



# Advanced Placement (AP) Program – Participation and Performance

Board of Education Briefing

May 13, 2008

San Diego Unified School District

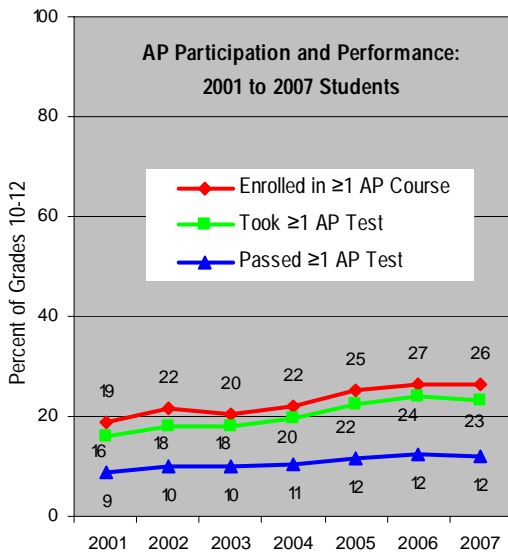
Standards, Assessment, and Accountability Division

## Introduction

The College Board’s Advanced Placement (AP) program allows high school students to take courses that cover the breadth of information, skills, and assignments found in a corresponding college course. Studies show that students who take AP courses and exams are more likely to succeed in college. Each AP course is developed by a committee of college faculty and AP teachers and has a corresponding exam that is administered in May. Most AP exams contain multiple-choice questions and a free-response section (e.g., essay, problem solving, oral response). Ninety percent of colleges and universities grant credit, placement, or both for students receiving a qualifying grade (usually 3 or higher on a scale of 1-5) on an AP Exam, and many grant up to a full year of college credit to students who earn a sufficient number of qualifying AP grades. In order to provide access to all students, the College Board allows students to take AP exams regardless of whether or not they have completed the corresponding course. However, because performance on AP exams after course completion reflects the effectiveness of the District’s AP program as a whole, this report includes only exams taken in conjunction with an AP course.

## AP Course Participation and Exam Performance

In 2006-2007, the College Board offered 37 courses/exams in 22 disciplines; SDUSD offered 32 of these<sup>1</sup> at 30 of the District’s 31 comprehensive and atypical high schools<sup>2</sup>. The number of courses offered at each school ranged from 1 to 23, with 12 schools offering ten or more distinct courses. (See page 2 for distribution of course offerings.)



Participation in the AP program has increased since 2001. However, while the percentage of students who enroll in one or more AP courses each year has increased 7 percent over the past seven years, the percentage of students scoring a 3 or higher on at least one AP exam has only increased by about 3 percent. Because the total number of students taking AP exams is growing faster than the number passing those exams, the “pass rate” for the District has actually declined slightly, even though a greater percentage of students is passing AP exams than in previous years.

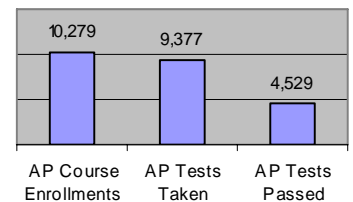
**AP Pass Rate 2001 to 2007**

Year	Pass Rate*
2001	50%
2002	51%
2003	52%
2004	49%
2005	45%
2006	46%
2007	48%

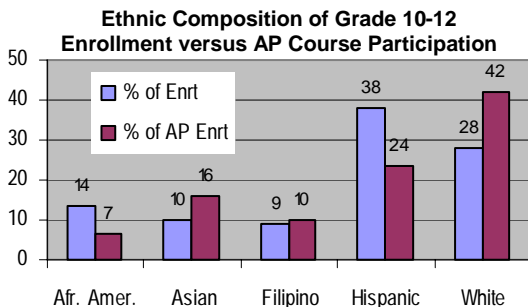
\*Exams Passed/Exams Taken

In 2007, about 26 percent of Grades 10-12 students (5,928) were enrolled in *at least* one AP course. However, many students were enrolled in

**2007 AP Participation and Performance: 2007 Course Enrollment**



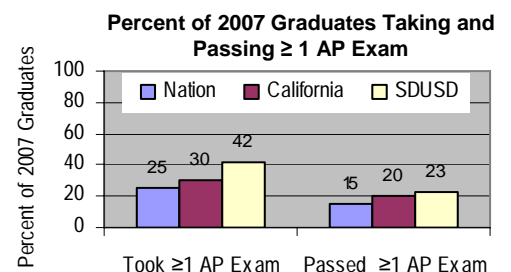
more than one course. These 5,928 students, in fact, represent 9,211 total AP course enrollments. Ninety-three percent of these enrollments resulted in a completed AP Exam, 48 percent of which received a score of 3 or higher.



SDUSD has worked to offer equal access for all students to the AP curriculum. However, gaps still remain. While 38 percent of students in Grades 10-12 are Hispanic, for instance, this group accounts for only 24 percent of students taking AP courses. African American students are also underrepresented in AP courses, while White and Asian students are overrepresented.

## SDUSD AP Data Compared With California and Nation

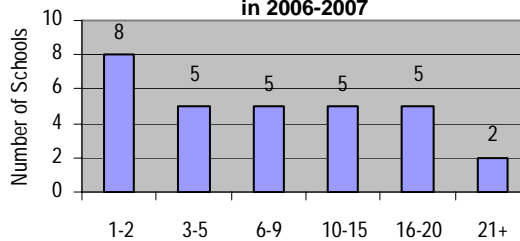
The College Board reports AP participation as a percentage of graduating seniors taking and passing AP exams each year. SDUSD performed well in relation to both the state and the nation, with a higher percentage of graduates both taking and passing one or more AP exams during high school than their counterparts state- and nationwide.



