

2022 Advanced Placement Results Brief

The purpose of this brief is to review the preliminary Advanced Placement (AP) data from the 2021-22 school year at Alexandria City 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 seventeen comparison years dating back to 2005. All 2022 statistics came from the College Board's data available on August 9, 2022.

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. In 2021, students were not penalized for not participating in AP exams.

Results

A total of 919 ACPS students took 1,766 Advanced Placement (AP) Subject Tests in the spring/summer of 2021. The 919 students who took at least one AP test in 2021 represented an increase of 53 students from 2021. When considering the overall student enrollment, 32% of students in grades 10-12 took at least one AP test in 2022. In regards to the number of AP tests taken, 42 more tests were taken in 2022 (n=1,766) compared with those taken in 2021 (n=1,724). With that said, the number of AP tests taken did not reach the pre-pandemic all-time high seen in 2019 (n=2,051)

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 71% of the AP tests taken by ACPS students, representing a 15-percentage point increase from 2021 and reached within one percentage point of the all-time performance seen in 2019. The proportion of scores of "5" earned (19%) was six percentage points more than last year's results. Overall, in 2022 performance increased with respect to the proportion of scores of "3" or greater.

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 2022, 30% of the ACPS graduating class earned "3" or greater on an AP test at some point during their high school career, a decrease of five percentage points when compared to last year's proportion of graduates. This is a lagging indicator with results impacted by the school disruptions that occurred in the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2022 there was an increase in the number of students who participated in AP tests and the number of tests taken. The ratio of students taking an AP exam equated to pre-pandemic levels; however, the overall number of AP tests taken in 2022 remained lower than pre-pandemic levels. Showing an initial rebound in AP performance from the pandemic, single year indicators increased reaching pre-pandemic all-time highs. With that said, impacts could still be seen in senior cohort indicators which remained lower than pre-pandemic levels.

TABLE 1
Alexandria City Public Schools
Advanced Placement (AP) Test Summary Results: 2005-2022

AP Key Elements		Year																			Change Over Time	
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 ^d	2021 ^e	2022	One Year 2021-22	18 Years 2022	
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%	29%	32%	+3%	+9%	
	Number of Students Taking AP Tests	473	454	500	528	489	626	755	785	870	931	901	780	858	931	904	928	866	919	+53	+446	
	Number of AP Tests Taken by Students	805	946	905	1045	988	1238	1551	1623	1772	1972	1968	1702	1799	2021	2051	2008	1724	1766	+42	+961	
Performance	AP Grades '3', '4' or '5'	39%	47%	45%	52%	54%	57%	56%	59%	58%	62%	55%	57%	61%	72%	69%	72%	56%	71%	+15%	+32%	
	#	310	449	410	539	537	707	866	964	1030	1214	1084	975	1092	1450	1422	1448	963	1247	+284	+937	
	Highest AP Grade '5'	9%	10%	12%	13%	12%	14%	14%	14%	15%	13%	13%	14%	16%	22%	20%	18%	13%	19%	+6%	+10%	
	#	71	99	108	137	123	172	210	223	262	259	263	246	280	454	415	376	219	343	+124	+272	
	Seniors Earning AP Grades 3 or better ^b	16%	25%	19%	26%	21%	23%	24%	28%	29%	33%	30%	26%	28%	26%	28%	25%	21%	21%	0	+5%	
	AP Equity & Excellence Graduating Class Summary ^c	20%	29%	23%	32%	28%	29%	31%	36%	38%	43%	38%	36%	37%	32%	36%	36%	35%	30%	-5%	+10%	

^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.

^e Due to the COVID-19 pandemic in spring/summer 2021, there were five administrations of AP testing through August 2021. Students could take exams remotely or in-person.

Data as of August 9, 2022