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**INFORMATION**

Office of Shared Accountability  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Rockville, Maryland

August 25, 2014

MEMORANDUM

To: High School Principals

From: Geoffrey T. Sanderson, Associate Superintendent

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

The Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Class of 2014 consistently outperformed graduates across Maryland and the nation on all sections of the ACT, according to the ACT, Inc. annual report that was released Wednesday, August 20, 2014.

Thirty percent of the graduates in the MCPS Class of 2014 took the ACT exam. According to the ACT, Inc. report, ACT participation among MCPS students has increased during the past five years, from 3,117 in 2010 to 3,153 in 2014.

Benchmark scores established by ACT, Inc. indicate students' readiness for college-level coursework in English composition, algebra, social science, and biology. Using ACT's established college readiness benchmark scores, of those in the Class of 2014 who participated in the ACT, 77 percent of the Class of 2014 met the English composition benchmark, 63 percent met the college algebra benchmark, 58 percent met the social science benchmark, and 55 percent met the biology benchmark. Moreover, 45 percent of the Class of 2014 met all four college readiness benchmark scores according to ACT, Inc. Table 1 provides a comparison of college readiness benchmark scores for MCPS, the state, and the nation.

Table 1  
Percent of Class of 2014 Students Who Met ACT College Readiness Benchmarks for MCPS, Maryland, and the Nation

ACT Subtest	MCPS	Maryland	Nation
English	77	73	64
Algebra	63	55	43
Social Science	58	54	44
Biology	55	47	37
Met All Four	45	37	26

Likewise, MCPS graduates outscored their state and national peers in each of the four subject areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science (Table 2).

Table 2  
Class of 2014 ACT Mean Subtest and Composite Scores for  
MCPS, Maryland, and the Nation

ACT Subtest	MCPS	Maryland	Nation
Composite	23.7	22.6	21.0
English	23.4	22.1	20.3
Mathematics	23.8	22.5	20.9
Reading	23.8	23.0	21.3
Science	23.5	22.2	20.8

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

The average composite score for MCPS graduates was slightly higher in 2014 compared to 2010 (23.7 and 23.4, respectively). The average composite score for graduates in Maryland also saw a slight increase during the same time frame (22.3 in 2010 compared with 22.6 in 2014) and across the nation scores remained steady at 21.0 in 2010 and 2014.

Table 3  
Average Composite Scores for MCPS, Maryland, and the  
Nation, 2010 Through 2014

Year	MCPS	Maryland	Nation
2010	23.3	22.3	21.0
2011	23.2	22.1	21.1
2012	23.2	22.1	21.1
2013	23.4	22.3	20.9
2014	23.7	22.6	21.0

*Note.* Results for 2014 MCPS are based on MCPS-verified records and may differ slightly from ACT records.

The attached tables provide data on ACT participation and performance for the graduates in the Class of 2014 by student groups and by high schools. The results are based on MCPS-verified records and may differ slightly from the data report by ACT, Inc.

If you have questions about ACT participation and performance, please contact Dr. Kecia L. Addison, supervisor, applied research, Office of Shared Accountability, at 301-279-3194. You may find additional information about the ACT and college readiness at <http://www.act.org>.

GTS:kla

Attachment

Copy to:

Executive Staff

Dr. Addison

Mrs. Collins

Ms. Dawson

High School Administrative Secretaries

Ms. Powell

Dr. Steinberg

Mr. Koutsos

Mr. Prouty

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Maria V. Navarro, Chief Academic Officer

Table A1  
ACT Participation and Most Recent Mean ACT Composite Scores for the MCPS Classes of 2011–2014 by Student Group

Student Group	N Graduates				N Took ACT				% Took ACT				Composite Score			
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2011	2012	2013	2014	2011	2012	2013	2014	2011	2012	2013	2014
MCPS	10,158	10,322	10,448	10,664	2,976	3,094	3,065	3,143	29.3	30.0	29.3	29.5	23	23	23	24
Male	5,049	5,145	5,251	5,335	1,337	1,386	1,362	1,406	26.5	26.9	25.9	26.4	24	23	24	24
Female	5,109	5,177	5,197	5,329	1,639	1,708	1,703	1,737	32.1	33.0	32.8	32.6	23	23	23	23
Asian	1,508	1,564	1,549	1,696	332	373	352	406	22.0	23.8	22.7	23.9	26	25	26	26
Black or African American	2,228	2,248	2,231	2,309	640	718	648	654	28.7	31.9	29.0	28.3	18	18	18	19
Hispanic/Latino	2,084	2,199	2,299	2,462	398	414	390	461	19.1	18.8	17.0	18.7	20	20	21	21
White	3,986	3,962	3,907	3,772	1,498	1,485	1,532	1,493	37.6	37.5	39.2	39.6	25	26	26	26
Two or More Races	323	323	437	406	99	101	138	124	30.7	31.3	31.6	30.5	24	24	25	25
FARMS	2,114	2,303	2,427	2,590	516	565	530	607	24.4	24.5	21.8	23.4	18	18	19	19
Special Education	927	877	1,005	972	232	207	239	201	25.0	23.6	23.8	20.7	19	20	20	20
ESOL	279	288	272	266	35	44	33	28	12.5	15.3	12.1	10.5	16	16	16	15

*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 MCPS American Indian and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander students are included with all students but are not reported separately.

