score		
	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012
MCPS	10,352	10,158	10,322	3,049	2,976	3,094	29.5	29.3	30.0	23	23	23
Male	5,299	5,049	5,145	1,435	1,337	1,386	27.1	26.5	26.9	23	24	23
Female	5,053	5,109	5,177	1,614	1,639	1,708	31.9	32.1	33.0	23	23	23
Asian	1,647	1,508	1,564	359	332	373	21.8	22.0	23.8	26	26	25
Black or African American	2,170	2,228	2,248	607	640	718	28.0	28.7	31.9	18	18	18
Hispanic/Latino	2,004	2,084	2,199	406	398	414	20.3	19.1	18.8	20	20	20
White	4,202	3,986	3,962	1,576	1,498	1,485	37.5	37.6	37.5	25	25	26
Two or More Races	295	323	323	96	99	101	32.5	30.7	31.3	24	24	24
FARMS	1,962	2,114	2,303	464	516	565	23.6	24.4	24.5	18	18	18
Special Education	855	927	877	186	232	207	21.8	25.0	23.6	19	19	20
ESOL	319	279	288	24	35	44	7.5	12.5	15.3	16	16	16

Note. The results are based on MCPS-verified records and may differ slightly from ACT records. Mean ACT composite scores are rounded to nearest integer. FARMS = Free and Reduced-price Meals System; ESOL = English for Speakers of Other Languages. Results for MCPS American Indian and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander students are included with all students but are not reported separately. Scores are based on most recent ACT test.

Table A2
 ACT Participation and Most Recent Mean ACT Composite Scores for the MCPS Class of 2012 by High School

High School	N Graduates	N Took ACT	% Took ACT	Composite Score
MCPS ^a	10,322	3,094	30.0	23
Bethesda-Chevy Chase	454	167	36.8	25
Montgomery Blair	659	104	15.8	24
James Hubert Blake	437	95	21.7	20
Winston Churchill	527	201	38.1	27
Clarksburg	399	139	34.8	21
Damascus	321	106	33.0	22
Albert Einstein	348	85	24.4	20
Gaithersburg	398	88	22.1	22
Walter Johnson	541	167	30.9	25
John F. Kennedy	350	66	18.9	19
Col. Zadok Magruder	443	114	25.7	24
Richard Montgomery	497	119	23.9	26
Northwest	468	90	19.2	22
Northwood	279	90	32.3	19
Paint Branch	404	55	13.6	20
Poolesville	268	110	41.0	27
Quince Orchard	375	142	37.9	24
Rockville	278	54	19.4	22
Seneca Valley	311	113	36.3	20
Sherwood	510	198	38.8	23
Springbrook	366	103	28.1	20
Watkins Mill	348	170	48.9	18
Wheaton	264	68	25.8	20
Walt Whitman	452	167	36.9	27
Thomas S. Wootton	583	283	48.5	27

Note. The results are based on MCPS-verified records and may differ slightly from ACT records. Mean ACT composite scores are rounded to nearest integer. Scores are based on most recent ACT test.

^a Includes graduates enrolled in special schools during Grade 12. Scores are based on most recent ACT test.

Table A3
ACT Participation for the MCPS Class of 2012 by High School and Race/Ethnicity

