



Advanced Placement (AP) Report, 2009–2010

San Diego Unified School District

Office of Accountability
Research and Reporting Department

Introduction

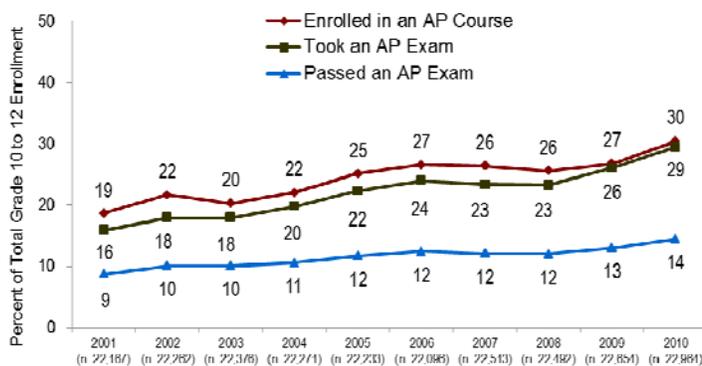
The College Board’s Advanced Placement (AP) program consists of college-level courses and corresponding end-of-course examinations. A majority of colleges and universities grant credit, placement, or both to students receiving a qualifying score on an AP exam (usually a score of 3 or higher on a scale from 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 in high school 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).

To broaden program access, the College Board allows students to take an AP exam regardless of the courses they have taken to prepare for it. However, the effectiveness of San Diego Unified School District’s AP program is best measured by considering AP exams taken upon completion of corresponding district AP courses. Therefore, this report includes only AP exams taken in conjunction with the appropriate district course and is limited to data from district-managed (non-charter) schools.

Participation and Performance at District-Managed Schools

Figure 1

AP Participation and Performance of Grade 10 to 12 Students



In 2009–2010, roughly three of every 10 students in Grades 10–12 participated in the district AP program. Figure 1 shows steadily increasing participation rates over the past ten years. AP course participation based on the percentage of enrollment who took at least one AP course increased by 11 percentage points between 2001 and 2010; exam participation increased by 13 percentage points; and the proportion of students who took and passed at least one AP exam rose by 5 percentage points. The district’s subsidy of AP exam fees in 2009 and 2010 contributed to the relatively sharp increase in participation during those years. AP exams in 2009–2010 cost \$86 each, with a fee reduction provided for students with financial need.

The College Board’s 2010 AP program included 33 courses/exams in the following subject areas: Arts, English, History and Social Sciences, Mathematics and Computer Science, Sciences, and World Language; district students took 28 of these courses/exams.¹ Individual district schools offered up to 21 AP courses, with more than a third of non-alternative schools offering more than ten AP courses each (Figure 2).

The sharp increase in student participation in the last two years displayed in Figure 1 also led to increased counts of course enrollments and exams taken compared with the previous year. In 2010, 6,988 students enrolled in 11,971 AP courses; 46 percent of enrollees took more than one AP course. AP course enrollees took 11,548 AP exams; 5,213 (45 percent) of these exams received a passing score (Figure 3). However, the jump in exams taken went hand in hand with a decline in the exam pass rate for a second year in a row from 48 to 45 percent (Figure 4).

Figure 2
AP Course Offerings, 2010

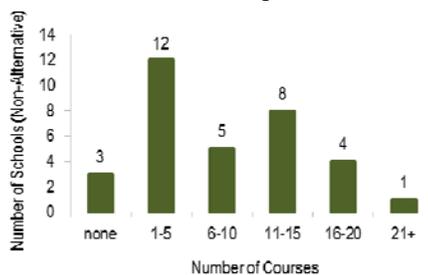


Figure 3
AP Course and Exam Counts

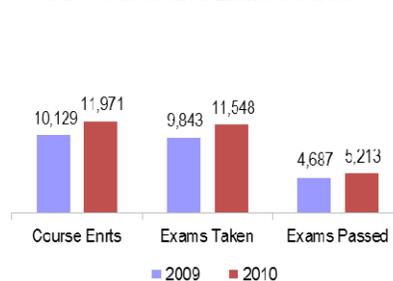
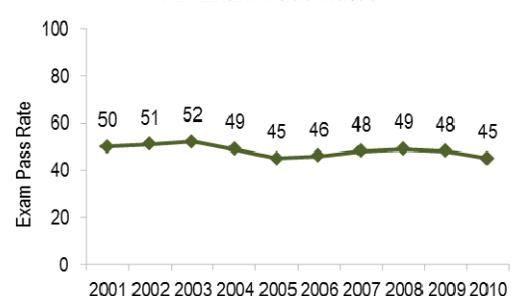


Figure 4
AP Exam Pass Rates



¹ In 2009–2010, district students did not take AP exams in *Studio Art: 3-D Design Portfolio* and *Comparative Government and Politics*. They took AP exams but not with a corresponding district AP course in *Chinese Language and Culture*, *German Language*, and *Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism*.

