

## MEMORANDUM

TO: School Board Members  
School District of Palm Beach County

FROM: Cheryl Alligood, Associate Superintendent  
Curriculum and Learning Support

DATE: October 29, 2000

SUBJECT: FY96 - FY00 Results of the Advanced Placement (AP) Test Results

The Advanced Placement (AP™) Program is a cooperative educational endeavor between secondary schools and colleges/universities. There are 33 courses in 19 subject areas, offered by 13,000 secondary schools around the world; in 2000, 1.2 million exams were taken by 750,000 students. AP gives students an opportunity to take college-level courses and exams while still in high school, thereby providing a means for colleges to grant credit and/or placement to students who have applied themselves successfully.

Some highlights of the AP results, which are based on the application of the World Class continuous improvement method, are described below.

- There were 2,789 juniors and seniors in FY00 who took an AP exam. This yielded a participation rate for the SDPBC of 18.5%, which is the highest in eight years. The FY00 and FY99 participation rates were about four percentage points higher than the rates in the three years prior to FY99, which were relatively flat.
- The FY00 participation rate for Hispanic and white students was similar, with about one in five of these students taking an AP exam.
- The FY00 percentage of students passing an AP exam in the SDPBC was 61.7%, which was three percentage points higher than in FY96. Over the same period of time, the Nation and Global passing percentages stayed about the same.
- The FY00 percentage of Hispanic students passing an AP exam was about four percentage points higher than in FY99.

For your convenience, tables containing AP results are attached. These results have been shared with appropriate staff to provide direction for improvements in curriculum and instruction. Also, schools have received information about their AP test takers and will use this information in the school improvement planning process.

For questions about the AP results, contact Marc Baron, Executive Director of Research, Evaluation, and Assessment at 434-8850. For questions about the AP program in the SDPBC, contact Ana Meehan, Executive Director of Academic Programs at 963-3899.

c/attachments:

Edward Oppel  
Ann Killets  
Mary Ann DuPont  
Area Superintendents  
Executive Directors  
High School Principals

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H. Benjamin Marlin, Superintendent

School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC)

Participation Rate and Number (in Parentheses) of Students Taking  
the Advanced Placement Tests by High School and the SDPBC: FY96 - FY00

HIGH SCHOOL	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00
A. W. Dreyfoos	45.4% (134)	49.3% (165)	55.3% (183)	46.1% (199)	36.7% (217)
Atlantic	25.2% (212)	23.6% (229)	18.6% (172)	30.4% (283)	30.0% (319)
Boca Raton	12.4% (90)	9.5% (76)	11.0% (87)	14.4% (114)	14.8% (109)
Forest Hill	12.0% (58)	9.6% (54)	14.5% (78)	17.3% (94)	22.4% (112)
Glades Central	4.0% (19)	3.5% (20)	3.3% (19)	6.6% (31)	3.6% (19)
J. I. Leonard	13.6% (107)	13.5% (142)	13.3% (130)	14.0% (134)	14.7% (133)
Jupiter	8.7% (56)	8.2% (61)	6.3% (44)	8.1% (57)	10.2% (77)
Lake Worth	10.6% (87)	9.3% (98)	10.7% (106)	12.3% (115)	15.8% (149)
Olympic Heights	17.3% (126)	19.1% (166)	20.5% (180)	24.6% (229)	24.1% (217)
P. B. Gardens	11.9% (72)	9.6% (82)	17.7% (142)	24.1% (203)	20.2% (188)
P. B. Lakes	5.8% (52)	6.2% (70)	3.5% (38)	5.1% (52)	6.5% (59)
Pahokee	15.8% (31)	14.8% (29)	14.7% (25)	23.5% (40)	6.1% (13)
Royal Palm Beach	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	13.2% (74)	10.3% (86)
Santalucas	7.5% (74)	6.6% (75)	7.9% (85)	7.8% (88)	7.8% (93)
Spanish River	17.6% (199)	19.4% (219)	22.8% (255)	25.1% (285)	24.7% (286)
Suncoast	66.6% (375)	69.1% (400)	54.9% (315)	79.9% (452)	73.9% (437)
W. T. Dwyer	10.4% (71)	9.2% (74)	11.1% (86)	10.9% (85)	13.1% (104)
Wellington	11.0% (124)	11.6% (149)	10.5% (131)	12.9% (141)	14.3% (171)
<b>SDPBC</b>	<b>15.1% (1887)</b>	<b>14.2% (2109)</b>	<b>14.4% (2076)</b>	<b>18.3% (2676)</b>	<b>18.5% (2789)</b>

