

NEWS

September 3, 2015 – Staunton City Schools Prepares Students for College and Career

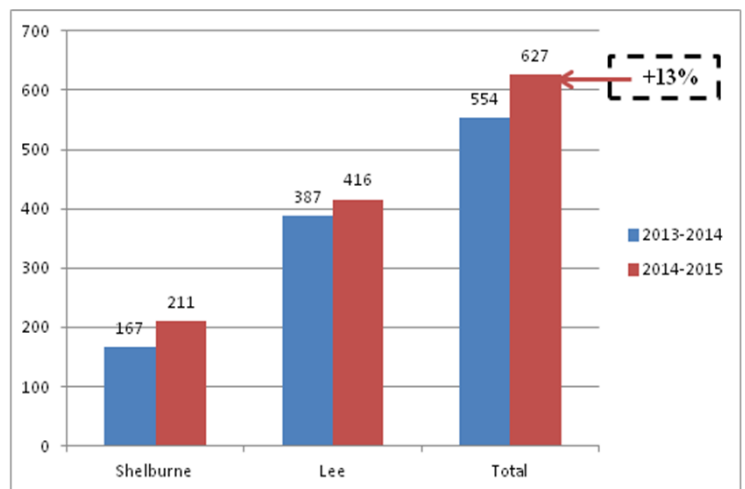
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STAUNTON CITY SCHOOLS PREPARES STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER

Staunton, VA, September 3, 2015 – In Staunton City Schools, over half of the 2015 graduating seniors took college-admissions tests, including ACT and SAT, in preparation for their future beyond high school. Of the 170 seniors in the class of 2015, about 15% participated in the ACT (which had results exceeding the national average), and about 52% participated in the SAT.

The SAT results are reported in three components: Critical Reading, Mathematics, and Writing. On average, Staunton City Schools scored a 495 for Critical Reading, 494 in Mathematics, and 477 in Writing, falling at or slightly below the state and national average in these content areas. The average scores reflect an increase from the previous year in all subjects: Reading (+2); Mathematics (+12), and Writing (+8). "While we are showing academic gains and making growth in our results on the SAT, this remains an area of focus. Exceeding the state and national SAT averages is one of our division goals, and we feel confident that engaging in high-level thinking and problem-solving as part of a rigorous curriculum will, over time, yield those results," states Dr. Linda Reviea, Staunton City School superintendent.

Staunton City Schools has greatly increased the percentage of middle and high school students participating in honors and advanced courses over the past year, with a 13% increase in student participation from the previous year. In the 2014-2015 school year, over 600 students participated in one or more advanced courses, including honors, advanced placement, dual enrollment, virtual, and Governor's School courses - with close to 1,500 advanced course credits being issued.



In 2014-2015, 84 students at Lee High School and the Governor's School, including 29 seniors, participated in Advanced Placement (AP) courses and completed related assessments. In total, 192 tests were given, spanning 17 different subject areas. This is the highest rate of participation to date among Advanced Placement assessments, with a 60% increase in the number of assessments from the previous year. In Staunton, about half of the students participating achieved a score of three or greater (a benchmark typically used for college credit). In four subjects, 100% of students met or exceeded the benchmark, including: Environmental Science, French Language and Culture, Macroeconomics, and Microeconomics.

Additionally, Staunton City Schools is increasing students' preparation for career through work-readiness assessments. Last year, a total of 416 career and workplace credential tests were given, as compared to just 98 tests five years previously. These tests spanned a total of 54 different career areas, with 70% of the tests exceeding the required benchmark. The number of students participating in career/technical coursework has continued to rise annually, with the 2014-2015 school year having the highest level of enrollment at Shelburne Middle School, Lee High School, and Valley Career and Technical Center. Almost 1,500 career/technical course credits were given in 2014-2015, an increase of about 250 students from the previous year.

"There are multiple career and college pathways for students to consider, and we are pleased to see an increase in student participation in related coursework and assessments. Staunton City Schools remains focused on stretching all students to high-levels of thinking and equipping them with the skills that will help them be successful for college, career, and life," states Stephanie Haskins, Director of Assessment and School Improvement.