

## **2018 Preliminary Advanced Placement Results Brief**

This brief reviews the preliminary Advanced Placement (AP) data from the 2017-2018 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 2018 statistics came from the College Board's data available on July 19, 2018.

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

### **Preliminary 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.

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 2018, 32% of the ACPS graduating class earned "3" or greater on an AP test at some point during their high school career. This was a five percentage point decrease from the prior year (37%).

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.

**TABLE 1**  
**Alexandria City Public Schools**  
**PRELIMINARY Advanced Placement (AP) Test Summary Results: 2005-2018**

AP Key Elements		Year														Change Over Time	
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	One Year 2017-2018	Fourteen Years 2018
Participation	Annual Percent of Students Taking at Least One AP Test <sup>a</sup>	23%	23%	26%	26%	24%	30%	35%	37%	38%	40%	38%	31%	33%	36%	+3%	+13%
	Number of Students Taking AP Tests	473	454	500	528	489	626	755	785	870	931	901	780	858	931	+73	+458
	Number of AP Tests Taken by Students	805	946	905	1045	988	1238	1551	1623	1772	1972	1968	1702	1799	2021	+222	+1216
Performance	AP Grades '3', '4' or '5'	39%	47%	45%	52%	54%	57%	56%	59%	58%	62%	55%	57%	61%	72%	+11%	+33%
	#	310	449	410	539	537	707	866	964	1030	1214	1084	975	1092	1450	+358	+1140
	Highest AP Grade '5'	9%	10%	12%	13%	12%	14%	14%	14%	15%	13%	13%	14%	16%	22%	+6%	+13%
	#	71	99	108	137	123	172	210	223	262	259	263	246	280	454	+174	+383
	Seniors Earning AP Grades 3 or better <sup>b</sup>	16%	25%	19%	26%	21%	23%	24%	28%	29%	33%	30%	26%	28%	26%	-2%	+10%
	AP Equity & Excellence Graduating Class Summary <sup>c</sup>	20%	29%	23%	32%	28%	29%	31%	36%	38%	43%	38%	36%	37%	32%	-5%	+12%

<sup>a</sup> Student enrollment includes all students in grades 10, 11, and 12/PG in the April End-of-Month Enrollment.

<sup>b</sup> Percentage of students enrolled in twelfth grade who earned a 3 or higher on at least one AP exam in their twelfth grade year.

<sup>c</sup> 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 July 19, 2018