



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 
Chief Academic Officer

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

DATE: September 16, 2008

SUBJECT: FY2008 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, 37 courses in 22 subject areas are offered by 23,000 secondary schools throughout the world. The AP program 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).

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 national results. Results may differ because not all students in a high school, school district, or state take the AP exam.

Overall, the percent of tests passed did not decline from FY2007 to FY2008 even though the participation rates for the SDPBC increased. A statistical analysis of the AP exam results follows.

Participation Rate

- ◆ From FY2004 to FY2008, the participation rate for the SDPBC has remained higher than that of the State.
- ◆ From FY2007 to FY2008, the participation rate increased slightly (34% to 36%).
- ◆ From FY2004 to FY2008, the participation rate has steadily increased for all SDPBC students including Black, Hispanic, and White students.

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Percent of Tests Passed

- ◆ In FY2008, the SDPBC's percent of tests passed (52%) was higher than that of the State (44%) and lower than that of the Nation (58%).
- ◆ From FY2007 to FY2008, the percent of tests passed remained about the same for all SDPBC students, including Black, Hispanic, and White students.

Accompanying table 1 reports the number of students tested and the participation rate¹ 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.

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.

ACJ:AK:MB:DS:jl

c/attachments:

- Chief Academic/Operating Officers
- Chief Human Resources
- Chief of Performance Accountability
- Chief Public Information Officer
- Chief, Safety & Learning Environment
- Chief Technology Officer
- Area/Assistant Superintendents
- Academic Associate and Administrative Directors/Directors
- All Principals

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

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): FY2004 - FY2008

	FY2004		FY2005		FY2006		FY2007		FY2008	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
A. W. Dreyfoos School of Arts	499	83%	628	100%	866	100%	782	100%	816	100%
Atlantic	409	45%	410	48%	483	49%	513	48%	501	43%
Boca Raton	196	24%	330	40%	529	58%	676	69%	777	75%
Boynton Beach	82	8%	76	8%	150	20%	127	19%	136	23%
Forest Hill	109	17%	235	38%	258	40%	184	25%	227	27%
Glades Central	24	5%	52	9%	61	12%	69	15%	78	16%
J. I. Leonard	191	17%	181	19%	189	21%	159	19%	171	20%
Jupiter	259	30%	358	34%	405	32%	472	34%	491	35%
Lake Worth	154	12%	143	12%	157	14%	209	20%	344	34%
Olympic Heights	372	31%	303	32%	251	38%	271	40%	247	34%
Park Vista	N.R.	N.R.	134	30%	322	33%	452	34%	537	34%
P. B. Gardens	233	21%	336	31%	325	28%	423	38%	429	42%
P. B. Central	N.R.	N.R.	336	32%	360	32%	403	35%	375	32%
P. B. Lakes	99	9%	109	10%	194	20%	139	15%	209	24%
Pahokee	33	15%	46	22%	34	17%	51	23%	62	25%
Royal Palm Beach	167	13%	191	14%	196	16%	211	21%	193	19%
Santaluces	254	20%	229	20%	177	20%	228	24%	220	23%
Seminole Ridge	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	259	25%
Spanish River	519	36%	590	48%	615	59%	649	65%	596	62%
Suncoast	629	99%	662	100%	745	100%	816	100%	756	100%
W. T. Dwyer	269	30%	337	39%	348	39%	309	39%	320	41%
Wellington	386	27%	390	29%	474	37%	464	42%	472	44%
West Boca	N.R.	N.R.	138	34%	340	39%	439	44%	474	45%
SDPBC	4884	23%	6214	28%	7485	32%	8046	34%	8690	36%
State	--	--	78,121	24%	90,677	26%	103,547	30%	117,698	33%

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 has provided a State participation rate since 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), the State, and the Nation: FY2004 - FY2008

	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008
A. W. Dreyfoos School of Arts	69%	59%	57%	64%	63%
Atlantic	66%	71%	70%	72%	69%
Boca Raton	50%	49%	46%	46%	48%
Boynton Beach	23%	33%	16%	16%	17%
Forest Hill	34%	24%	23%	31%	31%
Glades Central	19%	8%	9%	7%	9%
J. I. Leonard	58%	59%	50%	43%	28%
Jupiter	59%	51%	59%	50%	58%
Lake Worth	61%	63%	58%	45%	37%
Olympic Heights	64%	63%	59%	54%	53%
P. B. Central	N.R.	36%	49%	48%	54%
P. B. Gardens	39%	44%	36%	40%	38%
P. B. Lakes	45%	21%	26%	29%	19%
Pahokee	2%	3%	4%	5%	4%
Park Vista	N.R.	45%	47%	49%	45%
Royal Palm Beach	37%	40%	27%	29%	28%
Santaluces	44%	52%	56%	54%	51%
Seminole Ridge	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	38%
Spanish River	78%	75%	72%	67%	72%
Suncoast	50%	51%	42%	49%	51%
W. T. Dwyer	29%	27%	27%	30%	33%
Wellington	67%	64%	57%	57%	64%
West Boca	N.R.	51%	60%	53%	59%
SDPBC	57%	53%	50%	51%	52%
State	52%	50%	45%	47%	44%
Nation	62%	60%	58%	59%	58%

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): FY2004 - FY2008

	FY2004		FY2005		FY2006		FY2007		FY2008	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Black	400	6.3	560	8.8	762	11.8	817	12.8	1009	15.1
Hispanic	812	21.8	1034	26.1	1233	28.6	1419	31.0	1655	34.6
White	3090	29.6	3833	36.2	4390	39.8	4672	42.0	4856	44.0

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): FY2004 - FY2008

	FY2004		FY2005		FY2006		FY2007		FY2008	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%		
Black	626	33.2	904	29.6	1250	24.1	1261	24.5	1009	26.0
Hispanic	1347	62.0	1746	56.4	2284	52.8	2585	52.1	1655	52.0
White	5872	58.4	7414	54.8	8875	52.9	9691	54.6	4856	55.2