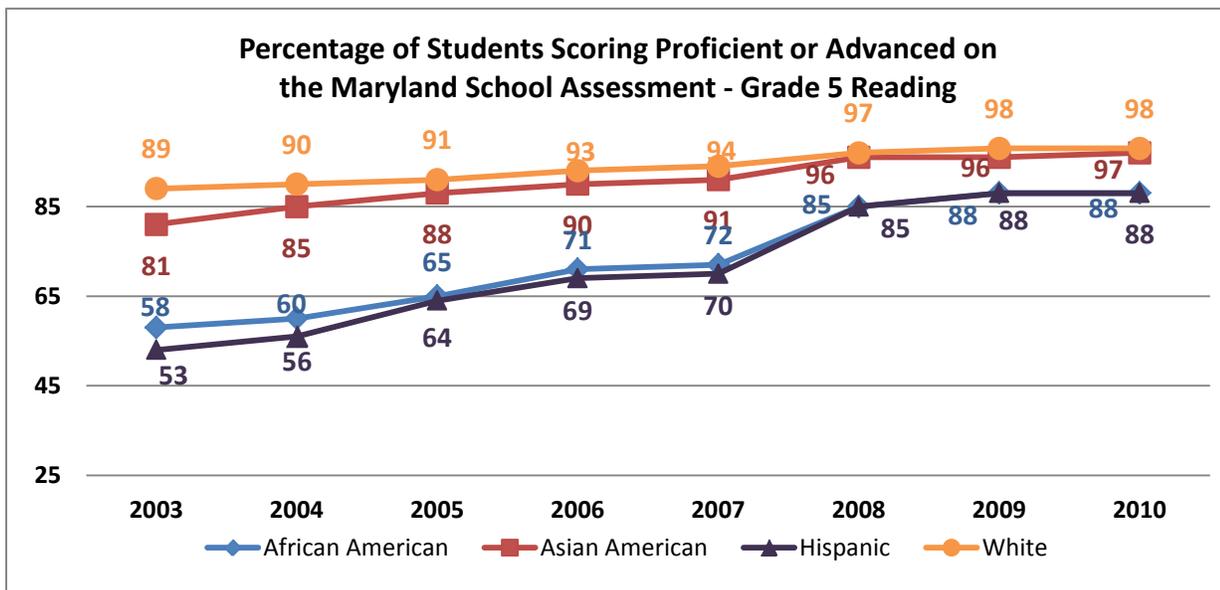




Under the leadership of Dr. Jerry Weast, the Montgomery County Public Schools closed the fifth-grade achievement gap in reading by more than 25 percentage points.

Dr. Jerry Weast served as the Superintendent of the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) in Maryland from 1999-2010. With a goal of having 80 percent of the district’s students ready for college by 2014, MCPS established seven key academic targets that students should meet from kindergarten through twelfth grade in order to be ready for college and careers. These targets included measures of reading and math achievement, and scores on Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, SAT, and ACT exams.

MCPS made significant strides in closing the district’s achievement gap across the grades thanks to a district-wide alignment to these college readiness goals. Between 2003 and 2010, MCPS closed the achievement gap in fifth-grade reading between White and African-American students by 28 percentage points. At the high school level, MCPS was recognized in three consecutive years for achieving the highest student graduation rate among the nation’s 50 largest school systems. In addition, the share of African-American students in Montgomery County who graduated with a passing score on at least one AP test has doubled since 2000. In 2010, 44 percent of the district’s graduates took at least one AP exam, and half of the district’s graduates earned a college-ready score on at least one AP exam – nearly triple the national average.ⁱ



We encourage you to join us at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, April 24 at 18 Seaboard for an in-depth conversation with Dr. Weast. We are bringing back Dr. Weast in response to legislator interest and hope you’ll be able to join us to consider how his strategies might be applied in North Carolina. Thank you to those who have already registered for this event. To RSVP, please contact Michele Jordan at 919.425.4168 or mjordan@hunt-institute.org.

ⁱ Record AP Performance by 2010 MCPS Graduates. (February 9, 2011). Montgomery County Public Schools.