High School	Asian			Black or African American			Hispanic/Latino			White			Two or More Races		
	N Grads	N Took	% Took	N Grads	N Took	% Took	N Grads	N Took	% Took	N Grads	N Took	% Took	N Grads	N Took	% Took
MCPS ^a	1,564	373	23.8	2,248	718	31.9	2,199	414	18.8	3,962	1,485	37.5	323	101	31.3
Bethesda-Chevy Chase	33	11	33.3	68	43	63.2	68	17	25.0	276	94	34.1	--	--	--
Montgomery Blair	115	13	11.3	183	27	14.8	167	18	10.8	166	44	26.5	25	2	8.0
James Hubert Blake	42	3	7.1	181	54	29.8	80	6	7.5	125	31	24.8	--	--	--
Winston Churchill	113	25	22.1	41	9	22.0	45	13	28.9	315	147	46.7	--	--	53.8
Clarksburg	61	16	26.2	116	43	37.1	78	20	25.6	132	56	42.4	--	--	33.3
Damascus	23	4	17.4	29	13	44.8	37	11	29.7	219	73	33.3	--	--	38.5
Albert Einstein	29	7	24.1	69	32	46.4	148	23	15.5	88	18	20.5	--	--	41.7
Gaithersburg	43	12	27.9	110	32	29.1	118	12	10.2	112	28	25.0	--	--	25.0
Walter Johnson	68	15	22.1	54	17	31.5	91	25	27.5	298	101	33.9	29	9	31.0
John F. Kennedy	44	4	9.1	129	36	27.9	139	17	12.2	26	6	23.1	--	--	27.3
Col. Zadok Magruder	72	15	20.8	75	15	20.0	122	13	10.7	157	66	42.0	--	--	29.4
Richard Montgomery	129	21	16.3	65	18	27.7	91	14	15.4	197	61	31.0	--	--	35.7
Northwest	74	12	16.2	130	25	19.2	85	6	7.1	161	43	26.7	--	--	17.6
Northwood	--	--	35.3	84	32	38.1	96	24	25.0	78	27	34.6	--	--	--
Paint Branch	80	9	11.3	190	33	17.4	60	4	6.7	61	6	9.8	--	--	23.1
Poolesville	67	24	35.8	--	--	50.0	--	--	41.2	156	68	43.6	--	--	20.0
Quince Orchard	45	9	20.0	54	14	25.9	78	26	33.3	186	90	48.4	--	--	30.0
Rockville	31	8	25.8	43	8	18.6	84	7	8.3	108	27	25.0	--	--	40.0
Seneca Valley	27	8	29.6	96	37	38.5	71	23	32.4	98	38	38.8	--	--	38.9
Sherwood	47	18	38.3	82	32	39.0	64	14	21.9	304	132	43.4	--	--	16.7
Springbrook	63	12	19.0	169	66	39.1	94	13	13.8	35	11	31.4	--	--	--
Watkins Mill	44	24	54.5	129	75	58.1	115	48	41.7	44	13	29.5	--	--	66.7
Wheaton	25	13	52.0	68	25	36.8	155	26	16.8	--	--	25.0	--	--	--
Walt Whitman	55	15	27.3	--	--	31.3	47	15	31.9	318	124	39.0	--	--	53.3
Thomas S. Wootton	214	69	32.2	36	18	50.0	38	12	31.6	274	177	64.6	--	--	35.3

Note. The results are based on MCPS-verified records and may differ slightly from ACT records. Results for American Indian and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander students are included with all students but are not reported separately. To comply with federal requirements, any percentage rates greater than or equal to 95.0% or less than or equal to 5.0% will be noted as ≥ 95.0 or ≤ 5.0 , respectively, and the number of graduates and the number of test takers will not be reported (--). Additionally, results are not reported (--) for groups with fewer than 10 graduates. For groups of between 10 and 20 graduates, only the percentage rate will be reported.

^a Includes graduates enrolled in special schools during Grade 12.

Table A4
ACT Participation for the MCPS Class of 2012 by High School, Gender, and Service Group

High School	Male			Female			FARMS			Special Education			ESOL		
	N Grads	N Took	% Took	N Grads	N Took	% Took	N Grads	N Took	% Took	N Grads	N Took	% Took	N Grads	N Took	% Took
MCPS ^a	5,145	1,386	26.9	5,177	1,708	33.0	2,303	565	24.5	877	207	23.6	288	44	15.3
Bethesda-Chevy Chase	240	77	32.1	214	90	42.1	48	28	58.3	32	12	37.5	--	--	30.0
Montgomery Blair	334	42	12.6	325	62	19.1	217	26	12.0	35	5	14.3	32	4	12.5
James Hubert Blake	189	30	15.9	248	65	26.2	105	28	26.7	26	5	19.2	--	--	--
Winston Churchill	285	97	34.0	242	104	43.0	22	4	18.2	61	23	37.7	--	--	--
Clarksburg	201	58	28.9	198	81	40.9	90	20	22.2	44	9	20.5	--	--	--
Damascus	158	39	24.7	163	67	41.1	35	11	31.4	35	6	17.1	--	--	--
Albert Einstein	141	28	19.9	207	57	27.5	119	30	25.2	31	4	12.9	--	--	--
Gaithersburg	188	33	17.6	210	55	26.2	127	25	19.7	--	--	≤5.0	31	7	22.6
Walter Johnson	274	73	26.6	267	94	35.2	35	9	25.7	61	14	23.0	--	--	5.3
John F. Kennedy	162	25	15.4	188	41	21.8	149	30	20.1	28	3	10.7	23	3	13.0
Col. Zadok Magruder	239	60	25.1	204	54	26.5	125	11	8.8	46	11	23.9	--	--	≤5.0
Richard Montgomery	214	49	22.9	283	70	24.7	84	15	17.9	33	7	21.2	--	--	16.7
Northwest	240	49	20.4	228	41	18.0	101	11	10.9	56	6	10.7	--	--	--
Northwood	139	40	28.8	140	50	35.7	103	33	32.0	32	11	34.4	--	--	--
Paint Branch	189	15	7.9	215	40	18.6	112	14	12.5	--	--	≤5.0	--	--	--
Poolesville	120	50	41.7	148	60	40.5	--	--	36.4	--	--	46.7	--	--	--
Quince Orchard	201	69	34.3	174	73	42.0	68	24	35.3	25	7	28.0	--	--	--
Rockville	154	27	17.5	124	27	21.8	70	9	12.9	35	10	28.6	--	--	--
Seneca Valley	146	49	33.6	165	64	38.8	93	32	34.4	25	7	28.0	--	--	--
Sherwood	274	86	31.4	236	112	47.5	65	21	32.3	39	12	30.8	21	7	33.3
Springbrook	177	41	23.2	189	62	32.8	153	39	25.5	25	6	24.0	--	--	10.0
Watkins Mill	194	92	47.4	154	78	50.6	160	91	56.9	44	9	20.5	--	--	41.7
Wheaton	151	44	29.1	113	24	21.2	165	41	24.8	--	--	12.5	--	--	≤5.0
Walt Whitman	222	84	37.8	230	83	36.1	--	--	--	30	12	40.0	--	--	6.7
Thomas S. Wootton	287	129	44.9	296	154	52.0	21	7	33.3	30	18	60.0	--	--	10.0

