

2019 Preliminary Advanced Placement Results Brief

This brief reviews the preliminary Advanced Placement (AP) data from the 2018-2019 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 thirteen comparison years dating back to 2005. All 2019 statistics came from the College Board's data available on August 9, 2019.

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 904 ACPS students took 2,051 Advanced Placement (AP) Subject Tests in the spring of 2019. The 904 students who took at least one AP test in 2019 represented a three percent decrease (n=27) from 2018, which marked the greatest number of students taking an AP test since 2005. When considering the overall student enrollment, 31% of students in grades 10-12 took at least one AP test in 2019. 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, 30 more tests were taken in 2019 (n=2,051) compared with those taken in 2018 (n=2,021).

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 69% of the AP tests taken by ACPS students, the second highest proportion in fifteen years. While 2019 results decreased by three percentage points from 2018 (72%), overall results were 30 percentage points higher than the 2005 total (see Table 1). The proportion of scores of "5" earned (20%) was two percentage points less than last year's results yet also represented the second highest percentage of "5's" earned since 2005. While there was a slight decrease in performance in the most recent year, it is of import to note that the prior year represented the largest one-year increases and an all-time high with regard to both percent of AP scores of "3" or higher as well as scores of "5" 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 2019, 36% of the ACPS graduating class earned "3" or greater on an AP test at some point during their high school career. This was a four percentage point increase from 2018 (32%).

Compared to the all-time highs seen in 2018, there was a slight increase in the number of AP tests taken and the AP Equity and Excellence indicator. Slight decreases compared to 2018 were seen in the number of students who took an AP test and proportion of scores of "3" or greater. Thirty-one percent of students took an AP exam, down five percentage points while the proportion of scores earning a score of "3" or greater decreased by three percentage points. The proportion of students earning the highest AP score of "5" decreased by two percentage points. Despite the decreases in AP scores of "3" or higher as well as scores of "5", results were greater than 13 out of 14 comparison years.

TABLE 1
Alexandria City Public Schools
PRELIMINARY Advanced Placement (AP) Test Summary Results: 2005-2019

AP Key Elements		Year															Change Over Time	
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	One Year 2018-2019	Fifteen Years 2019
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%	-5%	+8%
	Number of Students Taking AP Tests	473	454	500	528	489	626	755	785	870	931	901	780	858	931	904	-27	+431
	Number of AP Tests Taken by Students	805	946	905	1045	988	1238	1551	1623	1772	1972	1968	1702	1799	2021	2051	+30	+1246
Performance	AP Grades '3', '4' or '5'	39%	47%	45%	52%	54%	57%	56%	59%	58%	62%	55%	57%	61%	72%	69%	-3%	+30%
	#	310	449	410	539	537	707	866	964	1030	1214	1084	975	1092	1450	1422	-28	1112
	Highest AP Grade '5'	9%	10%	12%	13%	12%	14%	14%	14%	15%	13%	13%	14%	16%	22%	20%	-2%	+11%
	#	71	99	108	137	123	172	210	223	262	259	263	246	280	454	415	-39	344
	Seniors Earning AP Grades 3 or better ^b	16%	25%	19%	26%	21%	23%	24%	28%	29%	33%	30%	26%	28%	26%	28%	+2%	+12%
	AP Equity & Excellence Graduating Class Summary ^c	20%	29%	23%	32%	28%	29%	31%	36%	38%	43%	38%	36%	37%	32%	36%	+4%	+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.

Data as of August 9, 2019