

Oklahoma Sees Five-Year Gains in Participation, Success on AP® Exams - Predictors of Success in College

NEW YORK - The College Board's sixth annual AP® Report to the Nation, released today, reports that more Oklahoma public school students are participating in AP course work and succeeding on AP Exams than in 2004. The state has achieved gains in participation and performance among all groups of students compared to five years ago.

In Oklahoma, 9.5 percent of the class of 2009 achieved an AP Exam score of 3 or better (the score predictive of college success) during their high school years, up from 8.2 percent in 2004. Additionally, more Latino and American Indian public school students in Oklahoma are participating in AP course work and Exams and achieving a score of 3 or higher compared to five years ago.

College Board President Gaston Caperton said, "Oklahoma deserves recognition for preparing more students for college success and for making challenging AP classes accessible to a greater number of students. Still, more work will need to be done so that all students are prepared to succeed in rigorous courses that open the doors to college success and opportunity."

The data in this year's report show that, compared to 2004, more public school students in traditionally underrepresented groups - Hispanic or Latino, black or African American, and American Indian or Alaska Native - in Oklahoma are taking and succeeding on AP Exams. The state is one of 16 states in the nation to have successfully closed the equity gap for Latino students.

"I am proud of our students and educators for their hard work and commend their success," said Oklahoma Sen. John Ford. "Oklahoma is steadfast in its commitment of ensuring that all of its students are prepared for college success, and we will continue to find ways that we as policymakers and administrators can support our classrooms."

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.

Compared to 2004, public high schools in Oklahoma have increased the number of students gaining access to and experiencing success in AP:

- 7,313 students, or 19.6 percent, in Oklahoma's public high school class of 2009 took at least one AP Exam during high school, compared to 6,121 (16.6 percent) in the class of 2004.
- 3,526 students, or 9.5 percent, from Oklahoma'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 3,028 (8.2 percent) in the class of 2004.
- Of the students in Oklahoma's public high school class of 2009 who earned a score of 3 or higher on at least one AP Exam during high school, 242, or 6.9 percent, were Hispanic or Latino, compared to 199 (6.6 percent) in the class of 2004.
- Of the students in Oklahoma's public high school class of 2009 who earned a score of 3 or higher on at least one AP Exam during high school, 297, or 8.4 percent, were American Indian, compared to 214 (7.1 percent) in the class of 2004.

- Of the students in Oklahoma's public high school class of 2009 who earned a score of 3 or higher on at least one AP Exam during high school, 118, or 3.3 percent, were black or African American, compared to 81 (2.7 percent) in the class of 2004.
- 5.9 percent of Oklahoma's public high school students in the class of 2009 took at least one AP Exam in science,¹ and 5.3 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 scores. This includes over 90 percent of four-year institutions in the United States. In 2009, students representing more than 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.