

FY 2007 QUESTION NUMBER: 48

Provide a performance evaluation of the schools in the Thomas S. Wootton High School cluster using available statistical data.

BUDGET PAGE REFERENCE: N/A

ANSWER:

The disaggregated data provided in the attached tables to Board of Education question number five are used to inform and guide discussions about school performance. The tables illustrate the relative performance of students who attend the same school but differ in gender or race/ethnicity, or participation in Free and Reduced-price Meals System (FARMS), special education, or limited English proficiency (LEP) services. Additionally, the tables allow stakeholders to examine the relative performance of students who attend different schools but share the same demographic characteristics.

The data tables include the following performance data about Thomas S. Wootton High School and the Thomas S. Wootton High School cluster elementary and middle schools:

- Number and percentage of MCPS Grade 10 students who took the PSAT in Fall 2004 by high school and demographic group
  - ✓ 95.3 percent of Thomas S. Wootton High School's Grade 10 students took the PSAT in 2005 which represents a 3.2 percentage point increase since 2001. The 2005 percentage is the second largest percentage of all MCPS high schools and is 11 percentage points higher than the MCPS average for all high schools.
  - ✓ Wootton's 2005 percentage of Grade 10 students taking the PSAT was the highest percentage of all high schools for African American and LEP students; second highest for male, female, Asian, and White students; and third highest for FARMS and special education students.
  - ✓ All of Thomas S. Wootton High School's Grade 10 student groups who took the test had higher participation rates than the county rates; differences ranged from 5.8 percentage points (Asian students) to 43.3 percentage points (LEP students).
- Grade 10 PSAT mean verbal and math scores for MCPS students who took the PSAT in Fall 2004 by high school and demographic group
  - ✓ Since 2001, Thomas S. Wootton High School's average verbal and average math scores have remained approximately the same while its average writing scores have shown a slight increase (from 49 to 52).
  - ✓ Compared to all other MCPS high schools in 2005, Thomas S. Wootton High School's Grade 10 students: (a) tied with two other schools to earn the fourth highest average verbal PSAT score (47); (b) earned the third highest average PSAT math score (52); and (c) tied with two other schools to earn the third highest PSAT average writing score (52).
  - ✓ Compared to county-wide average scores, all of Thomas S. Wootton High School's student groups had higher average verbal and math scores except for LEP students'

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average verbal scores; Thomas S. Wootton High School's LEP students average verbal score was two points lower than the county average.

- SAT participation and performance of MCPS seniors in the Classes of 2001 to 2005 who graduated from Thomas S. Wootton High School

Participation

- ✓ 90.6 percent of Thomas S. Wootton High School's senior class took the SAT. Only two other high schools had higher participation rates (Churchill-91.4 percent; Whitman-90.9 percent) Thomas S. Wootton High School's rate exceeds the county-wide participation rate by 14.1 percentage points.
- ✓ Thomas S. Wootton High School's participation rate in the SATs has stayed approximately the same since 2001 (from 89 percent to 90.6 percent in 2005) while the actual numbers of students taking the test has increased by 144 students.
- ✓ The participation rates of all student groups have either stayed approximately the same (male, female, Asian, White, FARMS) from 2001 to 2005 or were higher (African American from 58.3 percent to 66.7 percent; Hispanic from 70.6 percent to 66.7 percent; special education from 53.8 percent to 80.6 percent). However, it should be noted that for some of these groups, the 2005 participation rates were not necessarily the highest rate for each student group.

Thomas S. Wootton High School Performance

- ✓ Thomas S. Wootton High School's most recent average Total SAT score was 1223; this is the highest score achieved by the school since 2001 (which is the timeframe used in the DSA report). The same is true for its average Verbal SAT score of 953 and its average Math SAT score of 630.
  - ✓ The SAT scores for seniors average over 5 years has increased from 1194 to 1223, with African American SAT average scores moving from 1015 to 1082 and Hispanic scores moving from 1060 to 1118.
- Most recent SAT combined verbal and math scores for students in the MCPS Class of 2005 by high school and demographic group
    - ✓ Thomas S. Wootton High School and Winston Churchill High School tied in having the second highest combined verbal and math scores SAT score of 1223; Whitman had the highest average score (1256).
    - ✓ Thomas S. Wootton High School's most recent average combined verbal and math scores for all student groups exceeds the county-wide scores, and for most groups, Thomas S. Wootton High School's scores represent the highest or second highest average scores among all the high schools (African American, Hispanic, female, FARMS, and special education).
  - AP participation and performance for all students in Grades 9–12 who took an AP exam between 2000–2001 and 2004–2005 by high school

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- ✓ In 2005, 996 Thomas S. Wootton High School students took 2,063 AP exams, up from 403 Thomas S. Wootton High School students who took 807 exams in 2001.
- ✓ The percentage of Thomas S. Wootton High School students earning a score of three or higher on AP exams has stayed about the same (78 percent in 2001 and 77 percent in 2005).
- AP and IB participation and performance for seniors in the MCPS Class of 2004–2005 by high school
  - ✓ Of all county high schools, Thomas S. Wootton High School had the largest percentage of seniors taking the AP exam and the largest percentage of seniors scoring a 3 or higher on the AP exams.
- High School Academic Attainment of Thomas S. Wootton High School for academic years 2000–2001 through 2004–2005
  - ✓ Thomas S. Wootton High School academic index shows an increase in rigor and readiness over five years from 75.0 to 84.1.

In reviewing data for all the schools in the Thomas S. Wootton High School cluster, the data indicates a school cluster that is showing excellent student performance over several years. Listed below are some of the school system indicators that reinforce excellence in program and instruction which are not included in the tables referenced above.

Thomas S. Wootton High School

- Thomas S. Wootton High School has 100 percent passing rate for algebra, which includes African American and Hispanic prior to graduation.
- Other areas of success indicate that suspensions are down, as well as ineligibility. Thomas S. Wootton High School has some of the lowest numbers in the county.

Robert Frost Middle School

- 99.7 percent passing rate on HSA algebra.
- The percentage of students completing algebra has increased over a five year period from 52 percent to 76 percent, and there has been a 22 percent increase in passing geometry.
- Frost has a 1 percent ineligibility rate and one of the lowest suspension rates in the county.

The data indicates that over a five-year period Thomas S. Wootton High School cluster has made significant progress in all indicators at all three levels of instruction. Thomas S. Wootton High School cluster principals care deeply for their children and truly believe that all students can learn at a high level.