



# CHARLES COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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JAMES E. RICHMOND  
Superintendent of Schools

JOHN H. COX, Ed.D.  
Assistant Superintendent  
of Instruction

September 12, 2005

Bill Zuberbuhler  
CEO, Triumph College Admissions  
7702 Gunston Plaza  
Lorton, VA 22079

Dear Bill:

The era of the old SAT has ended and thanks to TCA's assistance we've gone out with a bang. The final district average for our five high schools is 1086, up from a 1047. This is now the sixth consecutive year that our students have outpaced both the state and national averages.

It's hard to believe that in 1999, the year before we started with TCA's StudyGuide program, our district SAT average was only 989—27 points below the national average. In addition to our overall district average being below the national average, our averages by ethnicity were also well below the national average. Today our African American students are averaging 981 (117 points above the national average), our Hispanic students are averaging 1075 (143 points above the national average), and our white students are averaging 1133 (65 points above the national average). One of our greatest sources of pride with our SAT program is that we've been able to narrow the achievement gap between our minority and majority students while raising all students' scores. Adding your StudyGuide for the ACT program also gives us another resource to help our students get into college and earn scholarships. Approximately 75% of our students now move on to post secondary education. This past year they earned \$22 million in scholarships, up from \$12 million when we started with TCA.

We are now focused on the new SAT. Your assistance in helping us get geared up for the new components have been fantastic—particularly with the written essay. I am very confident we will continue to improve our scores this year.

One of the keys to our success is that all Charles County students are able to benefit from a consistent in-school preparation program at all five high schools. The TCA StudyGuide for SAT software program has given our teachers and students the ability to focus on skill remediation based on diagnostic test results. Additionally, the SAT workshops conducted by Larry Krieger for both our teachers and students have been a great boost—he really knows the SAT. The powerful combination of TCA and Larry Krieger is a great 1-2 punch that has provided a strong foundation for our teachers to build our program.

On behalf of the faculty and students in Charles County, I want to thank you and your company for the tremendous support you've provided us.

Sincerely,

John H. Cox  
Assistant Superintendent of Instruction