



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

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SUPERINTENDENT

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CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

September 1, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: School Board Members

FROM: Jeffrey J. Hernandez
Chief Academic Officer

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

SUBJECT: FY2009 ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) EXAM RESULTS

The College Board has recently released the results of the FY2009 Advanced Placement (AP) exam. 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. Within the AP curriculum, 37 courses in 22 subject areas are offered by 23,000 secondary schools throughout the world. 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, caution should be used in making comparisons between local, state, and national results, because not all students in a high school, school district, or state take the AP exam.

Overall, the percent of tests passed for the SDPBC has increased from FY2006 to FY2009 even though participation rates also increased. A statistical analysis of the AP exam results follows.

Participation Rate

- ◆ From FY2006 to FY2009, the participation rate for the SDPBC has steadily increased for all SDPBC students (32% to 38%) including Black (12% to 16%), Hispanic (29% to 38%), and White students (40% to 45%).
- ◆ In FY2009, the participation rate for the SDPBC (38%) was similar to that of the State (37%).

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Percent of Tests Passed

- ◆ From FY2006 to FY2009, the percent of tests passed increased for all SDPBC students (50% to 53%) and White students (53% to 58%), and remained about the same for Black students (24% to 27%), and Hispanic students (53% to 51%).
- ◆ In FY2009, the SDPBC's percent of tests passed (53%) was higher than that of the State (45%) and lower than that of the Nation (59%).

Accompanying 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. Table 3 contains 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 Constance Tuman-Rugg, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Curriculum and School Improvement, at 357-1113.

ACJ/JH/MB/DS/RJ:pm

Attachments

c/attachments:

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

Table 1. FY2006 - FY2009 Number of AP Test Takers and the Participation Rate for Comprehensive High Schools, SDPBC, and Florida

High School	Number of Test Takers				Participation Rate			
	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009
A.W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts	866	782	816	850	100%	100%	100%	100%
Atlantic	483	513	501	514	49%	48%	43%	41%
Boca Raton	529	676	777	937	58%	69%	75%	78%
Boynton Beach	150	127	136	107	20%	19%	23%	18%
Forest Hill	258	184	227	255	40%	25%	27%	30%
Glades Central	61	69	78	96	12%	15%	16%	19%
John I. Leonard	189	159	171	219	21%	19%	20%	25%
Jupiter	405	472	491	518	32%	34%	35%	37%
Lake Worth	157	209	344	425	14%	20%	34%	45%
Olympic Heights	251	271	247	255	38%	40%	34%	33%
Pahokee Middle/Senior	34	51	62	142	17%	23%	25%	55%
Palm Beach Gardens	325	423	429	457	28%	38%	42%	42%
Palm Beach Central	360	403	375	375	32%	35%	32%	29%
Palm Beach Lakes	194	139	209	162	20%	15%	24%	18%
Park Vista	322	452	537	562	33%	34%	34%	36%
Royal Palm Beach	196	211	193	160	16%	21%	19%	15%
Santaluces	177	228	220	341	20%	24%	23%	34%
Seminole Ridge	NR	NR	259	392	NR	NR	25%	33%
Spanish River	615	649	596	611	59%	65%	62%	62%
Suncoast	745	816	756	817	100%	100%	100%	100%
W. T. Dwyer	348	309	320	334	39%	39%	41%	40%
Wellington	474	464	472	472	37%	42%	44%	45%
West Boca Raton	340	439	474	525	39%	44%	45%	49%
SDPBC	7485	8046	8690	9530	32%	34%	36%	38%
Florida	90,677	103,547	117,698	131,818	26%	30%	33%	37%

Note: Participation rate is determined by dividing the number of students taking an AP test (regardless of grade level) 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 may not be 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. No charter high schools administered the AP tests. NR = no results were reported because the school did not have a junior and/or senior class.

Table 2. FY2006 - FY2009 Percent of AP Tests Passed for Comprehensive High Schools, SDPBC, Florida, and the Nation

High School	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009
A. W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts	57%	64%	63%	74%
Atlantic	70%	72%	69%	70%
Boca Raton	46%	46%	48%	53%
Boynton Beach	16%	16%	17%	25%
Forest Hill	23%	31%	31%	28%
Glades Central	9%	7%	9%	7%
John I. Leonard	50%	43%	28%	31%
Jupiter	59%	50%	58%	56%
Lake Worth	58%	45%	37%	30%
Olympic Heights	59%	54%	53%	56%
Pahokee Middle/Senior	4%	5%	4%	1%
Palm Beach Central	49%	48%	54%	64%
Palm Beach Gardens	36%	40%	38%	34%
Palm Beach Lakes	26%	29%	19%	19%
Park Vista	47%	49%	45%	59%
Royal Palm Beach	27%	29%	28%	51%
Santaluces	56%	54%	51%	48%
Seminole Ridge	NR	NR	38%	34%
Spanish River	72%	67%	72%	73%
Suncoast	42%	49%	51%	50%
W. T. Dwyer	27%	30%	33%	31%
Wellington	57%	57%	64%	67%
West Boca Raton	60%	53%	59%	55%
SDPBC	50%	51%	52%	53%
Florida	45%	47%	44%	45%
Nation	58%	59%	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. NR = No results were reported because the school did not have a junior and/or senior class.

Table 3. FY2006-FY2009 AP Results for Black, Hispanic, and White in SDPBC

	Black				Hispanic				White			
	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Number of Student Tested	762	817	1,009	1186	1,233	1,419	1,655	1953	4,390	4,672	4,856	5048
Participation Rate	12%	13%	15%	16%	29%	31%	35%	38%	40%	42%	44%	45%
Number of AP Tests taken	1250	1261	1599	1932	2284	2585	3093	3522	8875	9691	9814	9967
Percent of AP Tests Passed	24%	25%	26%	27%	53%	52%	52%	51%	53%	55%	55%	58%

Note: Participation rate for individual race/ethnicities is calculated by dividing the number of students taking an AP test (regardless of grade level) by the total number of juniors and seniors in that particular race/ethnic group in the fourth nine weeks.