



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

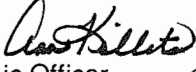
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**ANN KILLETS**  
CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

**ARTHUR C. JOHNSON, Ph.D.**  
SUPERINTENDENT

## MEMORANDUM

TO: School Board Members  
School District of Palm Beach County

FROM: Ann Killets   
Chief Academic Officer

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

DATE: September 12, 2005

SUBJECT: FY2001–FY2005 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.

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 exam.

AP performance and participation is a Key Result for the SDPBC. A brief summary of statistically significant AP exam results revealed the following findings:

### Participation Rate

- ◆ In FY2005, there were 6,214 students in the SDPBC who took at least one AP exam.
- ◆ The FY2005 participation rate for all students (28%) and Black (9%), Hispanic (26%), and White students (36%) is significantly higher than that in FY2001.

### Percent of Tests Passed

- ◆ In FY2005, the SDPBC's percent passing (53%) was higher than Florida's (50%) and lower than the Nation's (60%).
- ◆ In FY2005, the SDPBC's percent of tests passed for all students and for Hispanic (56%) and White students (55%) is significantly lower than that in FY2001. The percent of tests passed for Black students (30%) has remained stable since FY2001.

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, Manager of Research and Evaluation at 434-8781. For questions about the AP exam program in the SDPBC, contact Christie Ragsdale, Secondary Guidance Specialist, at 357-7666.

AJ:AK:MB:DS:jl

c/attachments:

- Chief Academic Officer
- Chief Officer of Administration
- Chief Operating Officer
- Chief of Performance Accountability
- Chief Public Information Officer
- Chief, Safety & Learning Environment
- Area/Assistant Superintendents
- 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): FY2001 - FY2005

	FY2001		FY2002		FY2003		FY2004		FY2005	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
A. W. Dreyfoos School of Arts	268	49%	323	52%	397	62%	499	83%	628	100%
Atlantic	310	27%	325	32%	384	41%	409	45%	410	48%
Boca Raton	131	17%	133	17%	146	18%	196	24%	330	40%
Boynton Beach	N.R.	N.R.	32	8%	118	14%	82	8%	76	8%
Forest Hill	84	16%	77	15%	109	21%	109	17%	235	38%
Glades Central	18	3%	23	4%	39	9%	24	5%	52	9%
J. I. Leonard	132	14%	184	16%	210	18%	191	17%	181	19%
Jupiter	144	19%	171	22%	295	39%	259	30%	358	34%
Lake Worth	161	16%	176	17%	179	16%	154	12%	143	12%
Olympic Heights	236	24%	329	30%	366	32%	372	31%	303	32%
Park Vista	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	134	30%
P. B. Gardens	177	20%	230	24%	248	25%	233	21%	336	31%
P. B. Central	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	336	32%
P. B. Lakes	60	6%	73	7%	99	10%	99	9%	109	10%
Pahokee	13	6%	32	12%	35	14%	33	15%	46	22%
Royal Palm Beach	96	11%	153	15%	204	17%	167	13%	191	14%
Santaluces	134	11%	142	12%	200	18%	254	20%	229	20%
Spanish River	377	29%	398	29%	500	35%	519	36%	590	48%
Suncoast	434	74%	548	91%	565	88%	629	99%	662	100%
W. T. Dwyer	160	18%	235	26%	259	27%	269	30%	337	39%
Wellington	210	17%	301	21%	380	25%	386	27%	390	29%
West Boca	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	138	34%
SDPBC	3145	19%	3885	22%	4733	25%	4884	23%	6214	28%

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: FY2001 - FY2005

	FY2001	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005
A. W. Dreyfoos School of Arts	73%	77%	71%	69%	59%
Atlantic	71%	73%	70%	66%	71%
Boca Raton	56%	65%	57%	50%	49%
Boynton Beach	N.R.	42%	15%	23%	33%
Forest Hill	49%	38%	37%	34%	24%
Glades Central	10%	7%	25%	19%	8%
J. I. Leonard	50%	50%	62%	58%	59%
Jupiter	67%	59%	49%	59%	51%
Lake Worth	42%	44%	49%	61%	63%
Olympic Heights	60%	64%	60%	64%	63%
P. B. Central	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	36%
P. B. Gardens	43%	46%	52%	39%	44%
P. B. Lakes	58%	67%	52%	45%	21%
Pahokee	0%	0%	0%	2%	3%
Park Vista	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	45%
Royal Palm Beach	41%	31%	25%	37%	40%
Santaluces	58%	50%	50%	44%	52%
Spanish River	76%	76%	70%	78%	75%
Suncoast	61%	60%	59%	50%	51%
W. T. Dwyer	28%	24%	21%	29%	27%
Wellington	77%	67%	57%	67%	64%
West Boca	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	51%
<b>SDPBC</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>53%</b>
Florida	55%	56%	52%	52%	50%
Nation	62%	63%	61%	62%	60%

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 Race/Ethnicity for the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC): FY2001 - FY2005

	FY2001		FY2002		FY2003		FY2004		FY2005	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
SDPBC	3145	19.3	3885	21.7	4733	24.8	4884	22.7	6214	28.1
Black	269	6.4	321	6.7	420	8.1	400	6.3	560	8.8
Hispanic	478	19.8	600	21.6	732	23.5	812	21.8	1034	26.1
White	2038	22.8	2486	26.2	3041	30.9	3090	29.6	3833	36.2

Data Source: College Board

Table 4.

Number of Advanced Placement Tests Taken (N) and Percent of AP Tests Passed (%) By Race/Ethnicity for the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC): FY2001 - FY2005

	FY2001		FY2002		FY2003		FY2004		FY2005	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
SDPBC	5509	61.3	7192	59.7	8779	55.4	9003	56.6	11667	52.8
Black	397	34.3	509	36.5	660	28.8	626	33.2	904	29.6
Hispanic	711	64.0	928	63.3	1146	59.2	1347	62.0	1746	56.4
White	3668	63.4	4779	61.5	5884	57.1	5872	58.4	7414	54.8

Data Source: College Board