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Press Release

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SC Sees Gains on AP Exams and SAT Scores

COLUMBIA – Today, State Superintendent of Education Dr. Mick Zais recognized students for improvements shown on AP exams and SAT scores.

“South Carolina students showed gains this past year on their Advanced Placement exams and SAT scores,” said Zais. “We must build upon these gains as we prepare students for life after high school, whether they’re joining the military, entering the workforce, or seeking higher education at one of our state’s superb technical colleges, or a four-year degree. While these are positive gains, we must do more to ensure the college- and career -readiness of South Carolina students,” concluded Zais.

In 2013-14, a total of 66,860 South Carolina students took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), with 41,338 of those being public school students. Thus, 40.2 percent of 10th grade public school students in South Carolina took the test, above the national rate of 38.3 percent.

For Advanced Placement (AP) exams, 25,526 public school students took a total of 40,122 exams in 2013-14. In recent years, there has been a steady increase in the number of South Carolina public school students taking AP exams, the number of exams taken, and the number of students receiving a grade of three, four or five. Since 2010, the number of public school students in South Carolina taking AP exams has increased by 7,760, the number of exams taken has increased by 11,359, and the number of exams with a grade of three, four, or five has increased by 6,872. In just one year, the number of AP exams taken by public school students in the state increased by 7.8 percent, the number of students earning scores of three or higher increased by 7.3 percent, and the number of African American students participating in the AP program increased by 13 percent. Additionally, virtually every subgroup of students in South Carolina achieved increases in the number of AP exams taken and scores of three or higher.

On the SAT, South Carolina public school students increased the state’s average critical reading score from 479 in 2013 to 483 in 2014. Math scores increased from 484 in 2013 to 487 in 2014. The writing score decreased by one point from 460 to 459. Last year, 42.6 percent of SAT test takers nationwide met the SAT college- and career -readiness benchmark. In South Carolina, 33 percent of public school test takers met the benchmark.

The following five school districts were named to the 2013 AP District Honor Roll, for both increasing the number of students taking AP courses and also maintaining or improving the rate at which students earn scores of three or higher:

Charleston County School District
Dorchester School District Two
Florence School District One
Horry County School District
Fort Mill School District – York Four

Of these five districts, York Four is the only one to achieve this honor over multiple years. The College Board

will announce South Carolina's 2014 AP District Honor Roll later this fall.

For all data related to the 2013-14 PSAT, AP exams, and SAT results, please click this [link](#).

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