



## MEMORANDUM

July 15, 2015

**TO:** School Board Members

**FROM:** Keith Oswald, Interim Chief Academic Officer

**THROUGH:** Dr. Robert Avossa, Superintendent

**SUBJECT:** **FY2015 ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) EXAM RESULTS**

The College Board has recently released the results of the FY2015 Advanced Placement (AP) exams<sup>1</sup>. 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 of students who have been successful on AP exams. AP performance and participation is reported by the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC) as an important indicator of college readiness.

### Summary of Results

From FY2011 to FY2015 in the SDPBC:

- The AP test passing rate has increased significantly overall and for most subgroups.
- The AP participation rate has declined significantly overall and for all subgroups.

The decline in AP Test Participation must take into account that the District has increased the overall number of accelerated courses taken by high school students for college readiness, which includes International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE), and Dual Enrollment. The largest increase is seen in students participating in AICE programs, which have grown from one high school participating in FY2011 to 19 high schools in FY2015.

Table 1 reports the number of AP tests taken and the percentage of AP tests passed over the past five years. Table 2 reports the number of AP test takers and participation rate over the past five years. Both tables report AP data for all SDPBC students disaggregated by race/ethnic groups.

Results for individual schools are available on the Department of Research and Evaluation website at: <http://www.palmbeachschools.org/dre/NRE/Results.asp>

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<sup>1</sup> At this time, the Florida Department of Education has not released the AP results for the State.

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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.

If you have questions about the AP exam results, please contact Mark Howard, Chief of Performance Accountability at (561) 434-8850. If you have questions about the AP programs in the SDPBC, please contact Karen Whetsell, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Teaching and Learning at (561) 357-1113. If you have questions about individual school efforts and AP exams, please contact the appropriate area superintendent or school principal.

KO/MH/SR/RP:gr/wgl

Attachment

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

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FY2015 ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) EXAM RESULTS

Table 1. FY2011 to FY2015 Number of AP Tests Taken and Percentage of Tests Passed by Race/Ethnicity in the SDPBC

	Number of AP Test Taken					Percent of AP Test Passed				
	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015
Asian	2,017	2,161	2,220	2,253	2,216	60.2%	63.7%	60.7%	65.2%	67.6%
Black	3,643	3,138	3,395	3,042	2,614	22.0%	27.9%	29.1%	31.3%	36.3%
Hispanic	5,663	5,845	5,957	5,803	5,639	46.3%	49.8%	51.5%	54.7%	55.5%
Indian	60	61	80	65	68	41.7%	49.2%	47.5%	41.5%	54.4%
White	13,433	13,584	14,176	13,469	13,328	58.3%	61.6%	59.4%	62.3%	62.0%
SDPBC	26,303	26,499	27,358	25,814	25,295	50.1%	54.3%	53.4%	56.4%	57.7%

Notes: 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 numbers and percentages in the above table correspond to the recent AP result data provided by the College Board.

Table 2. FY2011 to FY2015 Number of AP Test Takers and Participation Rate by Race/Ethnicity in the SDPBC

	Number of Test Takers					Participation Rate				
	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015
Asian	822	839	884	849	845	100%	98.3%	100%	99.8%	95.6%
Black	2,223	1,864	2,070	1,872	1,570	30.7%	25.6%	27.6%	24.5%	19.7%
Hispanic	3,039	3,061	3,118	3,047	2,965	50.2%	48.0%	45.8%	42.6%	38.4%
Indian	39	34	44	33	28	26.8%	21.1%	29.9%	21.8%	13.5%
White	6,737	6,644	6,755	6,426	6,209	63.1%	61.7%	62.8%	59.1%	58.1%
SDPBC	13,705	13,398	13,755	12,945	12,485	53.4%	51.1%	51.3%	47.2%	44.2%

Notes: Participation rate for individual race/ethnicity 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. The numbers and percentages in the above table correspond to the recent AP result data provided by the College Board.