Participation and Performance by Subgroup

Participation rates also went up in 2010 for all racial/ethnic groups and both students eligible for free or reduced-price meals² and their economically better off counterparts (Table 1). Exam pass rates, on the other hand, declined for most students except African Americans and Pacific Islanders (Table 2). Rates for Native American and Pacific Islander students should be interpreted with caution due to their relatively small group counts. Consistent with other assessments, wide gaps in AP participation and performance persist among selected groups, especially between White and African American students (Figures 5 and 6).

Table 1. Course Participation Rates by Subgroup

Group	2007–2008			2008–2009			2009–2010			Rate Difference	
	Gr 10 to 12 Enrollment	Took AP Course	Rate	Gr 10 to 12 Enrollment	Took AP Course	Rate	Gr 10 to 12 Enrollment	Took AP Course	Rate	1-Year	2-Year
Not Meal-Eligible	11,177	1,803	35	10,453	3,761	36	9,544	4,096	43	6.9	8.0
Meal-Eligible	11,315	3,948	16	12,201	2,300	19	13,420	2,892	22	2.7	5.4
African American	2,935	346	12	2,903	428	15	2,810	507	18	3.3	6.3
Asian	791	463	59	758	428	56	753	453	60	3.7	1.6
Filipino	2,029	644	32	2,007	661	33	1,946	740	38	5.1	6.3
Hispanic	9,001	1,407	16	9,404	1,660	18	9,710	1,951	20	2.4	4.5
Indochinese	1,433	487	34	1,467	561	38	1,458	661	45	7.1	11.4
Native American	115	35	30	99	26	26	104	34	33	6.4	2.3
Pacific Islander	203	32	16	199	26	13	190	52	27	14.3	11.6
White	5,985	2,337	39	5,817	2,271	39	5,632	2,481	44	5.0	5.0
Multiracial							361	109	30		
Total	22,492	5,751	26	22,654	6,061	27	22,964	6,988	30	3.7	4.9

Table 2. Exam Pass Rates by Subgroup

Group	2007–2008			2008–2009			2009–2010			Rate Difference	
	Exams	Passed	Rate	Exams	Passed	Rate	Exams	Passed	Rate	1-Year	2-Year
Not Meal-Eligible	6,553	3,619	55	6,490	3,647	56	7,232	3,899	54	(2.3)	(1.3)
Meal-Eligible	2,458	798	32	3,353	1,040	31	4,316	1,314	30	(0.6)	(2.0)
African American	427	96	22	573	95	17	723	123	17	0.4	(5.5)
Asian	1,026	655	64	897	595	66	978	619	63	(3.0)	(0.5)
Filipino	1,017	365	36	1,093	435	40	1,291	453	35	(4.7)	(0.8)
Hispanic	1,731	698	40	2,387	910	38	2,815	1,052	37	(0.8)	(3.0)
Indochinese	819	282	34	1,024	390	38	1,241	462	37	(0.9)	2.8
Native American	60	30	50	43	21	49	50	21	42	(6.8)	(8.0)
Pacific Islander	39	11	28	43	16	37	74	36	49	11.4	20.4
White	3,892	2,280	59	3,783	2,225	59	4,188	2,360	56	(2.5)	(2.2)
Multiracial							188	87	46		
Total	9,011	4,417	49	9,843	4,687	48	11,548	5,213	45	(2.5)	(3.9)

Figure 5. AP Course Participation by Selected Subgroup

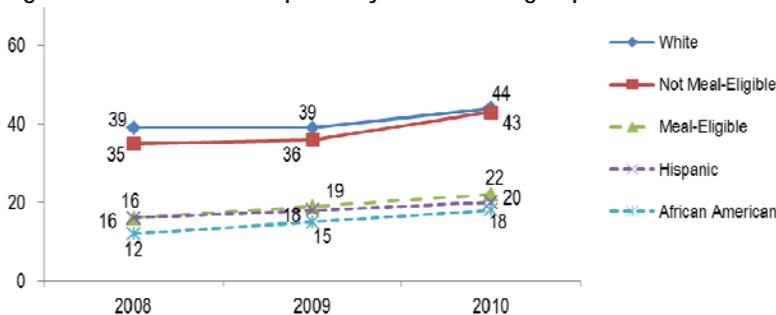
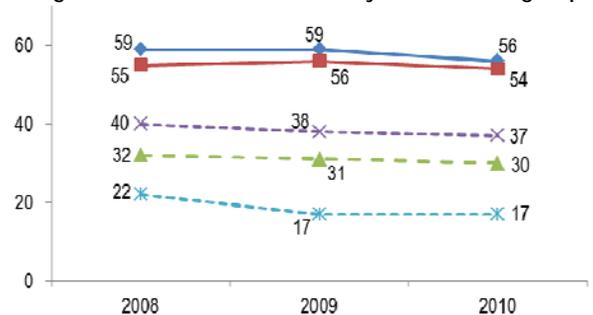
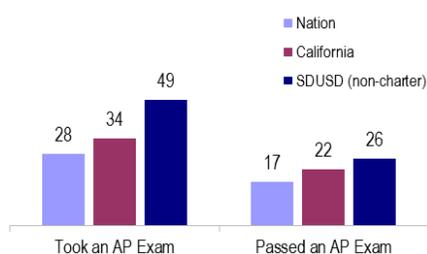


