



News Release

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Colorado High School Class of 2009 Among the Nation's Leaders in AP[®] Course Work and Exams — Predictors of Success in College

NEW YORK — The College Board's sixth annual *AP[®] Report to the Nation*, released today, reports that 20.1 percent of Colorado's public school students in the class of 2009 achieved an AP Exam score of 3 or higher (the score predictive of college success) during their high school years — a larger percentage than most other states in the nation and well above the national rate of 15.9 percent.

Additionally, Colorado saw impressive five-year gains in both participation and performance. In Colorado, 20.1 percent of the graduating class scored 3 or higher on at least one AP Exam during high school — compared to 15.9 percent nationally — a 5 percent increase over the class of 2004.

College Board President Gaston Caperton said, "I commend Colorado educators, administrators and policymakers for their continued success and their commitment to providing rigorous course work to their students. Still, there is more work to do to meet our nation's education goals of ensuring more students, including underrepresented students, are prepared for the rigors of college and the lifetime of opportunities that college success provides."

The data in this year's report show more Latino and African American public school students in Colorado are taking and succeeding on AP Exams, and yet these students remain underrepresented among AP students and within the group experiencing success in the state.

"I congratulate our students and educators on their hard work and success," said Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter Jr. "Colorado is committed to providing our students with a premier education because we understand that to maintain America's competitive edge, all our students need to be well-prepared and ready to compete with peers from around the world."

Throughout the *AP Report to the Nation*, success on an AP Exam is defined as an exam score of 3 or higher, which represents the score range that research finds predictive of college success and college graduation. These findings have held consistent across the decades. One example of such a study comes from

the National Center for Educational Accountability, which found that an AP Exam score of 3 or higher is a strong predictor of a student's ability to persist in college and earn a bachelor's degree.

In the past five years, public high schools in Colorado have increased the number of students gaining access to and experiencing success in AP:

- 15,499 students, or 32.9 percent, in Colorado's public high school class of 2009 took at least one AP Exam during high school, compared to 14,778 (30.5 percent) in the class of 2008 and 10,454 (23.3 percent) in the class of 2004.
- 9,476 students, or 20.1 percent, in Colorado's public high school class of 2009 earned a score of 3 or higher on at least one AP Exam during high school, compared to 9,186 (19 percent) in the class of 2008 and 6,746 (15.1 percent) in the class of 2004.
- Of the students in Colorado's public high school class of 2009 who took at least one AP Exam during high school, 1,883, or 12.1 percent, were Hispanic or Latino, compared to 1,622 (11 percent) in the class of 2008 and 874 (8.4 percent) in the class of 2004.
- Of the students in Colorado's public high school class of 2009 who earned a score of 3 or higher on at least one AP Exam during high school, 849, or 9 percent, were Hispanic or Latino, compared to 748 (8.1 percent) in the class of 2008 and 489 (7.2 percent) in the class of 2004.
- Of the students in Colorado's public high school class of 2009 who took at least one AP Exam during high school, 541, or 3.5 percent, were black or African American, compared to 486 (3.3 percent) in the class of 2008 and 257 (2.5 percent) in the class of 2004.
- Of the students in Colorado's public high school class of 2009 who earned a score of 3 or higher on at least one AP Exam during high school, 186, or 2 percent, were black or African American, compared to 153 (1.7 percent) in the class of 2008 and 92 (1.4 percent) in the class of 2004.
- 10 percent of Colorado's public high school class of 2009 took at least one AP Exam in science,¹ and 13.4 percent took at least one AP Exam in math,² compared to 8.8 percent and 9.7 percent, respectively, for the nation.

About the Advanced Placement Program®

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) enables students to pursue college-level studies while still in high school. Through more than 30 college-level courses, each culminating in a rigorous exam, AP provides willing and academically prepared students with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement or both. Taking AP courses also demonstrates to college admission officers that students have sought out the most rigorous curriculum available to them. Each AP teacher's syllabus is evaluated and approved by college faculty from some of the nation's leading institutions, and AP Exams are developed and scored by college faculty and experienced AP teachers. AP is accepted by more than 3,600 colleges and universities worldwide for college credit, advanced placement or both on the basis of successful AP Exam

1. The AP science programs comprise Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics B, Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, and Physics C: Mechanics.

2. The AP math programs comprise Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Computer Science A, Computer Science AB, and Statistics.

scores. This includes over 90 percent of four-year institutions in the United States. In 2009, students representing over 17,000 schools around the world, both public and nonpublic, took AP Exams.

The College Board

The College Board is a not-for-profit membership association whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the College Board is composed of more than 5,700 schools, colleges, universities and other educational organizations. Each year, the College Board serves seven million students and their parents, 23,000 high schools, and 3,800 colleges through major programs and services in college readiness, college admission, guidance, assessment, financial aid and enrollment. Among its widely recognized programs are the SAT[®], the PSAT/NMSQT[®], the Advanced Placement Program[®] (AP[®]), SpringBoard[®] and ACCUPLACER[®]. The College Board is committed to the principles of excellence and equity, and that commitment is embodied in all of its programs, services, activities and concerns.

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