

Date: August 24, 2018

For ACTION _____

For INFORMATION X

Board Agenda: Yes _____
No X

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

THROUGH: Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent

TO: The Honorable Ramee Gentry, Chair, and Members of the Alexandria
City School Board

TOPIC: 2018 Preliminary AP Results 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 2018 Advanced Placement results.

Results

A total of 931 ACPS students took 2,021 Advanced Placement (AP) Subject Tests in the spring of 2018. The 931 students who took at least one AP test in 2018 represented a nine percent increase (n=73) from 2017. When considering the overall student enrollment, more than one-third of students (36%) in grades 10-12 took at least one AP test in 2018. In regards to the number of AP tests taken, 222 more tests were taken in 2018 (n=2,021) compared with those taken in 2017 (n=1,799).

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 72% of the AP tests taken by ACPS students, an all-time high dating back to 2005 when the division began paying for student AP tests. Specifically, 2018 results were up 11 percentage points from 2017 (61%) and 33 percentage points higher than the 2005 total (see Table 1). The proportion of scores of “5” earned (22%) was six percentage points greater than last year’s results and also represented the highest percentage of “5’s” earned since 2005. The increases seen from 2017 in both percent of AP scores of “3” or higher as well as scores of “5” represent the largest one-year increases the division has seen since 2005.

RECOMMENDATION:

Review the attached 2018 Preliminary Advanced Placement Results Brief for an overview of student participation and performance in AP testing.

IMPACT:

Compared to spring 2017, there was an increase in both AP participation and overall performance in spring 2018. Thirty-six percent of students took an AP exam, up three percentage points. In regards to performance, 2018 marked a year of all-time highs and historic single year increases. The proportion of scores earning a score of “3” or greater increased by 11 percentage points. The proportion of students earning the highest AP score of “5” rose six percentage points. These increases in AP scores of “3” or higher as well as scores of “5” were greater this year than any other of the thirteen comparison years and the largest one-year increases the division has seen since 2005.

CONTACT PERSON: Clinton Page

ATTACHMENT: 2018 Preliminary Advanced Placement Results Brief