Table A2  
 ACT Participation and Most Recent Mean ACT Composite Scores for the MCPS Class of 2014 by High School

High School	N Graduates	N Took ACT	% Took ACT	Composite Score
MCPS <sup>a</sup>	10,664	3,143	29.5	24
Bethesda-Chevy Chase	402	142	35.3	26
Blair	649	114	17.6	26
Blake	414	139	33.6	20
Churchill	545	223	40.9	27
Clarksburg	460	112	24.3	22
Damascus	310	124	40.0	22
Einstein	378	93	24.6	21
Gaithersburg	433	67	15.5	20
Walter Johnson	551	166	30.1	27
Kennedy	370	75	20.3	19
Magruder	408	91	22.3	23
Richard Montgomery	527	102	19.4	25
Northwest	473	79	16.7	22
Northwood	340	105	30.9	19
Paint Branch	416	61	14.7	20
Poolesville	305	113	37.0	27
Quince Orchard	473	188	39.7	24
Rockville	305	83	27.2	22
Seneca Valley	261	79	30.3	22
Sherwood	510	211	41.4	23
Springbrook	409	109	26.7	21
Watkins Mill	341	126	37.0	18
Wheaton	268	84	31.3	20
Whitman	483	179	37.1	29
Wootton	585	275	47.0	28

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.

<sup>a</sup> Includes graduates enrolled in special schools during Grade 12.

Table A3  
ACT Participation for the MCPS Class of 2014 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 <sup>a</sup>	1,696	406	23.9	2,309	654	28.3	2,462	461	18.7	3,772	1,493	39.6	406	124	30.5
Bethesda-Chevy Chase	30	10	33.3	65	22	33.8	68	15	22.1	220	88	40.0	--	--	33.3
Blair	104	15	14.4	190	41	21.6	168	5	3.0	159	49	30.8	25	4	16.0
Blake	47	11	23.4	151	66	43.7	92	27	29.3	106	31	29.2	--	--	22.2
Churchill	117	23	19.7	54	20	37.0	39	13	33.3	311	158	50.8	24	9	37.5
Clarksburg	87	18	20.7	133	25	18.8	104	17	16.3	120	47	39.2	--	--	31.3
Damascus	--	--	33.3	22	10	45.5	41	21	51.2	214	82	38.3	--	--	35.3
Einstein	35	8	22.9	85	23	27.1	153	28	18.3	92	28	30.4	--	--	50.0
Gaithersburg	45	12	26.7	122	19	15.6	155	14	9.0	98	21	21.4	--	--	7.7
Walter Johnson	93	18	19.4	38	13	34.2	104	25	24.0	295	106	35.9	20	--	20.0
Kennedy	40	7	17.5	151	44	29.1	162	18	11.1	--	--	38.5	--	--	--
Magruder	77	18	23.4	72	16	22.2	124	13	10.5	124	42	33.9	--	--	10.0
Richard Montgomery	148	22	14.9	79	25	31.6	111	10	9.0	157	39	24.8	32	6	18.8
Northwest	91	15	16.5	124	21	16.9	98	7	7.1	139	31	22.3	20	5	25.0
Northwood	21	7	33.3	97	31	32.0	156	39	25.0	57	25	43.9	--	--	--
Paint Branch	82	12	14.6	210	27	12.9	59	8	13.6	51	10	19.6	--	--	33.3
Poolesville	84	26	31.0	--	--	38.9	24	11	45.8	170	66	38.8	--	--	--
Quince Orchard	60	23	38.3	79	24	30.4	83	23	27.7	234	112	47.9	--	--	33.3
Rockville	35	7	20.0	45	10	22.2	100	21	21.0	115	43	37.4	--	--	--
Seneca Valley	30	9	30.0	80	31	38.8	85	17	20.0	53	19	35.8	--	--	16.7
Sherwood	53	10	18.9	72	26	36.1	65	19	29.2	307	153	49.8	--	--	16.7
Springbrook	62	13	21.0	175	63	36.0	112	13	11.6	45	15	33.3	--	--	35.7
Watkins Mill	34	17	50.0	116	50	43.1	125	36	28.8	54	19	35.2	--	--	33.3
Wheaton	27	14	51.9	77	25	32.5	133	36	27.1	25	5	20.0	--	--	--
Whitman	69	19	27.5	--	--	13.3	45	11	24.4	334	136	40.7	--	--	55.0
Wootton	207	66	31.9	27	13	48.1	43	14	32.6	266	163	61.3	42	19	45.2

*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  $\geq 95.0$  or  $\leq 5.0$ , 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.

<sup>a</sup> Includes graduates enrolled in special schools during Grade 12.