**2006-2007 Advanced Placement Participation and Performance by School**

Schools	Number and Percent of Students . . .							Total Number and Percent of . . .						
	Enrolled Grades 10-12	Enrolled in ≥1 AP Course		Taking ≥1 AP Exam		Passing ≥1 AP Exam		AP Courses Offered	AP Course Enrollments		AP Exams Taken		AP Exams Passed	
		N	Pct	N	Pct	N	Pct		N	N per 100 students	N	% of AP Enrts	N	Pct
<b>Comprehensive High Schools</b>														
332 Clairemont	942	206	21.9	171	83.0	88	51.5	10	288	30.6	244	84.4	104	42.6
704 Crawford/Champs	269	50	18.6	45	90.0	9	20.0	5	52	19.3	47	90.4	8	17.0
702 Crawford/Ideas	227	71	31.3	52	73.2	4	7.7	5	97	42.7	73	75.3	4	5.5
705 Crawford/Law & Bus.	241	58	24.1	21	36.2	12	57.1	2	62	25.7	23	37.1	12	52.2
703 Crawford/Multimedia	257	55	21.4	31	56.4	9	29.0	9	74	28.8	47	63.5	10	21.3
335 Gompers	463	138	29.8	123	89.1	8	6.5	11	228	49.2	196	86.0	8	4.1
336 Henry	1623	579	35.7	529	91.4	337	63.7	18	1050	64.7	967	91.9	578	59.8
338 Hoover	1305	122	9.3	107	87.7	38	35.5	7	159	12.2	143	89.9	44	30.8
736 Kearny/Constr Tech	267	2	0.7	2	100.0	1	50.0	1	2	0.7	2	100.0	1	50.0
733 Kearny/Digital Media	292	13	4.5	13	100.0	9	69.2	2	13	4.5	13	100.0	9	69.2
735 Kearny/Intl Business	274	7	2.6	5	71.4	3	60.0	1	7	2.6	5	71.4	3	60.0
734 Kearny/Sci Conn Tech	283	27	9.5	27	100.0	18	66.7	2	27	9.5	27	100.0	18	66.7
342 La Jolla	1170	557	47.6	547	98.2	459	83.9	23	1068	91.3	1054	98.2	866	82.2
346 Madison	894	256	28.6	196	76.6	43	21.9	12	391	43.7	316	80.6	59	18.7
349 Mira Mesa	1723	618	35.9	594	96.1	279	47.0	19	1221	70.9	1193	97.5	476	39.9
350 Mission Bay <sup>3</sup>	1102	192	17.4	177	92.2	59	33.3	9	272	24.7	255	93.0	75	29.4
352 Morse	1907	248	13.0	210	84.7	81	38.6	13	393	20.6	354	89.6	111	31.4
395 Mt. Everest	43	15	34.9	15	100.0	11	73.3	6	20	46.5	19	95.0	11	57.9
369 Muir	59	14	23.7	13	92.9	1	7.7	4	15	25.4	14	93.3	0	0.0
354 Point Loma	1319	529	40.1	438	82.8	145	33.1	18	834	63.2	715	85.6	227	31.7
368 S.C.P.A.	595	206	34.6	176	85.4	88	50.0	16	378	63.5	335	88.4	136	40.6
359 Scripps Ranch	1604	621	38.7	616	99.2	468	76.0	22	1119	69.8	1105	98.7	791	71.6
500 SD Metro Career Tech	96	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
749 SD/Business	296	78	26.4	42	53.8	4	9.5	6	110	37.2	64	49.1	1	1.6
746 SD/Cima	264	28	10.6	21	75.0	21	100.0	1	28	10.6	21	75.0	21	100.0
744 SD/Intl Studies <sup>3</sup>	333	45	13.5	42	93.3	13	31.0	4	45	13.5	41	91.1	12	29.3
745 SD/Leads	298	29	9.7	18	62.1	1	5.6	2	30	10.1	19	63.3	2	10.5
750 SD/Media Vis Prf Art	287	22	7.7	11	50.0	0	0.0	1	22	7.7	11	50.0	0	0.0
753 SD/Science Technol	325	15	4.6	15	100.0	1	6.7	3	15	4.6	14	93.3	1	7.1
357 Serra	1396	578	41.4	488	84.4	185	37.9	15	1225	87.8	1063	86.5	288	27.1
355 University City	1314	549	41.8	524	95.4	357	68.1	19	1034	78.7	997	95.8	653	65.5
<b>Alternative Schools</b>														
331 A.L.B.A.	28	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
439 Del Sol	7	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
361 Garfield	382	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
382 Home And Hospital In	17	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
791 LCI Instruction	62	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
438 New Dawn	39	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
362 Twain	510	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
<b>All District-Operated Schools</b>	<b>22513</b>	<b>5928</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>5269</b>	<b>88.9</b>	<b>2752</b>	<b>52.2</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>10279</b>	<b>45.7</b>	<b>9377</b>	<b>91.2</b>	<b>4529</b>	<b>48.3</b>

**Distribution of Course Offerings  
Among Comprehensive High Schools  
in 2006-2007**



Additional information, including data for charter schools, is available online at:

<http://studata.sandi.net/research/ap/index.asp>

<sup>1</sup> AP courses/exams not offered in 2007 include Chinese Language & Culture, German Language, Italian Language & Culture, Japanese Language & Culture and Latin Literature.

<sup>2</sup> San Diego MET serves only 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders; none of the District's Alternative schools offered AP courses in 2007.

<sup>3</sup> Numbers do not include International Baccalaureate courses or exams offered at SD International Studies and Mission Bay.