

## **MEMORANDUM**

August 31, 2004

TO: School Board Members  
School District of Palm Beach County

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

**SUBJECT: FY2000 – FY2004 Advanced Placement (AP) Exam Results**

The Advanced Placement (AP) exam is a cooperative educational endeavor between secondary schools and colleges/universities. There are 34 courses in 19 subject areas, offered by 15,000 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 FY2004, there were 4,884 juniors and seniors in the SDPBC who took an AP exam.
- ◆ In FY2004, the participation rate

### **Percent Passing**

- ◆ In FY2004, the SDPBC's percent passing (57%) was higher than Florida's (52%) and lower than the Nation's (62%).
- ◆ In FY2004, the SDPBC's percent passing when up for all race/ethnic groups.

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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): FY2000 - FY2004

	FY2000		FY2001		FY2002		FY2003		FY2004	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
A. W. Dreyfoos School of Arts	217	37%	268	48%	323	52%	396	62%	499	83%
Atlantic	319	30%	310	28%	323	32%	383	41%	409	45%
Boca Raton	109	15%	131	18%	133	17%	146	18%	196	24%
Boynton Beach	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	32	8%	118	14%	82	8%
Forest Hill	112	22%	84	16%	77	15%	109	21%	109	17%
Glades Central	19	4%	18	4%	23	4%	39	9%	24	5%
J. I. Leonard	133	15%	132	15%	183	16%	210	18%	191	17%
Jupiter	77	10%	144	19%	171	22%	295	39%	259	30%
Lake Worth	149	16%	161	17%	176	17%	182	17%	154	12%
Olympic Heights	217	24%	236	25%	329	30%	365	32%	372	31%
P. B. Gardens	188	20%	177	20%	230	24%	248	25%	233	21%
P. B. Lakes	59	7%	60	7%	73	7%	99	10%	99	9%
Pahokee	13	6%	13	6%	32	12%	35	14%	33	15%
Royal Palm Beach	86	10%	96	11%	153	15%	203	17%	167	13%
Santaluces	93	8%	134	11%	142	12%	200	18%	254	20%
Spanish River	286	25%	377	31%	398	29%	499	35%	519	36%
Suncoast	437	74%	434	75%	547	90%	563	87%	629	98%
W. T. Dwyer	104	13%	160	20%	234	26%	259	27%	269	30%
Wellington	171	14%	210	17%	301	22%	379	25%	386	26%
SDPBC	2789	19%	3145	20%	3880	22%	4728	26%	4484	23%

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: FY2000 - FY2004

	FY2000	FY2001	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004
A. W. Dreyfoos School of Arts	73%	73%	77%	71%	69%
Atlantic	70%	71%	73%	70%	66%
Boca Raton	72%	56%	65%	57%	50%
Boynton Beach	N.R.	N.R.	42%	15%	23%
Forest Hill	37%	49%	38%	37%	33%
Glades Central	0%	10%	7%	25%	19%
J. I. Leonard	49%	50%	50%	62%	58%
Jupiter	86%	67%	59%	49%	59%
Lake Worth	45%	42%	44%	48%	61%
Olympic Heights	66%	60%	64%	60%	64%
P. B. Gardens	51%	43%	46%	52%	39%
P. B. Lakes	56%	58%	67%	52%	45%
Pahokee	6%	0%	0%	0%	2%
Royal Palm Beach	37%	37%	31%	25%	37%
Santaluces	61%	41%	50%	50%	44%
Spanish River	76%	76%	76%	70%	78%
Suncoast	59%	61%	60%	59%	50%
W. T. Dwyer	35%	28%	24%	21%	29%
Wellington	77%	77%	67%	57%	67%
SDPBC	62%	61%	60%	55%	57%
Florida	58%	55%	56%	52%	52%
Nation	64%	57%	63%	61%	62%

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): FY2000 - FY2004

	FY2000		FY2001		FY2002		FY2003		FY2004	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
SDPBC	2789	19%	3145	20%	2789	19%	3145	20%		
Black	200	5%	270	7%	200	5%	270	7%		
Hispanic	410	19%	447	19%	410	19%	447	19%		
White	1830	21%	2104	24%	1830	21%	2104	24%		
Free/Reduced Lunch	N.R.	N.R.	203	7%	N.R.	N.R.	203	7%		
ESE	N.R.	N.R.	11	1%	N.R.	N.R.	11	1%		
ESOL	N.R.	N.R.	36	6%	N.R.	N.R.	36	6%		

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): FY2000 - FY2004

	FY2000		FY2001		FY2002		FY2003		FY2004	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
SDPBC	4831	62%	5509	61%	4831	62%	5509	61%		
Black	292	34%	404	33%	292	34%	404	33%		
Hispanic	611	67%	659	66%	611	67%	659	66%		
White	3215	63%	3781	63%	3215	63%	3781	63%		
Free/Reduced Lunch	N.R.	N.R.	262	49%	N.R.	N.R.	262	49%		
ESE	N.R.	N.R.	15	.	N.R.	N.R.	15	.		
ESOL	N.R.	N.R.	37	78%	N.R.	N.R.	37	78%		

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.