

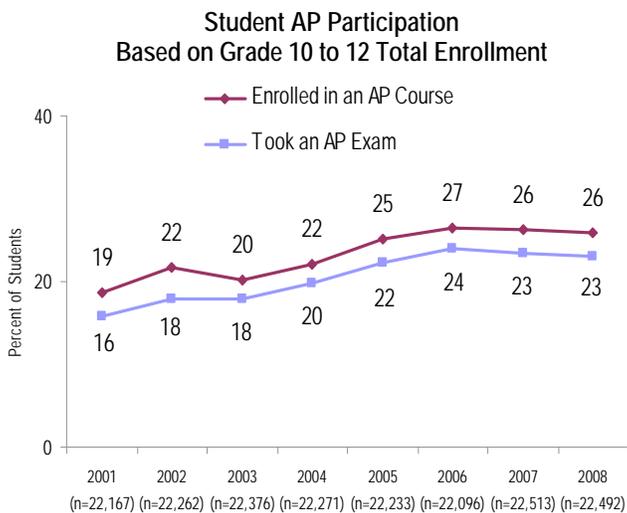
Introduction

The College Board’s Advanced Placement (AP) program consists of college-level courses and corresponding end-of-course examinations. Ninety percent of colleges and universities grant credit, placement, or both to students receiving a qualifying score on an AP exam (usually 3 or higher on a scale of 1 to 5). Many such schools grant up to a full year of college credit to students who earn a sufficient number of qualifying AP scores. 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 of each year. Most AP exams contain multiple-choice questions and a free-response section (e.g., essay, problem solving, oral response).

In order to broaden program access, the College Board allows students to take AP exams whether they have completed the corresponding AP course or not. However, because the performance on AP exams following AP course completion reflects the effectiveness of the District’s AP program, this briefing includes only exams taken in conjunction with an appropriate AP course and is thus limited to data from district-operated schools.

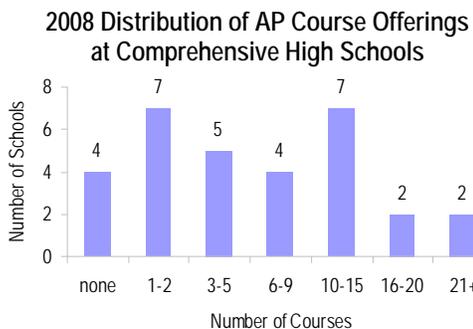
AP Course Participation and Exam Performance

In 2007–2008, the College Board offered 37 courses/exams in 22 disciplines; the San Diego Unified School District offered 32 of these courses at its comprehensive high schools.¹ The number of courses offered at each school ranged from 1 to 23, with 11 schools offering ten or more distinct AP courses (see below).



Student participation in the District’s AP program has increased 7 percentage points over the past eight years in terms of those enrolled in at least one AP course and those who took at least one AP exam. For the last three years, the percent of AP exams passed by district students has been gradually increasing; the 2008 “exam pass rate” shows a 4 percentage-point increase compared with 2005.

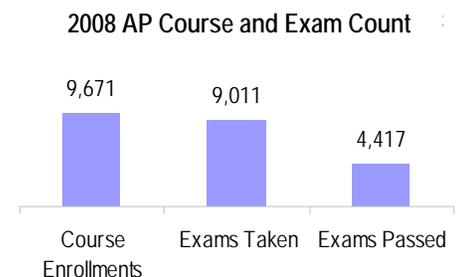
In 2008, roughly 26 percent of Grade 10–12 students (n=5,751) were enrolled in at least one AP course; nearly half of these students (46 percent) took more than one AP course. These 5,751 students were enrolled in 9,671 AP courses. Ninety-three percent of these enrollments resulted in a completed AP exam, 49 percent of which received a passing score.



Exam Pass Rate

Year	Rate*
2001	50%
2002	51%
2003	52%
2004	49%
2005	45%
2006	46%
2007	48%
2008	49%

*Exams passed/exams taken

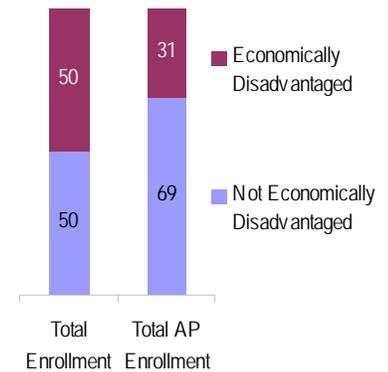


Gaps in Subgroup Participation and Performance

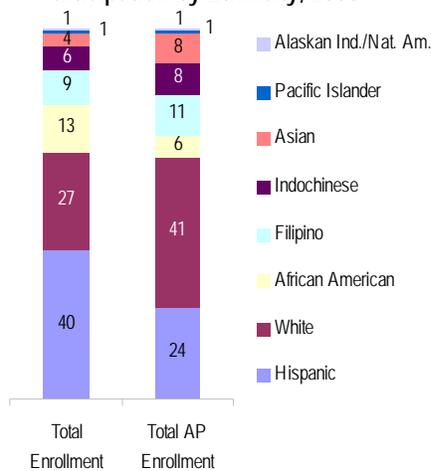
Despite District efforts to broaden access to the AP curriculum, gaps remain. In 2007–08, while half of Grade 10–12 students were eligible for free or reduced-price meals, only 31 percent of those enrolled in AP courses had such status.

