

Howard County Public School System

PROFILE

2011-12

10910 Route 108 • Ellicott City, MD 21042 • 410.313.6600 • www.hcpss.org



Howard County Department of Education

Howard County, Maryland is a suburban community of over 285,000 situated midway along the Baltimore-Washington corridor. It is a county of contrasts - a blend of old and new, urban and rural, historical and progressive. The county's borders encompass Ellicott City, one of the country's oldest towns, and Columbia, a planned community conceived and designed 40 years ago by The Rouse Company.

A great community deserves great schools, and the Howard County Public School System is a recognized source of local pride. The school system consistently ranks among Maryland's top school districts based on student performance on the Maryland School Assessments. Howard County students score above the national averages on standardized tests and nearly 92% of graduates continue their education beyond high school.

Our Mission and Goals

The mission of the Howard County Public School System is to ensure excellence in teaching and learning so that each student will participate responsibly in a diverse and changing world.

Goal 1 - Each child, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, disability or socioeconomic status, will meet the rigorous performance standards that have been established. All diploma-bound students will perform on or above grade level in all measured content areas.

Goal 2 - Each school will provide a safe and nurturing school environment that values our diversity and commonality.

Our Staff 2011-12

- 4,646 teachers, 68% of whom hold a master's degree or above
- Average years of experience: 13
- Average age is 41
- Total staff: 7,888

Fast Facts

74 Schools

40 elementary schools
19 middle schools
12 high schools
3 education centers

Total Enrollment

Elementary (PreK-5) - 23,304
Middle (6-8) - 11,498
High (9-12) - 16,516
Special School - 101

Race/Ethnicity

White	47.4%
Asian	16.7%
Hispanic	8.5%
American Indian/Alaskan	0.2%
African American	20.9%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.1%
Two or more races	6.2%

Students Receiving Special Services 2010-11

Title I (Elementary only)	6.3%
Ltd. English Proficient	3.1%
Free/Reduced Lunch	17.6%*
Special Education	8.7%

*includes Pre-K

Attendance Rate 2010-11

Elementary:	96.1%
Middle:	95.8%
High:	95.1%

Graduation Rate: 89.5%*

*4-year adjusted cohort

Per Pupil Expenditure FY 2012

\$75.89 per day / \$13,660 per year

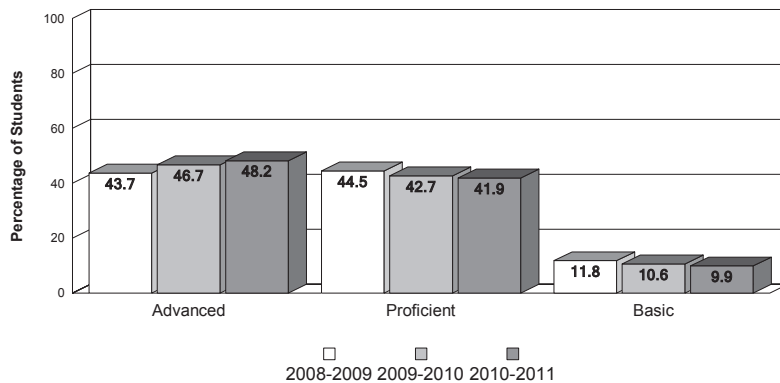
What others are saying...

In 2010, "excellent schools" was one of the many reasons that Columbia/Ellicott City ranked #2 on *Money* magazine's list of Best Places to Live.

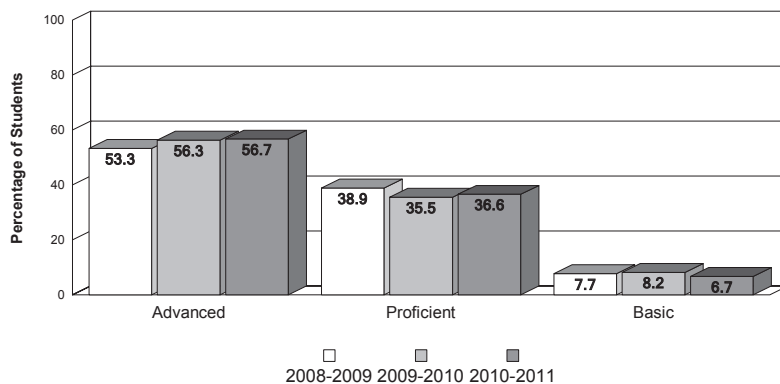
The July 2007 issue of *Forbes* magazine listed the Howard County Public School System among the top 10 school districts in the nation when it comes to providing the best public education for the price.

Achievement Data

MSA - Mathematics



MSA - Reading



HSA Passrates for Class of 2011

Subject	Takers	Passed	Bridge Plan Accepted	Met Requirement
Algebra	3908	3806	49	98.6%
Biology	3907	3719	67	96.9%
English	3909	3629	74	94.7%
Government	3906	3772	54	98.0%
Met with Combined Score			8.9% (347/3914)	
Met Requirement			99.7% (3902/3914)	

SAT Scores and Participation

School Year	N	Percent Participating	Mean Scores		
			Critical Reading	Mathematics	Writing
2010-2011	3129	79.3	542	561	542
2009-2010	3021	73.3	541	557	541
2008-2009	2820	75.3	542	558	541

More Facts

Class Size Targets

Grade Level	Teacher/student ratio
Kindergarten	1:22
Grades 1-2	1:19
Grades 3-5	1:25
Middle	1:20.5
High	1:23.5

ESOL Program

Over 2,250 students participate in the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program, representing 60 different languages (primarily Spanish and Korean) and 86 countries.

Gifted and Talented Program

Percentage of students who have participated in a variety of Gifted and Talented Education Program offerings:

K to Grade 5	43%
Grades 6-8	43%
Grades 9-12	41%

Documented Decisions/Class of 2011

Attend a 4-year college	64%
Attend a 2-year college	27%
Attend trade or technical school	1%
Enter employment	2%
Military	2%
Other or unreported plans	10%

Before and After Care is offered at all Howard County public elementary schools and some middle schools. Care is provided by the Columbia Association or the Department of Recreation and Parks.

Bus transportation is provided for kindergarteners who live a half mile from their school, elementary and middle school students who live 1 mile from their school, and high school students who live 1-1/2 miles from their school.

Kindergarten

Every child who is five years-old on or before September 1 must be enrolled in a public school kindergarten or alternate program approved by the Maryland State Department of Education. Full Day Kindergarten is held at all Howard County public elementary schools.