Table A4  
ACT Participation for the MCPS Class of 2014 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 <sup>a</sup>	5,335	1,406	26.4	5,329	1,737	32.6	2,590	607	23.4	972	201	20.7	266	28	10.5
Bethesda-Chevy Chase	203	72	35.5	199	70	35.2	49	20	40.8	40	13	32.5	--	--	33.3
Blair	349	58	16.6	300	56	18.7	220	28	12.7	51	7	13.7	44	2	4.5
Blake	189	55	29.1	225	84	37.3	131	54	41.2	31	5	16.1	0	0	
Churchill	280	107	38.2	265	116	43.8	30	7	23.3	56	19	33.9	0	0	
Clarksburg	226	49	21.7	234	63	26.9	115	25	21.7	48	11	22.9	--	--	--
Damascus	153	46	30.1	157	78	49.7	33	15	45.5	33	9	27.3	0	0	
Einstein	181	38	21.0	197	55	27.9	144	36	25.0	34	7	20.6	--	--	5.0
Gaithersburg	225	26	11.6	208	41	19.7	164	19	11.6	41	1	2.4	--	--	20.0
Walter Johnson	291	79	27.1	260	87	33.5	39	6	15.4	55	13	23.6	--	--	7.7
Kennedy	186	36	19.4	184	39	21.2	186	39	21.0	41	7	17.1	--	0	0.0
Magruder	187	41	21.9	221	50	22.6	123	18	14.6	30	4	13.3	--	--	--
Richard Montgomery	251	49	19.5	276	53	19.2	95	16	16.8	37	3	8.1	--	0	0.0
Northwest	218	38	17.4	255	41	16.1	106	10	9.4	44	5	11.4	0	0	
Northwood	162	37	22.8	178	68	38.2	146	39	26.7	43	9	20.9	--	0	0.0
Paint Branch	210	24	11.4	206	37	18.0	121	18	14.9	--	--	20.0	--	0	0.0
Poolesville	161	51	31.7	144	62	43.1	--	--	45.0	--	--	12.5	0	0	
Quince Orchard	243	92	37.9	230	96	41.7	85	24	28.2	49	11	22.4	--	--	--
Rockville	145	35	24.1	160	48	30.0	90	26	28.9	36	8	22.2	--	--	--
Seneca Valley	126	29	23.0	135	50	37.0	81	21	25.9	23	0	0.0	--	--	--
Sherwood	247	88	35.6	263	123	46.8	81	18	22.2	50	18	36.0	25	3	12.0
Springbrook	222	53	23.9	187	56	29.9	157	39	24.8	34	4	11.8	--	--	28.6
Watkins Mill	166	48	28.9	175	78	44.6	164	57	34.8	33	3	9.1	--	--	45.5
Wheaton	155	36	23.2	113	48	42.5	157	53	33.8	32	6	18.8	25	4	16.0
Whitman	248	87	35.1	235	92	39.1	--	--	23.1	53	20	37.7	--	--	--
Wootton	288	132	45.8	297	143	48.1	26	7	26.9	27	12	44.4	--	--	--

*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  $\geq 95.0$  or  $\leq 5.0$ , 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.

<sup>a</sup> Includes graduates enrolled in special schools during Grade 12.

Table A5  
Most Recent Mean ACT Composite Score for the MCPS Class of 2014 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 <sup>a</sup>	26	19	21	26	25	24	23	19	20	15
Bethesda-Chevy Chase	25	19	25	28	23	25	26	18	21	17
Blair	30	21	19	29	28	26	25	19	22	14
Blake	22	18	20	24	20	20	20	18	14	NA
Churchill	28	21	25	28	28	28	27	21	21	NA
Clarksburg	24	16	19	24	23	22	22	19	16	NA
Damascus	22	20	21	23	23	22	23	20	18	NA
Einstein	22	19	20	26	21	21	22	19	16	13
Gaithersburg	21	18	18	23	17	22	19	18	15	12
Walter Johnson	27	20	26	27	31	27	26	23	30	14
Kennedy	25	17	18	28	21	18	20	19	17	NA
Magruder	25	16	21	27	24	24	23	20	15	NA
Richard Montgomery	29	20	24	26	24	24	25	21	15	NA
Northwest	25	17	20	25	25	22	22	18	16	NA
Northwood	18	17	18	24	20	19	19	17	19	NA
Paint Branch	22	19	21	23	19	20	20	20	17	NA
Poolesville	31	25	27	26	26	28	27	23	23	NA
Quince Orchard	26	19	20	25	26	24	24	20	19	NA
Rockville	23	18	19	24	25	22	22	19	21	NA
Seneca Valley	28	19	20	25	22	22	22	20	NA	NA
Sherwood	24	21	22	24	26	24	23	20	18	16
Springbrook	24	19	20	26	26	21	21	19	19	14
Watkins Mill	20	17	17	22	21	17	19	17	12	14
Wheaton	20	20	19	22	19	21	19	19	16	15
Whitman	32	23	27	29	29	30	28	27	24	NA
Wootton	29	20	27	27	29	28	27	20	21	21

*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. Scores are based on most recent ACT test. Results are not reported (--) for groups with fewer than ten graduates. NA=not applicable as there were no testers.

<sup>a</sup> Includes graduates enrolled in special schools during Grade 12.