

MEMORANDUM

January 30, 2004

TO: School Board Members
School District of Palm Beach County

FROM: Arthur C. Johnson, Ph. D.
Superintendent

SUBJECT: FY1999 – FY2003 Advanced Placement (AP) Exam Results

The Advanced Placement (AP) exam is a cooperative educational endeavor between secondary schools and colleges/universities. There are 33 courses in 19 subject areas, offered by 14,000 secondary schools around the world. The AP exam 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.

Tables 1 and 2 contain data about the participation rate and percent passing for the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC), Florida, and the Nation. Tables 3 and 4 contain disaggregated data by race/ethnicity and by students participating in the following programs: free/reduced lunch, Exceptional Student Education (ESE), and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).

AP results from multiple years can reveal trends in the demographics of the test takers and their academic preparation, and can provide individual schools and districts with one way of self evaluation and self comparison. However, as indicated by the College Board (publisher of the AP), caution should be used in making comparisons between local, state, and global results. Results may differ because not all students in a high school, school district, or a state take the AP.

AP performance and participation is a Key Result for the SDPBC. An analysis of the AP exam results revealed the following findings:

Participation Rate

- ◆ In FY2003, there were 4,728 juniors and seniors in the SDPBC who took an AP exam.
- ◆ In FY2003, the participation rate for the SDPBC (26%) and for white students (34%) continued an upward trend and was the highest in five years.

Percent Passing

- ◆ In FY2003, the SDPBC's percent passing (55%) was higher than Florida's (52%) and lower than the Nation's (61%).
- ◆ In FY2003, the percent passing for the SDPBC and for white students (57%) was the lowest in five years.

These results will be shared with appropriate staff members to provide direction for improvements in curriculum and instruction. Also, schools have received information about their AP exam test takers and will use this information in the school improvement planning process.

For questions about the AP exam results, contact Dean Stecker, Program Planner for Research, Evaluation, and Accountability at 434-8781. For questions about the AP exam program in the SDPBC, contact Christie Ragsdale, Secondary Guidance Specialist, at 357-7666.

ACJ:AK:MAD:MB:bls

c/attachments:

- Chief Academic/Operating Officer
- Chief Officer of Administration
- Area/Assistant Superintendents
- Chief Public Information Officer
- Academic Executive Directors/Directors
- High School Principals

Table 1.

Number of Students Tested (N) and the Participation Rate (%) for the Advanced Placement Tests by High School and the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC): FY1999 - FY2003

	FY1999		FY2000		FY2001		FY2002		FY2003	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
A. W. Dreyfoos School of Arts	199	46%	217	37%	268	48%	323	52%	396	62%
Atlantic	283	30%	319	30%	310	28%	323	32%	383	41%
Boca Raton	114	14%	109	15%	131	18%	133	17%	146	18%
Boynton Beach	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	32	8%	118	14%
Forest Hill	94	17%	112	22%	84	16%	77	15%	109	21%
Glades Central	31	7%	19	4%	18	4%	23	4%	39	9%
J. I. Leonard	134	14%	133	15%	132	15%	183	16%	210	18%
Jupiter	57	8%	77	10%	144	19%	171	22%	295	39%
Lake Worth	115	12%	149	16%	161	17%	176	17%	182	17%
Olympic Heights	229	25%	217	24%	236	25%	329	30%	365	32%
P. B. Gardens	203	24%	188	20%	177	20%	230	24%	248	25%
P. B. Lakes	52	5%	59	7%	60	7%	73	7%	99	10%
Pahokee	40	24%	13	6%	13	6%	32	12%	35	14%
Royal Palm Beach	74	13%	86	10%	96	11%	153	15%	203	17%
Santaluces	88	8%	93	8%	134	11%	142	12%	200	18%
Spanish River	285	25%	286	25%	377	31%	398	29%	499	35%
Suncoast	452	80%	437	74%	434	75%	547	90%	563	87%
W. T. Dwyer	85	11%	104	13%	160	20%	234	26%	259	27%
Wellington	141	13%	171	14%	210	17%	301	22%	379	25%
SDPBC	2676	18%	2789	19%	3145	20%	3880	22%	4728	26%

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, and the Nation. N.R. = No results were reported because the school did not have a junior and/or senior class.

Table 2.

Percent of Advanced Placement Tests Passed by High School, the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC), Florida, and the Nation: FY1999 - FY2003

	FY1999	FY2000	FY2001	FY2002	FY2003
A. W. Dreyfoos School of Arts	80%	73%	73%	77%	71%
Atlantic	72%	70%	71%	73%	70%
Boca Raton	70%	72%	56%	65%	57%
Boynton Beach	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	42%	15%
Forest Hill	37%	37%	49%	38%	37%
Glades Central	2%	0%	10%	7%	25%
J. I. Leonard	46%	49%	50%	50%	62%
Jupiter	87%	86%	67%	59%	49%
Lake Worth	46%	45%	42%	44%	48%
Olympic Heights	70%	66%	60%	64%	60%
P. B. Gardens	48%	51%	43%	46%	52%
P. B. Lakes	56%	56%	58%	67%	52%
Pahokee	2%	6%	0%	0%	0%
Royal Palm Beach	33%	37%	37%	31%	25%
Santaluces	63%	61%	41%	50%	50%
Spanish River	80%	76%	76%	76%	70%
Suncoast	53%	59%	61%	60%	59%
W. T. Dwyer	39%	35%	28%	24%	21%
Wellington	73%	77%	77%	67%	57%
SDPBC	61%	62%	61%	60%	55%
Florida	57%	58%	55%	56%	52%
Nation	64%	64%	57%	63%	61%

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 the school did not have a junior and/or senior class.

Table 3.

Number of Students Tested (N) and the Participation Rate (%) for the Advanced Placement Tests by Group for the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC): FY1999 - FY2003

	FY1999		FY2000		FY2001		FY2002		FY2003	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
SDPBC	2676	18%	2789	19%	3145	20%	3880	22%	4728	26%
Black	211	6%	200	5%	270	7%	339	7%	450	9%
Hispanic	370	21%	410	19%	447	19%	572	21%	673	22%
White	1682	20%	1830	21%	2104	24%	2635	28%	3186	34%
Free/Reduced Lunch	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	203	7%	229	7%	348	9%
ESE	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	11	1%	26	2%	31	2%
ESOL	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	36	6%	21	4%	46	7%

ESE = students in Exceptional Student Education programs. ESOL = students in English for Speakers of Other Languages program. N. R. = Results were not reported prior to FY2001.

Table 4.

Number of Advanced Placement Tests Taken (N) and Percent of AP Tests Passed (%) By Group for the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC): FY1999 - FY2003

	FY1999		FY2000		FY2001		FY2002		FY2003	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
SDPBC	4577	61%	4831	62%	5509	61%	7192	60%	8764	55%
Black	324	31%	292	34%	404	33%	535	36%	693	29%
Hispanic	538	63%	611	67%	659	66%	869	64%	1034	60%
White	2924	63%	3215	63%	3781	63%	5062	61%	6133	57%
Free/Reduced Lunch	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	262	49%	329	52%	481	50%
ESE	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	15	.	34	68%	46	52%
ESOL	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	37	78%	25	.	47	83%

ESE = students in Exceptional Student Education programs. ESOL = students in English for Speakers of Other Languages program. N. R. = Results were not reported prior to FY2001. "." = Results were not reported because the number of tests taken was less than 30.