Similar gaps are found among the district’s major ethnic groups. Hispanic students accounted for 40 percent of Grade 10–12 enrollment but represented only 24 percent of AP course enrollment; African-American students represented only 6 percent of AP course enrollment despite comprising 13 percent of enrollment. In terms of AP exam pass rates, Asian and White students had the highest rates with 64 and 59 percent, respectively; African American students had the lowest with 22 percent. AP exams taken by Hispanic students in 2008 had a mid-range pass rate at 40 percent.

Grade 10 to 12 Student Enrollment and AP Participation by Socioeconomic Status, 2008



Grade 10 to 12 Student Enrollment and AP Participation by Ethnicity, 2008



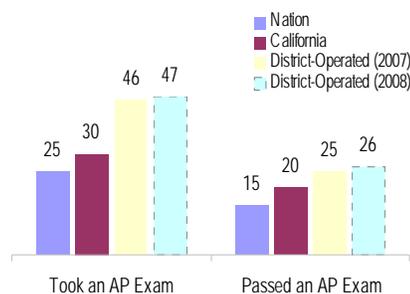
Exam Pass Rate by Ethnicity, 2008

Ethnic Group	Exams Taken	Exams Passed	Pass Rate
Asian	1026	655	64%
White	3892	2280	59%
Alaskan Ind./Nat. Am.	60	30	50%
Hispanic	1731	698	40%
Filipino	1017	365	36%
Indochinese	819	282	34%
Pacific Islander	39	11	28%
African American	427	96	22%
Total	9011	4417	49%

District Results Compared With California and Nation

The College Board reports AP participation as a percentage of graduates who have taken and passed an AP exam during their high school years. The District performed well in relation to both the state and the nation, with higher proportions of graduates taking and passing one or more AP exams during high school than their counterparts in the state and nationwide.

Percent of 2007 Graduates Who Took and Passed an AP Exam*



*2008 AP graduate data for the nation and state were not available at the time this briefing was prepared.

AP Student Data by School, 2007–2008

SCHOOLS	Total Grade 10–12 Student Enrollment	Students Enrolled in an AP Course		Students Who Took an AP Exam		Students Who Passed an AP Exam	
		N	Pct	N	Pct	N	Pct
Comprehensive Schools							
332 CLAIREMONT	873	211	24.2	196	92.9	90	45.9
704 CRAWFORD/CHAMPS	243	25	10.3	25	100.0	7	28.0
702 CRAWFORD/IDEA	226	66	29.2	60	90.9	12	20.0
705 CRAWFORD/LAW & BUSINESS	205	43	21.0	36	83.7	6	16.7
703 CRAWFORD/MULTIMEDIA	229	63	27.5	39	61.9	11	28.2
336 HENRY	1505	551	36.6	520	94.4	335	64.4
338 HOOVER	1258	163	13.0	161	98.8	57	35.4
736 KEARNY/CONSTR TECH	301	0	0.0	0		0	
733 KEARNY/DIGITAL MEDIA	287	34	11.8	33	97.1	3	9.1
735 KEARNY/INTL BUSINESS	259	0	0.0	0		0	
734 KEARNY/SCI CONN TECH	276	37	13.4	37	100.0	18	48.6
342 LA JOLLA	1159	567	48.9	551	97.2	432	78.4
637 LINCOLN	1365	100	7.3	73	73.0	20	27.4
346 MADISON	782	213	27.2	175	82.2	38	21.7
349 MIRA MESA	1727	565	32.7	539	95.4	283	52.5
350 MISSION BAY ³	1104	74	6.7	44	59.5	15	34.1
352 MORSE	1705	285	16.7	256	89.8	87	34.0
395 MT. EVEREST	60	8	13.3	8	100.0	7	87.5
369 MUIR	54	10	18.5	9	90.0	1	11.1
354 POINT LOMA	1329	585	44.0	505	86.3	175	34.7
368 S.C.P.A.	563	217	38.5	175	80.6	73	41.7
359 SCRIPPS RANCH	1552	612	39.4	611	99.8	447	73.2
500 SD METRO CAREER TECH	128	0	0.0	0		0	
749 SD/BUSINESS	219	75	34.2	55	73.3	16	29.1
746 SD/CIMA	221	43	19.5	26	60.5	0	0.0
744 SD/INTL STUDIES ³	337	44	13.1	44	100.0	14	31.8
745 SD/LEADS	267	20	7.5	18	90.0	1	5.6
750 SD/MEDIA VIS PRF ART	273	0	0.0	0		0	
753 SD/SCIENCE TECHNOL	284	13	4.6	12	92.3	3	25.0
357 SERRA	1361	534	39.2	468	87.6	189	40.4
355 UNIVERSITY CITY	1282	589	45.9	558	94.7	367	65.8
Alternative Schools							
331 A.L.B.A.	15	1	6.7	0		0	
361 GARFIELD	454	2	0.4	0		0	
382 HOME AND HOSPITAL	13	0	0.0	0		0	
791 LCI INSTRUCTION	66	0	0.0	0		0	
438 NEW DAWN	20	0	0.0	0		0	
362 TWAIN	489	1	0.2	0		0	
297 WHITTIER	1	0	0.0	0		0	
All District-Operated Schools	22492	5751	25.6	5234	91.0	2707	51.7