Note: Each participation rate is determined by dividing the number of students taking an AP test by the total number of district juniors and seniors recorded in the fourth nine weeks. In the SDPBC, students who are enrolled in AP courses are required to take the examination for that course. This is not a requirement in other school systems. The AP program does not provide comparable participation rates for Florida, the Nation, or Global. N.R. = No results were reported because school did not have a senior class.

School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC)  
Percent of Advanced Placement Tests Passed  
by High School, the SDPBC, Florida, Nation, and Global: FY96 - FY00

HIGH SCHOOL	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00
A. W. Dreyfoos	82.7%	78.9%	71.0%	79.7%	72.9%
Atlantic	64.8%	64.1%	69.1%	71.7%	70.3%
Boca Raton	59.5%	72.5%	60.7%	69.7%	71.6%
Forest Hill	51.6%	38.2%	26.0%	36.5%	37.4%
Glades Central	13.0%	3.8%	15.4%	2.0%	0.0%
J. I. Leonard	48.2%	49.3%	45.1%	45.9%	49.1%
Jupiter	62.4%	62.1%	81.5%	86.6%	86.3%
Lake Worth	48.0%	49.3%	61.9%	45.9%	44.9%
Olympic Heights	65.5%	63.4%	60.5%	70.2%	66.1%
P. B. Lakes	38.0%	33.3%	56.5%	56.3%	56.0%
P. B. Gardens	50.5%	44.1%	54.3%	47.7%	51.1%
Pahokee	6.5%	5.4%	10.8%	1.7%	6.3%
Royal Palm Beach	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	33.3%	36.7%
Santaluces	63.2%	66.4%	62.3%	62.6%	61.1%
Spanish River	75.7%	73.0%	73.2%	79.9%	76.0%
Suncoast	51.6%	60.0%	55.3%	52.7%	58.5%
W. T. Dwyer	48.2%	44.4%	51.6%	39.3%	35.2%
Wellington	63.9%	62.4%	66.0%	73.2%	77.4%
<b>SDPBC</b>	<b>58.7%</b>	<b>59.7%</b>	<b>59.5%</b>	<b>60.6%</b>	<b>61.7%</b>
Florida	54.3%	55.6%	56.2%	57.3%	58.0%
Nation	63.5%	64.5%	64.1%	63.5%	63.7%
Global	63.7%	64.7%	64.4%	63.8%	63.9%

Note. In the SDPBC, students who are enrolled in AP courses are required to take the examination for that course. This is not a requirement in other school systems. N.R. = No results were reported because school did not have a senior class.

School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC)  
 Number of Advanced Placement Test Takers, Percent of AP Tests Passed,  
 and Participation Rates By Race/Ethnicity for the SDPBC: FY96 - FY00

**BLACK STUDENTS\***

FISCAL YEAR	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00
Number of Test Takers	158	174	147	211	200
Percent of AP Tests Passed	30.9%	32.4%	28.9%	30.9%	34.2%
Participation Rate	4.7%	4.3%	3.7%	5.5%	5.4%

**HISPANIC STUDENTS\***

FISCAL YEAR	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00
Number of Test Takers	298	290	283	370	410
Percent of AP Tests Passed	64.6%	63.8%	66.7%	62.5%	66.6%
Participation Rate	20.1%	15.8%	16.1%	21.1%	19.3%

**WHITE STUDENTS\***

FISCAL YEAR	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00
Number of Test Takers	1159	1351	1321	1682	1830
Percent of AP Tests Passed	60.4%	62.2%	62.1%	63.0%	62.8%
Participation Rate	15.8%	15.9%	16.3%	19.9%	21.1%

\* The participation rate for a reported group is determined by dividing the number of students in that group taking an AP exam by the total number of district juniors and seniors in that group recorded in the fourth nine weeks.