



**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

August 28, 2018

TO: School Board Members

FROM: Donald E. Fennoy II, Ed.D., Superintendent
Keith Oswald, Deputy Superintendent/Chief of Schools
Mark Howard, Chief, Performance Accountability

SUBJECT: FY18 ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) EXAM RESULTS

The College Board has recently released the results of the FY18 Advanced Placement (AP) exams¹. 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. The AP performance and participation is reported by the School District of Palm Beach County (District) as an important indicator of college readiness and contributes to the District Strategic Plan Long Term Outcomes. In addition, AP participation is an important indicator of equity and opportunity among schools and groups of students.

A review of the FY18 AP results reveals the following:

- From FY14 to FY18, the AP test passing rates increased for Asian and Black students, remained similar for the District, Hispanic, and White students, and decreased for Indian students (Table 1).
- From FY17 to FY18, the AP test passing rates remained similar for the District, Asian, Black, Hispanic and White students, and decreased for Indian students (Table 1).
- From FY14 to FY18, the AP participation rates decreased for the District and all subgroups (Table 2).
- From FY17 to FY18, the AP participation rates remained similar for Black students, and decreased for the District, Asian, Hispanic, Indian, and White students (Table 2).

The decline in AP Test Participation has been impacted by increases in the overall number of accelerated courses taken by high school students for college readiness, which include International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE), and Dual Enrollment.

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 rates over the past five years. Both tables report AP test results for all District students and for the disaggregated race/ethnic groups.

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

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

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.

Next Steps and Guiding Questions:

Now that schools have the AP results by school and by student, what is the next step? Schools should review these results to determine strengths to build upon and opportunities for to grow quality programs and expand opportunities for students. While reviewing these data schools should be mindful of the following:

1. How did your school perform on AP tests compared to the District? Similar schools?
2. Were there differences in performance by AP test? Why?
3. Are there adequate structures in place to offer the AP courses identified in the report and not offered at your school? If not, how do we support the students needing those courses?
4. How do your students' course grades relate to the courses they have taken or are currently taking?
5. Which students were predicted to be successful in AP courses

For questions regarding the AP exam results, please contact Paul Houchens, Director of Research and Evaluation at 434-8780 or Mark Howard, Chief of Performance Accountability at 434-8851. For questions about the AP programs in the District, please contact Diana Fedderman, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, at 357-5989. For questions about individual school efforts and AP exams, please contact the appropriate regional superintendent or school principal.

DEF/KO/MH/PH/RP/RW:wI

Attachments

- c: Academic and Operating Chiefs
- Regional/Instructional Superintendents
- Assistant Superintendents
- Academic Directors
- Principals

Table 1. Number of AP Tests Taken and Percentage of Tests Passed for the Individual Race/Ethnicity and the District

	Number of AP Tests Taken					Percent of AP Tests Passed				
	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18
Asian	2,253	2,217	2,003	2,059	2,070	65.2%	67.5%	71.4%	67.4%	69.1%
Black	3,042	2,615	2,339	2,476	2,592	31.3%	36.4%	35.0%	34.9%	36.1%
Hispanic	5,803	5,646	6,106	7,259	7,669	54.7%	55.5%	56.9%	55.5%	55.6%
Indian	65	68	38	31	16	41.5%	54.4%	50.0%	54.8%	25.0%
White	13,469	13,333	12,228	13,222	13,120	62.3%	61.9%	62.2%	61.4%	60.8%
District	25,814	25,309	23,907	26,483	26,926	56.4%	57.6%	58.9%	57.5%	57.1%

Notes: (a) In the District, 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.
 (b) The numbers and percentages in the above table correspond to the recent AP result data provided by the College Board.

Table 2. Number of AP Test Takers and Participation Rates for the Individual Race/Ethnicity and the District

	Number of Test Takers					Participation Rates				
	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18
Asian	849	846	741	751	791	99.8%	95.8%	83.2%	86.6%	83.5%
Black	1,872	1,571	1,449	1,570	1,614	24.5%	19.7%	17.8%	18.2%	17.0%
Hispanic	3,047	2,972	3,373	3,898	4,108	42.6%	38.5%	40.8%	43.8%	40.1%
Indian	33	28	18	19	13	21.8%	13.5%	7.3%	5.8%	3.6%
White	6,426	6,214	5,647	5,999	5,870	59.1%	58.2%	52.9%	56.4%	52.1%
District	12,945	12,499	11,856	12,962	13,189	47.2%	44.2%	40.8%	43.0%	39.7%

Note: 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.