



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

ARTHUR C. JOHNSON, Ph.D.
SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: School Board Members
School District of Palm Beach County

FROM: Ann Killets *AK*
Chief Academic Officer

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

DATE: August 29, 2007

SUBJECT: FY2003–FY2007 Advanced Placement (AP) Exam Results

The Advanced Placement (AP) exam is a cooperative educational endeavor between secondary schools and colleges/universities. Within the AP curriculum, 38 courses in 19 subject areas are offered by 16,000 secondary schools throughout the world. The AP exam provides students with 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. AP performance and participation is a Key Result for the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC).

Table 1 reports the number of students tested and the participation rate for the SDPBC and for each of its high schools over the past five years. Table 2 reports the percent of AP exams passed within the SDPBC and each of its high schools, as well as within Florida and the Nation. Tables 3 and 4 contain disaggregated data by race/ethnicity.

Overall, the participation rates for the SDPBC increased in FY2007, while the percent of students passing has remained about the same. A statistical analysis of the AP exam results follows.

Participation Rate

- ◆ From FY2006 to FY2007, the AP participation rate¹ increased (32% to 34%).
- ◆ From FY2004 to FY2007, the participation rate has been steadily increasing for Black, Hispanic, White, and all SDPBC students.
- ◆ The participation rate for the SDPBC has remained higher than the State's for all years reported.

¹ The participation rate is the percent of SDPBC students who took at least one AP exam.

Percent of Tests Passed

- ◆ In FY2007, the SDPBC's percent passing (51%) was higher than Florida's (47%) and lower than the Nation's (59%).
- ◆ From FY2006 to FY2007, the percent passing stayed about the same for Black, Hispanic, White, and all SDPBC students.

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 the means to evaluate progress in comparison to themselves and to others. 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 state take the AP exam.

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, Director of Research and Evaluation at 432-6376. For questions about the AP Program in the SDPBC, contact Sally Rozanski, Manager, K-12 Curriculum/Secondary Education, at 434-7428.

AJ:AK:MB:DS:jl

c/attachments:

- Chief Academic/Operating Officers
- Chief of Performance Accountability
- Chief Public Information Officer
- Chief, Safety & Learning Environment
- Transition Chief Technology Officer
- 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): FY2003 - FY2007

	FY2003		FY2004		FY2005		FY2006		FY2007	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
A. W. Dreyfoos School of Arts	397	62%	499	83%	628	100%	866	100%	782	100%
Atlantic	384	41%	409	45%	410	48%	483	49%	513	48%
Boca Raton	146	18%	196	24%	330	40%	529	58%	676	69%
Boynton Beach	118	14%	82	8%	76	8%	150	20%	127	19%
Forest Hill	109	21%	109	17%	235	38%	258	40%	184	25%
Glades Central	39	9%	24	5%	52	9%	61	12%	69	15%
J. I. Leonard	210	18%	191	17%	181	19%	189	21%	159	19%
Jupiter	295	39%	259	30%	358	34%	405	32%	472	34%
Lake Worth	179	16%	154	12%	143	12%	157	14%	209	20%
Olympic Heights	366	32%	372	31%	303	32%	251	38%	271	40%
Park Vista	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	134	30%	322	33%	452	34%
P. B. Gardens	248	25%	233	21%	336	31%	325	28%	423	38%
P. B. Central	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	336	32%	360	32%	403	35%
P. B. Lakes	99	10%	99	9%	109	10%	194	20%	139	15%
Pahokee	35	14%	33	15%	46	22%	34	17%	51	23%
Royal Palm Beach	204	17%	167	13%	191	14%	196	16%	211	21%
Santaluces	200	18%	254	20%	229	20%	177	20%	228	24%
Spanish River	500	35%	519	36%	590	48%	615	59%	649	65%
Suncoast	565	88%	629	99%	662	100%	745	100%	816	100%
W. T. Dwyer	259	27%	269	30%	337	39%	348	39%	309	39%
Wellington	380	25%	386	27%	390	29%	474	37%	464	42%
West Boca	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	138	34%	340	39%	439	44%
SDPBC	4733	25%	4884	23%	6214	28%	7485	32%	8046	34%
Florida	--	--	--	--	78,121	24%	90,677	26%	103,547	30%

Note: Participation rate is determined by dividing the number of students taking an AP test by the total number of 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 Florida Department of Education provides participation rate starting in FY2005; the AP program does not provide comparable participation rates for 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: FY2003 - FY2007

	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007
A. W. Dreyfoos School of Arts	71%	69%	59%	57%	64%
Atlantic	70%	66%	71%	70%	72%
Boca Raton	57%	50%	49%	46%	46%
Boynton Beach	15%	23%	33%	16%	16%
Forest Hill	37%	34%	24%	23%	31%
Glades Central	25%	19%	8%	9%	7%
J. I. Leonard	62%	58%	59%	50%	43%
Jupiter	49%	59%	51%	59%	50%
Lake Worth	49%	61%	63%	58%	45%
Olympic Heights	60%	64%	63%	59%	54%
P. B. Central	N.R.	N.R.	36%	49%	48%
P. B. Gardens	52%	39%	44%	36%	40%
P. B. Lakes	52%	45%	21%	26%	29%
Pahokee	0%	2%	3%	4%	5%
Park Vista	N.R.	N.R.	45%	47%	49%
Royal Palm Beach	25%	37%	40%	27%	29%
Santaluces	50%	44%	52%	56%	54%
Spanish River	70%	78%	75%	72%	67%
Suncoast	59%	50%	51%	42%	49%
W. T. Dwyer	21%	29%	27%	27%	30%
Wellington	57%	67%	64%	57%	57%
West Boca	N.R.	N.R.	51%	60%	53%
SDPBC	55%	57%	53%	50%	51%
Florida	52%	52%	50%	45%	47%
Nation	61%	62%	60%	58%	59%

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): FY2003 - FY2007

	FY2003		FY2004		FY2005		FY2006		FY2007	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Black	420	8.1	400	6.3	560	8.8	762	11.8	817	12.8
Hispanic	732	23.5	812	21.8	1034	26.1	1233	28.6	1419	31.0
White	3041	30.9	3090	29.6	3833	36.2	4390	39.8	4672	42.0

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): FY2003 - FY2007

	FY2003		FY2004		FY2005		FY2006		FY2007	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Black	660	28.8	626	33.2	904	29.6	1250	24.1	1261	24.5
Hispanic	1146	59.2	1347	62.0	1746	56.4	2284	52.8	2585	52.1
White	5884	57.1	5872	58.4	7414	54.8	8875	52.9	9691	54.6

Data Source: College Board