AP Course Enrollment and Exam Data by School, 2007–2008

SCHOOLS	Total Gr 10–12 Student Enrollment	AP Courses Offered	AP Course Enrollments		AP Exams Taken ²		AP Exams Passed		
			N	Per 100 students	N	Pct of AP Enrts	N	Pct	
Comprehensive Schools									
332 CLAIREMONT	873	12	345	39.5	326	94.5	129	39.6	
704 CRAWFORD/CHAMPS	243	4	34	14.0	34	100.0	6	17.6	
702 CRAWFORD/IDEA	226	6	86	38.1	80	93.0	12	15.0	
705 CRAWFORD/LAW & BUSINESS	205	5	51	24.9	42	74.5	8	19.0	
703 CRAWFORD/MULTIMEDIA	229	7	88	38.4	57	64.8	11	19.3	
336 HENRY	1505	15	967	64.3	920	95.0	564	61.3	
338 HOOVER	1258	7	226	18.0	224	99.1	67	29.9	
736 KEARNY/CONSTR TECH	301	0	0	0.0	0		0		
733 KEARNY/DIGITAL MEDIA	287	2	39	13.6	38	97.4	4	10.5	
735 KEARNY/INTL BUSINESS	259	0	0	0.0	0		0		
734 KEARNY/SCI CONN TECH	276	2	37	13.4	37	100.0	18	48.6	
342 LA JOLLA	1159	23	1029	88.8	1007	97.8	792	78.6	
637 LINCOLN	1365	4	113	8.3	86	76.1	20	23.3	
346 MADISON	782	11	323	41.3	278	86.1	50	18.0	
349 MIRA MESA	1727	18	994	57.6	961	96.5	439	45.7	
350 MISSION BAY ³	1104	3	74	6.7	44	59.5	14	31.8	
352 MORSE	1705	15	437	25.6	404	92.2	115	28.5	
395 MT. EVEREST	60	2	8	13.3	8	100.0	7	87.5	
369 MUIR	54	2	10	18.5	9	90.0	0	0.0	
354 POINT LOMA	1329	16	901	67.8	798	88.1	247	31.0	
368 S.C.P.A.	563	15	373	66.3	315	84.5	104	33.0	
359 SCRIPPS RANCH	1552	22	1126	72.6	1124	99.8	802	71.4	
500 SD METRO CAREER TECH	128	0		0.0	0		0		
749 SD/BUSINESS	219	6	111	50.7	98	69.4	16	16.3	
746 SD/CIMA	221	2	53	24.0	26	49.1	0	0.0	
744 SD/INTL STUDIES ³	337	2	44	13.1	44	100.0	14	31.8	
745 SD/LEADS	267	1	20	7.5	18	90.0	1	5.6	
750 SD/MEDIA VIS PRF ART	273	0		0.0	0		0		
753 SD/SCIENCE TECHNOL	284	3	14	4.9	12	85.7	3	25.0	
357 SERRA	1361	15	1023	75.2	918	89.8	283	30.8	
355 UNIVERSITY CITY	1282	15	1141	89.0	1103	96.4	691	62.6	
Alternative Schools									
331 A.L.B.A.	15		1	6.7	0		0		
361 GARFIELD	454		2	0.4	0		0		
382 HOME AND HOSPITAL	13		0	0.0	0		0		
791 LCI INSTRUCTION	66		0	0.0	0		0		
438 NEW DAWN	20		0	0.0	0		0		
362 TWAIN	489		1	0.2	0		0		
297 WHITTIER	1		0	0.0	0		0		
All District-Operated Schools	22492	32	9671	43.0	9011	93.2	4417	49.0	

Additional information is available online at <http://studata.sandi.net/research/ap>.

¹ AP courses not offered in the District in 2007–2008 included Chinese Language and Culture, German Language, Italian Language and Culture, Japanese Language and Culture, and Latin Literature.

² Counts exclude AP subscores for Calculus BC (Calculus AB subscore) and Music Theory (Aural and Non-Aural subscores); “Pct of AP Enrts” data count a maximum of one AP exam per AP course enrollment.

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