Figure 6. AP Exam Pass Rates by Selected Subgroup



Comparison with California and the Nation

Figure 7. AP Participation and Performance of the Class of 2010



The College Board reports AP participation as percentages of graduates who have taken and passed an AP exam at any time during their high school years. The district has historically performed well on these measures compared with both the state and the nation, with higher proportions of district graduates taking and passing one or more AP exams during high school than their counterparts in the state and across the nation.

For the class of 2010, 49 percent of district graduates took an AP exam compared with 28 percent for the nation and 34 percent for California; 26 percent of district graduates passed at least one AP exam compared with 17 percent for the nation and 22 percent for California (Figure 7).

² Increased counts of meal-eligible Grade 10 to 12 students in 2009 and 2010 are partially attributable to the recent designation of several district high schools as Provision 2 schools, including Lincoln High and the San Diego and Crawford complex schools. All students at a Provision 2 school are considered meal-eligible.

Participation and Performance by School

Table 3. AP Student Data by School, 2009–2010

School		Total Gr 10 to 12 Enrollment	Enrolled in At Least One AP Course		Took At Least One AP Examination		Passed At Least One AP Examination	
			N	Pct	N	Pct	N	Pct
332	CLAIREMONT	909	241	26.5	238	26.2	111	12.2
704	CRAWFORD CHAMPS	242	61	25.2	61	25.2	9	3.7
702	CRAWFORD IDEA	199	43	21.6	41	20.6	9	4.5
705	CRAWFORD LAW & BUSINESS	193	42	21.8	40	20.7	6	3.1
703	CRAWFORD MULTIMEDIA	222	74	33.3	74	33.3	20	9.0
503	EARLY/MIDDLE COLLEGE	50	34	68.0	31	62.0	2	4.0
336	HENRY	1,614	616	38.2	605	37.5	367	22.7
338	HOOVER	1,290	434	33.6	421	32.6	104	8.1
504	IHIGH VIRTUAL ACADEMY	47	4	8.5	4	8.5	1	2.1
736	KEARNY CONSTR TECH	302	25	8.3	21	7.0	1	0.3
733	KEARNY DIGITAL MEDIA	305	69	22.6	57	18.7	14	4.6
735	KEARNY INTL BUSINESS	269	72	26.8	63	23.4	10	3.7
734	KEARNY SCI CONN TECH	303	51	16.8	51	16.8	23	7.6
342	LA JOLLA	1,109	622	56.1	616	55.5	435	39.2
637	LINCOLN	1,397	296	21.2	279	20.0	62	4.4
346	MADISON	791	228	28.8	225	28.4	65	8.2
349	MIRA MESA	1,857	700	37.7	686	36.9	380	20.5
350	MISSION BAY ³	1,101	109	9.9	102	9.3	73	6.6
352	MORSE	1,446	347	24.0	342	23.7	130	9.0
395	MT. EVEREST	56	9	16.1	9	16.1	8	14.3
369	MUIR	69	43	62.3	42	60.9	3	4.3
354	POINT LOMA	1,418	687	48.4	666	47.0	274	19.3
368	S.C.P.A.	574	201	35.0	198	34.5	84	14.6
359	SCRIPPS RANCH	1,686	640	38.0	635	37.7	511	30.3
749	SD BUSINESS	289	57	19.7	44	15.2	16	5.5
746	SD CIMA	217	12	5.5	9	4.1	1	0.5
744	SD INTL STUDIES ³	371	87	23.5	87	23.5	48	12.9
745	SD LEADS	294	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
750	SD MEDIA VIS PRF ART	334	1	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
500	SD METRO CAREER TECH	143	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
753	SD SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY	301	10	3.3	6	2.0	3	1.0
357	SERRA	1,343	534	39.8	494	36.8	195	14.5
355	UNIVERSITY CITY	1,271	633	49.8	616	48.5	352	27.7
Regular Schools Total		22,012	6,982	31.7	6,763	30.7	3,317	15.1
331	A.L.B.A.	13	1	7.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
361	GARFIELD	412	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0
382	HOME AND HOSPITAL	15	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
791	LCI INSTRUCTION	30	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
438	NEW DAWN	22	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
362	TWAIN	460	4	0.9	0	0.0	0	0.0
Alternative Schools Total		952	6	0.6	0	0.0	0	0.0
District-Managed Schools Total		22,964	6,988	30.4	6,763	29.5	3,317	14.4

*Results are suppressed when the size of the group under consideration (or denominator) is less than 10.

