

2020 Preliminary Advanced Placement Results Brief

This brief reviews the preliminary Advanced Placement (AP) data from the 2019-2020 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 fifteen comparison years dating back to 2005. All 2020 statistics came from the College Board's data available on August 24, 2020. Worth noting, the 2019-2020 test administration was much different than prior years given the school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Rather than the traditional 45-minute face-to-face exam, students took a 45-minute online free-response exam at home.

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 earn college credit while they are 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 take the corresponding AP examination with all associated costs paid for by ACPS.

Preliminary Results

A total of 928 ACPS students took 2,008 Advanced Placement (AP) Subject Tests in the spring of 2020. The 928 students who took at least one AP test in 2020 represented a three percent increase (n=24) from 2019. When considering the overall student enrollment, 33% of students in grades 10-12 took at least one AP test in 2020. Since 2010, at least 30% of students have taken an AP test in a given year. In regards to the number of AP tests taken, 43 fewer tests were taken in 2020 (n=2,008) compared with those taken in 2019 (n=2,051) for a two percent decrease.

AP tests were scored on a five-point scale; the College Board requires 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 72% of the AP tests taken by ACPS students, tying the highest proportion in sixteen years with 2018 and three percentage points higher than 2019 (69%) (see Table 1). The proportion of scores of "5" earned (18%) was two percentage points less than last year's results. Overall, performance increased with respect to the proportion of scores of "3" or greater and scores of "5" remained steady.

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 2020, 36% of the ACPS graduating class earned "3" or greater on an AP test at some point during their high school career, mirroring last year's proportion of graduates.

While there was a decrease in the number of tests taken more students took tests this year compared to the prior year, representing one-third of 10th-12th grade students. Performance improved across some indicators and remained relatively constant across others. There was an increase in the proportion of scores of "3" or greater; consistency was seen in scores of "5" and the "Equity and Excellence" indicators. Results for scores of "3" or higher matched the all-time high first seen in 2018.

TABLE 1
Alexandria City Public Schools
PRELIMINARY Advanced Placement (AP) Test Summary Results: 2005-2020

AP Key Elements		Year																Change Over Time	
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 ^d	One Year 2019-2020	16 Years 2020
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%	36%	31%	33%	+2%	+10%
	Number of Students Taking AP Tests	473	454	500	528	489	626	755	785	870	931	901	780	858	931	904	928	+24	+455
	Number of AP Tests Taken by Students	805	946	905	1045	988	1238	1551	1623	1772	1972	1968	1702	1799	2021	2051	2008	-43	+1203
Performance	AP Grades '3', '4' or '5'	39%	47%	45%	52%	54%	57%	56%	59%	58%	62%	55%	57%	61%	72%	69%	72%	+3%	+33%
	#	310	449	410	539	537	707	866	964	1030	1214	1084	975	1092	1450	1422	1448	+26	+1138
	Highest AP Grade '5'	9%	10%	12%	13%	12%	14%	14%	14%	15%	13%	13%	14%	16%	22%	20%	18%	-2%	+9%
	#	71	99	108	137	123	172	210	223	262	259	263	246	280	454	415	376	-39	+305
	Seniors Earning AP Grades 3 or better ^b	16%	25%	19%	26%	21%	23%	24%	28%	29%	33%	30%	26%	28%	26%	28%	25%	-3%	+9%
	AP Equity & Excellence Graduating Class Summary ^c	20%	29%	23%	32%	28%	29%	31%	36%	38%	43%	38%	36%	37%	32%	36%	36%	0%	+16%

^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.

^d Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and closures of schools in March 2020, students took a 45-minute online free-response exam at home instead of a traditional in-person exam.

Data as of August 24, 2020