

**BOARD BRIEF**

Date: September 18, 2020

**BOARD INFORMATION:**   X  

**MEETING PREPARATION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FROM:** Tina Constantine, Evaluation & Assessment Analyst  
Clinton Page, Chief Accountability and Research Officer

**THROUGH:** Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

**TO:** The Honorable Cindy Anderson, Chair, and  
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

**TOPIC:** 2020 Preliminary AP Results Brief

**ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:**

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence  
Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support

**SY 2020-2021 FOCUS AREA:**

Focus Area 3: Strategic Plan Implementation

**FY 2021 BUDGET PRIORITY:**

**SUMMARY:**

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.

## **BOARD BRIEF**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Advanced Placement (AP) program provides students with the opportunity to take college-level courses during their high school careers. AP courses are designed to prepare students for college-level academics and students can potentially earn college credit based on their performance on the corresponding AP exam. This brief, prepared by the Department of Accountability, is intended to provide preliminary summative data for the 2020 Advanced Placement results.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Review the attached 2020 Preliminary Advanced Placement Results Brief for an overview of student participation and performance in AP testing.

### **IMPACT:**

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 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. 2020 Preliminary Advanced Placement Summary and Table 1

### **CONTACT:**

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