³ Data do not include International Baccalaureate courses or exams offered at Mission Bay and San Diego International Studies.

Table 4. AP Course Enrollment and Exam Data by School, 2009–2010

School	Total Gr 10 to 12 Enrollment	Courses Offered	Course Enrollments		Examinations Taken ⁴		Examinations Passed		
			N	Per 100 students	N	Per 100 course enrts	N	Pct	
332	CLAIREMONT	909	14	382	42.0	378	99.0	151	39.9
704	CRAWFORD CHAMPS	242	7	80	33.1	74	92.5	8	10.8
702	CRAWFORD IDEA	199	6	49	24.6	42	85.7	5	11.9
705	CRAWFORD LAW & BUSINESS	193	6	81	42.0	75	92.6	7	9.3
703	CRAWFORD MULTIMEDIA	222	9	113	50.9	111	98.2	21	18.9
503	EARLY/MIDDLE COLLEGE	50	1	35	70.0	32	91.4	2	6.3
336	HENRY	1,614	16	1,069	66.2	1,044	97.7	603	57.8
338	HOOVER	1,290	12	731	56.7	704	96.3	117	16.6
504	IHIGH VIRTUAL ACADEMY	47	11	6	12.8	6	-	1	-
736	KEARNY CONSTR TECH	302	1	28	9.3	24	85.7	1	4.2
733	KEARNY DIGITAL MEDIA	305	1	75	24.6	61	81.3	15	24.6
735	KEARNY INTL BUSINESS	269	2	90	33.5	80	88.9	11	13.8
734	KEARNY SCI CONN TECH	303	2	52	17.2	52	100.0	23	44.2
342	LA JOLLA	1,109	21	1,153	104.0	1,131	98.1	768	67.9
637	LINCOLN	1,397	14	406	29.1	383	94.3	69	18.0
346	MADISON	791	9	387	48.9	379	97.9	88	23.2
349	MIRA MESA	1,857	20	1,321	71.1	1,293	97.9	649	50.2
350	MISSION BAY	1,101	2	113	10.3	102	90.3	73	71.6
352	MORSE	1,446	13	639	44.2	577	90.3	166	28.8
395	MT. EVEREST	56	2	13	23.2	13	100.0	11	84.6
369	MUIR	69	2	44	63.8	41	93.2	3	7.3
354	POINT LOMA	1,418	16	1,130	79.7	1,115	98.7	428	38.4
368	S.C.P.A.	574	14	364	63.4	354	97.3	107	30.2
359	SCRIPPS RANCH	1,686	20	1,102	65.4	1,096	99.5	857	78.2
749	SD BUSINESS	289	5	112	38.8	86	76.8	19	22.1
746	SD CIMA	217	3	14	6.5	10	71.4	2	20.0
744	SD INTL STUDIES	371	2	87	23.5	87	100.0	48	55.2
745	SD LEADS	294	0	0	-	0	-	0	-
750	SD MEDIA VIS PRF ART	334	0	1	0.3	0	-	0	-
500	SD METRO CAREER TECH	143	0	0	-	0	-	0	-
753	SD SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY	301	2	11	3.7	2	18.2	0	-
357	SERRA	1,343	15	1,062	79.1	1,006	94.7	326	32.4
355	UNIVERSITY CITY	1,271	15	1,213	95.4	1,190	98.1	634	53.3
	Regular Schools Total	22,012	28	11,963	54.3	11,548	52.5	5,213	23.7
331	A.L.B.A.	13	0	1	7.7	0	-	0	-
361	GARFIELD	412	0	1	0.2	0	-	0	-
382	HOME AND HOSPITAL	15	0	0	-	0	-	0	-
791	LCI INSTRUCTION	30	0	0	-	0	-	0	-
438	NEW DAWN	22	0	0	-	0	-	0	-
362	TWAIN	460	0	6	1.3	0	-	0	-
	Alternative Schools Total	952	0	8	0.8	0	-	0	-
	District-Managed Schools Total	22,964	28	11,971	52.1	11,548	50.3	5,213	22.7

*Results are suppressed when the size of the group under consideration (or denominator) is less than 10.

Please visit the district website for detailed AP reports and information (<http://www.sandi.net/research>).

⁴Counts exclude AP subscores for Calculus BC (Calculus AB subscore) and Music Theory (Aural and Non-Aural subscores).