Note. The results are based on MCPS-verified records and may differ slightly from ACT records. FARMS = Free and Reduced-price Meals System; ESOL = English for Speakers of Other Languages. To comply with federal requirements, any percentage rates greater than or equal to 95.0% or less than or equal to 5.0% will be noted as ≥95.0 or ≤5.0, respectively, and the number of graduates and the number of test takers will not be reported (--). Additionally, results are not reported (--) for groups with fewer than 10 graduates. For groups of between 10 and 20 graduates, only the percentage rate will be reported.

^a Includes graduates enrolled in special schools during Grade 12.

Table A5
Most Recent Mean ACT Composite Score for the MCPS Class of 2012 by High School and Student Group

High School	Asian	Black or African American	Hispanic/Latino	White	Two or More Races	Male	Female	FARMS	Special Education	ESOL
MCPS ^a	25	18	20	26	24	23	23	18	20	16
Bethesda-Chevy Chase	24	19	22	28	--	24	25	18	21	16
Montgomery Blair	26	18	21	28	22	23	24	17	26	15
James Hubert Blake	27	18	19	23	--	19	20	17	13	--
Winston Churchill	27	21	28	27	26	27	26	17	25	--
Clarksburg	23	18	22	24	22	22	21	19	19	--
Damascus	24	20	24	22	22	21	23	19	19	--
Albert Einstein	21	18	19	25	22	20	20	17	16	--
Gaithersburg	26	20	18	24	24	22	21	19	--	16
Walter Johnson	25	20	22	26	25	25	24	19	22	15
John F. Kennedy	25	18	16	23	22	19	19	18	19	20
Col. Zadok Magruder	25	20	23	24	21	24	23	18	19	--
Richard Montgomery	29	20	21	28	31	27	26	19	16	16
Northwest	24	19	20	24	21	22	22	19	18	--
Northwood	21	17	18	23	--	20	19	18	18	--
Paint Branch	22	19	16	25	24	18	21	19	--	--
Poolesville	31	20	26	27	30	27	27	16	21	--
Quince Orchard	27	17	20	25	28	24	23	18	22	--
Rockville	23	19	18	24	24	24	21	16	18	--
Seneca Valley	24	18	19	23	20	20	20	18	15	--
Sherwood	25	18	20	24	14	23	23	18	19	15
Springbrook	23	18	20	25	--	20	19	17	19	12
Watkins Mill	18	17	18	20	22	18	18	17	15	14
Wheaton	22	19	20	24	--	20	20	20	16	--
Walt Whitman	28	23	25	27	29	28	27	--	24	21
Thomas S. Wootton	28	19	25	27	28	27	26	20	20	12

Note. The results are based on MCPS-verified records and may differ slightly from ACT records. Mean ACT composite scores are rounded to nearest integer. Scores are based on most recent ACT test. FARMS = Free and Reduced-price Meals System; ESOL = English for Speakers of Other Languages. Results for American Indian and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander students are included with all students but are not reported separately. To comply with federal requirements, test scores based on any percentage rates greater than or equal to 95.0% or less than or equal to 5.0% will not be reported (--). Additionally, results are not reported (--) for groups with fewer than 10 graduates. For groups of between 10 and 20 graduates, test scores will be reported.

^a Includes graduates enrolled in special schools during Grade 12.