



SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

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October 11, 2010

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** School Board Members

**FROM:** Ann Killets   
Chief Learning Officer

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

**SUBJECT: FY2010 ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) EXAM RESULTS**

The College Board has recently released the results of the FY2010 Advanced Placement (AP) exam. The AP program provides students with an opportunity to take college level courses and exams while still in high school, and allows colleges a means 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. These results can also provide individual schools and districts with the means to evaluate their progress when comparing themselves to others. However, as indicated by the College Board, caution should be taken when making comparisons between local, state, and national results because not all students in a high school, school district, or state take the AP exam.

In FY2010, the SDPBC made a concerted effort to increase student participation in AP classes. As a result, participation rates for the SDPBC increased dramatically from FY2009 to FY2010. Concurrently, the percent of tests passed decreased during the same period.<sup>1</sup> A statistical analysis of the AP exam results follows.

### Participation Rate

- ◆ From FY2009 to FY2010, the participation rate for the SDPBC showed a large increase for all SDPBC students (38% to 54%), including Black (16% to 29%), Hispanic (38% to 55%), and White students (45% to 59%).

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<sup>1</sup> The decrease in passing rate is most likely a result of the large increase in participation rate.

Percent of Tests Passed

- ◆ From FY2009 to FY2010, the passing rate decreased for all SDPBC students (53% to 48%), including Black students (27% to 19%), Hispanic students (51% to 47%), and White students (58% to 56%).

Tables 1 and 2 report the number of students tested and the participation rate over the past five years (Table 1 includes data for comprehensive high schools along with SDPBC and Florida, while Table 2 includes data for charter high schools only). Tables 3 and 4 report the percent of AP exams passed over the past five years (Table 3 includes data for comprehensive high schools along with SDPBC, Florida, and the Nation, while Table 4 includes data for charter high schools only). Table 5 reports AP data for all SDPBC students disaggregated 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 which can be used with the information included here for 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/AK/MB/DS/bs

c/attachments

- Chief Operating Officer
- Division Chiefs
- Area/Assistant Superintendents
- Academic Directors
- Principals

Table 1. FY2006 - FY2010 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	FY2010	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010
A.W. Dreyfoos SOA	866	782	816	850	844	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Atlantic	483	513	501	514	548	49%	48%	43%	41%	44%
Boca Raton	529	676	777	937	1,116	58%	69%	75%	78%	95%
Boynton Beach	150	127	136	107	396	20%	19%	23%	18%	68%
Forest Hill	258	184	227	255	365	40%	25%	27%	30%	44%
Glades Central	61	69	78	96	380	12%	15%	16%	19%	75%
John I. Leonard	189	159	171	219	273	21%	19%	20%	25%	32%
Jupiter	405	472	491	518	612	32%	34%	35%	37%	44%
Lake Worth	157	209	344	425	470	14%	20%	34%	45%	50%
Olympic Heights	251	271	247	255	504	38%	40%	34%	33%	68%
Pahokee Middle/Senior	34	51	62	142	165	17%	23%	25%	55%	64%
Palm Beach Gardens	325	423	429	457	615	28%	38%	42%	42%	57%
Palm Beach Central	360	403	375	375	813	32%	35%	32%	29%	64%
Palm Beach Lakes	194	139	209	162	335	20%	15%	24%	18%	38%
Park Vista	322	452	537	562	708	33%	34%	34%	36%	46%
Royal Palm Beach	196	211	193	160	273	16%	21%	19%	15%	27%
Santaluces	177	228	220	341	409	20%	24%	23%	34%	41%
Seminole Ridge	NR	NR	259	392	579	NR	NR	25%	33%	50%
Spanish River	615	649	596	611	721	59%	65%	62%	62%	74%
Suncoast	745	816	756	817	1,033	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
W. T. Dwyer	348	309	320	334	416	39%	39%	41%	40%	50%
Wellington	474	464	472	472	483	37%	42%	44%	45%	47%
West Boca Raton	340	439	474	525	674	39%	44%	45%	49%	64%
<b>SDPBC</b>	<b>7,485</b>	<b>8,046</b>	<b>8,690</b>	<b>9,530</b>	<b>13,298</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>54%</b>
Florida	90,677	103,547	117,698	131,818	171,724	26%	30%	33%	37%	47%

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. NA = Not available at this time. NR = No results were reported because there were fewer than 30 students tested or there was no junior and/or senior class.

