

2017 Preliminary Advanced Placement Results Brief

This brief reviews the preliminary Advanced Placement (AP) data from the 2016-2017 school year at TC Williams High School. Included in the brief is this one page narrative along with a table (see reverse page) which provides a summary display of key AP test results, along with eleven comparison years dating back to 2005. All 2017 statistics came from the College Board's data released on July 17, 2017.

Since its inception in 1955, the Advanced Placement program has provided motivated high school students with the opportunity to take college-level courses in a high school setting. Students who participate in the program not only gain college-level skills, but in many cases they also earn college credit while they are still in high school. It should be noted that beginning in the 2004-2005 school year, ACPS instituted a policy (Board policy IGBI) requiring students who took an AP course to also take the corresponding AP examination with all associated costs paid for by ACPS.

Preliminary Results

A total of 858 ACPS students took 1,799 Advanced Placement (AP) Subject Tests in the spring of 2017. The 858 students who took at least one AP test in 2017 represented a 10% increase (n=78) from the 2016. When considering the overall student enrollment, one-third of students in grades 10-12 took at least one AP test in 2017. In regards to the number of AP tests taken, more tests were taken in 2017 (n=1,799) compared with those taken in 2016 (n=1,702).

AP tests were scored on a five-point scale; the College Board required a score of "3" or greater to recommend a student for college credit or advanced placement. The College Board awarded scores of "3" or greater to 61% of the AP tests taken by ACPS students in 2017, up four percentage points from 2016 (57%) and 22 percentage points higher than the 2005 total (see Table 1). The proportion of scores of "5" earned (16%) was two percentage points greater than last year's results and the highest percentage of "5's" earned since 2005.

As an index of "Equity and Excellence," the College Board reported the number of students successful on AP tests as a percentage of the graduating class. Successful students included all twelfth graders who earned an AP score of "3" or greater at any time in their high school years. For 2017, 37% of the ACPS graduating class earned "3" or greater on an AP test at some point during their high school career, representing an increase of 17 percentage points since 2005 (see Table 1).

Compared to spring 2016, there was an increase in both AP participation and performance in spring 2017. There was a two percentage point increase in the proportion of students who took an AP exam and a four percentage point increase in the proportion of scores earning a score of '3' or greater compared to 2015-16 results. The proportion of students earning the highest AP score of '5' was the highest percentage of "5's" earned since 2005.

TABLE 1
Alexandria City Public Schools
PRELIMINARY Advanced Placement (AP) Test Summary Results: 2005-2017

AP Key Elements		Year													Change Over Time	
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2016 to 2017	Thirteen Years 2017
Participation	Annual Percent of Students Taking at Least One AP Test ^a	23%	23%	26%	26%	24%	30%	35%	37%	38%	40%	38%	31%	33%	+2%	10%
	Number of Students Taking AP Tests	473	454	500	528	489	626	755	785	870	931	901	780	858	+78	+385
	Number of AP Tests Taken by Students	805	946	905	1045	988	1238	1551	1623	1772	1972	1968	1702	1799	+97	+994
Performance	AP Grades '3', '4' or '5' #	39%	47%	45%	52%	54%	57%	56%	59%	58%	62%	55%	57%	61%	+4%	+22%
		310	449	410	539	537	707	866	964	1030	1214	1084	975	1092	+117	+782
	Highest AP Grade '5' #	9%	10%	12%	13%	12%	14%	14%	14%	15%	13%	13%	14%	16%	+2%	+7%
		71	99	108	137	123	172	210	223	262	259	263	246	280	+34	+209
	Seniors Earning AP Grades 3 or better ^b	16%	25%	19%	26%	21%	23%	24%	28%	29%	33%	30%	26%	28%	+2%	+12%
	AP Equity & Excellence Graduating Class Summary ^c	20%	29%	23%	32%	28%	29%	31%	36%	38%	43%	38%	36%	37%	+1%	+17%

^a Student enrollment includes all students in grades 10, 11, and 12/PG in the April End-of-Month Enrollment.

^b Percentage of students enrolled in twelfth grade who earned a 3 or higher on at least one AP exam in their twelfth grade year.

^c The Graduating Class Summary shows the percentage of twelfth graders who scored 3 or higher on at least one AP Exam at any point in their high school years.