Table 2. FY2006 - FY2010 Number of AP Test Takers and the Participation Rate for Charter High Schools

High School	Number of Test Takers					Participation Rate				
	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010
G-Star	NR	NR	NR	NR	202	NR	NR	NR	NR	68%
Inlet Grove	NR	NR	NR	NR	73	NR	NR	NR	NR	24%
Leadership Academy West	NR	NR	NR	4	3	NR	NR	NR	5%	4%
Riviera Beach Maritime Academy	NR	NR	NR	NR	9	NR	NR	NR	NR	38%
South Tech	NR	NR	NR	NR	279	NR	NR	NR	NR	42%

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. NR = No results were reported because there were fewer than 30 students tested or there was no junior and/or senior class.

Table 3. FY2006 - FY2010 Percent of AP Tests Passed for Comprehensive High Schools, SDPBC, Florida, and the Nation

High School	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010
A. W. Dreyfoos SOA	57%	64%	63%	74%	77%
Atlantic	70%	72%	69%	70%	70%
Boca Raton	46%	46%	48%	53%	55%
Boynton Beach	16%	16%	17%	25%	8%
Forest Hill	23%	31%	31%	28%	32%
Glades Central	9%	7%	9%	7%	6%
John I. Leonard	50%	43%	28%	31%	36%
Jupiter	59%	50%	58%	56%	59%
Lake Worth	58%	45%	37%	30%	18%
Olympic Heights	59%	54%	53%	56%	47%
Pahokee Middle/Senior	4%	5%	4%	1%	16%
Palm Beach Central	49%	48%	54%	64%	47%
Palm Beach Gardens	36%	40%	38%	34%	35%
Palm Beach Lakes	26%	29%	19%	19%	11%
Park Vista	47%	49%	45%	59%	60%
Royal Palm Beach	27%	29%	28%	51%	39%
Santaluces	56%	54%	51%	48%	36%
Seminole Ridge	NR	NR	38%	34%	29%
Spanish River	72%	67%	72%	73%	74%
Suncoast	42%	49%	51%	50%	54%
W. T. Dwyer	27%	30%	33%	31%	40%
Wellington	57%	57%	64%	67%	64%
West Boca Raton	60%	53%	59%	55%	48%
<b>SDPBC</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>48%</b>
Florida	45%	47%	44%	45%	44%
Nation	58%	59%	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. NA = Not available at this time. NR = No results were reported because there were fewer than 30 students tested or there was no junior and/or senior class.

Table 4. FY2006 - FY2010 Percent of AP Tests Passed for Charter High Schools

High School	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010
G-Star	NR	NR	NR	NR	39%
Inlet Grove	NR	NR	NR	NR	25%
Leadership Academy West	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Rivera Beach Maritime Academy	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
South Tech	NR	NR	NR	NR	6%

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 there were fewer than 30 students tested or there was no junior and/or senior class.

Table 5. FY2006 - FY2010 AP Results for Black, Hispanic, and White in SDPBC

	Black					Hispanic					White				
	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Number of Students Tested	762	817	1,009	1,186	2,035	1,233	1,419	1,655	1,953	2,914	4,390	4,672	4,856	5,048	6,449
Participation Rate	12%	13%	15%	16%	29%	29%	31%	35%	38%	55%	40%	42%	44%	45%	59%
Number of AP Tests taken	1,250	1,261	1,599	1,932	3,236	2,284	2,585	3,093	3,522	5,153	8,875	9,691	9,814	9,967	12,694
Percent of AP Tests Passed	24%	25%	26%	27%	19%	53%	52%	52%	51%	47%	53%	55%	55%	58%	56%

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.