

# News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## More students taking AP exams

*Wisconsin is 'Best in the Midwest' for AP performance*

MADISON — More of Wisconsin’s students are graduating from public high schools having successfully completed college-level coursework, according to a recent report on the Advanced Placement (AP) program. For 2014 state graduates, 23.6 percent earned a score of three or higher on an AP exam compared to 22.2 percent of 2013 graduates.

The College Board’s “AP Cohort Data: Graduating Class of 2014” ranked Wisconsin the “Best in the Midwest” for AP performance and among the top dozen states in the nation for the percentage of graduates who were successful on their end-of-course AP exams. The state has seen 10.4 percent increase in AP performance over 10 years.

“We’re heading in a good direction with continued growth and strong performance in the AP program,” said State Superintendent Tony Evers. “Overall, our public schools are doing a great job preparing our students to be successful on these college-level exams.”

<b>AP Cohort Data</b>	
Graduating Class of 2014	
<b>Wisconsin</b>	
Graduates Taking an AP Exam	19,858
Percent Earning Scores of 3-5	23.6
<b>Nation</b>	
Graduates Taking an AP Exam	1,047,480
Percent Earning Scores of 3-5	21.6

Of Wisconsin’s 2014 graduates, 19,858 took an AP exam during their high school career, which represents 33.6 percent of graduates. Those students took 55,085 AP exams in 34 subject areas, and 68.1 percent of exams were scored three or higher on the five-point scale. Many students take multiple AP exams, but are only counted once as a graduate. Most colleges and universities grant credit, advanced standing, or both for students who are successful on an AP exam. The College Board estimates Wisconsin’s 2014 public school graduates and their families saved about \$32.9 million in college costs through qualifying AP exams. The calculation assumes three credits for each AP exam scored three or higher and an average cost for in-state tuition and fees of \$292.70 per credit.

More than 1 million of the nation’s 2014 graduates took an AP exam during their high school careers. They represent 35.7 percent of the 2,936,834 graduates in the Class of 2014. The percentage of graduates nationwide who scored three or higher on an AP exam was 21.6 percent.

Students from low-income families represented 12.3 percent of Wisconsin’s AP exam-takers for the 2014 cohort. For the Class of 2010, 8.1 percent of AP exam-takers were from low-income families. Wisconsin law

(more)

requires that school districts pay the cost of Advanced Placement exam fees for students who are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals under federal income guidelines.

Many high schools offer AP courses as part of the established curriculum. Through the Wisconsin Digital Learning Collaborative, any student in Wisconsin can take AP courses online to supplement their school’s offerings. The collaborative — a partnership among Cooperative Educational Service Agency 9’s [Wisconsin Virtual School](#), the DPI, and the [Wisconsin eSchool Network](#) — provides online and blended learning opportunities for students to access AP courses.

Currently, 18 AP courses are offered.

In addition to overall AP growth, five of the 10 most popular AP exams in Wisconsin are in the burgeoning STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). Graduates took 15,590 STEM exams in Biology, Calculus AB and BC, Chemistry, and Statistics. Other top exams were Psychology, English Literature and Composition, English Language and Composition, U.S. History, and U.S. Government and Politics. Wisconsin is the only state in the nation with Psychology as its most popular AP exam. The state’s 2014 graduates took 8,200 AP exams in psychology, an increase of 294 exams from the Class of 2013.

The College Board named 26 Wisconsin public school districts to its Fifth Annual Honor Roll. The Honor Roll recognizes districts that simultaneously increase access to AP coursework while increasing the percentage of students earning a three or higher on their AP exams.

“The Wisconsin education community has been tremendously creative in finding ways to offer rigorous, college-preparatory coursework to our students,” Evers noted. “Unfortunately, the governor’s 2015-17 budget cuts funding, which means districts will be strapped to pay for the opportunities our students deserve.”

<b>Advanced Placement Participation by Low-Income Students*</b>			
Wisconsin Public School Students			
		% Low-Income	% Low-Income
	Graduates	Graduates	Graduates
	Taking an	Taking an AP	Scoring 3 or
<b>Year</b>	<b>AP Exam</b>	<b>Exam</b>	<b>Higher</b>
2010	16,665	8.1	5.7
2011	17,280	9.8	7.1
2012	18,076	11.0	8.4
2013	19,136	11.5	9.0
2014	19,858	12.3	9.5

\* The College Board identifies low-income students as those qualifying for free or reduced-price school meals.

<b>Fifth Annual AP Honor Roll</b>	
Public School Districts	
Altoona	Lodi
Arrowhead*	Madison Metropolitan*
Belleville	Mequon-Thiensville*
Beloit-Turner*	Northern Ozaukee
Campbellsport	Onalaska
East Troy Community	Oregon*
Edgerton	Peshtigo
Franklin Public*	Pewaukee*
Freedom Area	Verona Area
Hamilton*	West De Pere
Holmen*	Whitefish Bay
Kimberly Area*	Whitnall
Kohler	Wisconsin Rapids

\*District has achieved the honor for multiple years.

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**NOTE:** The College Board’s “AP Cohort Data: Graduating Class of 2014” reports information for public school graduates only. Breakdowns by racial and ethnic groups or by schools and districts are not available from this report. An AP Participation Map is available at [http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2015\\_30\\_ap\\_map.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2015_30_ap_map.pdf). This news release is available electronically at [http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2015\\_30.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2015_30.pdf).

# AP Cohort Data

Public School Graduating Class of 2014\*

## Advanced Placement Participation

Public School Class of 2014

<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
Graduates Taking an AP Exam	12,048	16,665	17,280	18,076	19,136	19,858
Percent Taking an AP Exam	19.0	25.8	27.3	29.1	31.8	33.6
Percent Earning Scores of 3-5	13.2	18.0	19.0	20.3	22.2	23.6
<b>Nation</b>						
Graduates Taking an AP Exam	547,436	852,475	904,794	954,068	1,004,031	1,047,480
Percent Taking an AP Exam	19.8	28.2	30.2	31.2	33.2	35.7
Percent Earning Scores of 3-5	12.7	16.8	17.5	18.8	20.1	21.6

## Midwest Region Public Schools

Percent of 2014 Graduates

<b>State</b>	<b>Taking an AP Exam</b>	<b>Scoring 3 or Higher</b>
Illinois	35.4	23.5
Indiana	36.7	18.0
Iowa	20.0	12.2
Kansas	18.0	11.0
Michigan	29.5	19.4
Minnesota	32.5	21.2
Missouri	17.3	10.5
Nebraska	18.4	10.6
North Dakota	13.8	9.2
Ohio	24.8	15.8
South Dakota	19.7	12.8
West Virginia	23.2	10.2
<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>23.6</b>
Nation	35.7	21.6

## 10 Most Popular Advanced Placement Exams

Wisconsin Public School Class of 2014

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Number of Exams</b>	<b>Percent Scoring 3 or Higher</b>
Psychology	8,200	74.9
English Literature and Composition	5,809	62.6
English Language and Composition	5,540	68.0
U.S. History	5,510	64.6
Calculus AB	5,039	63.7
Biology	3,346	69.4
Statistics	3,054	65.7
U.S. Government and Politics	2,909	61.9
Chemistry	2,424	56.8
Calculus BC	1,727	80.2

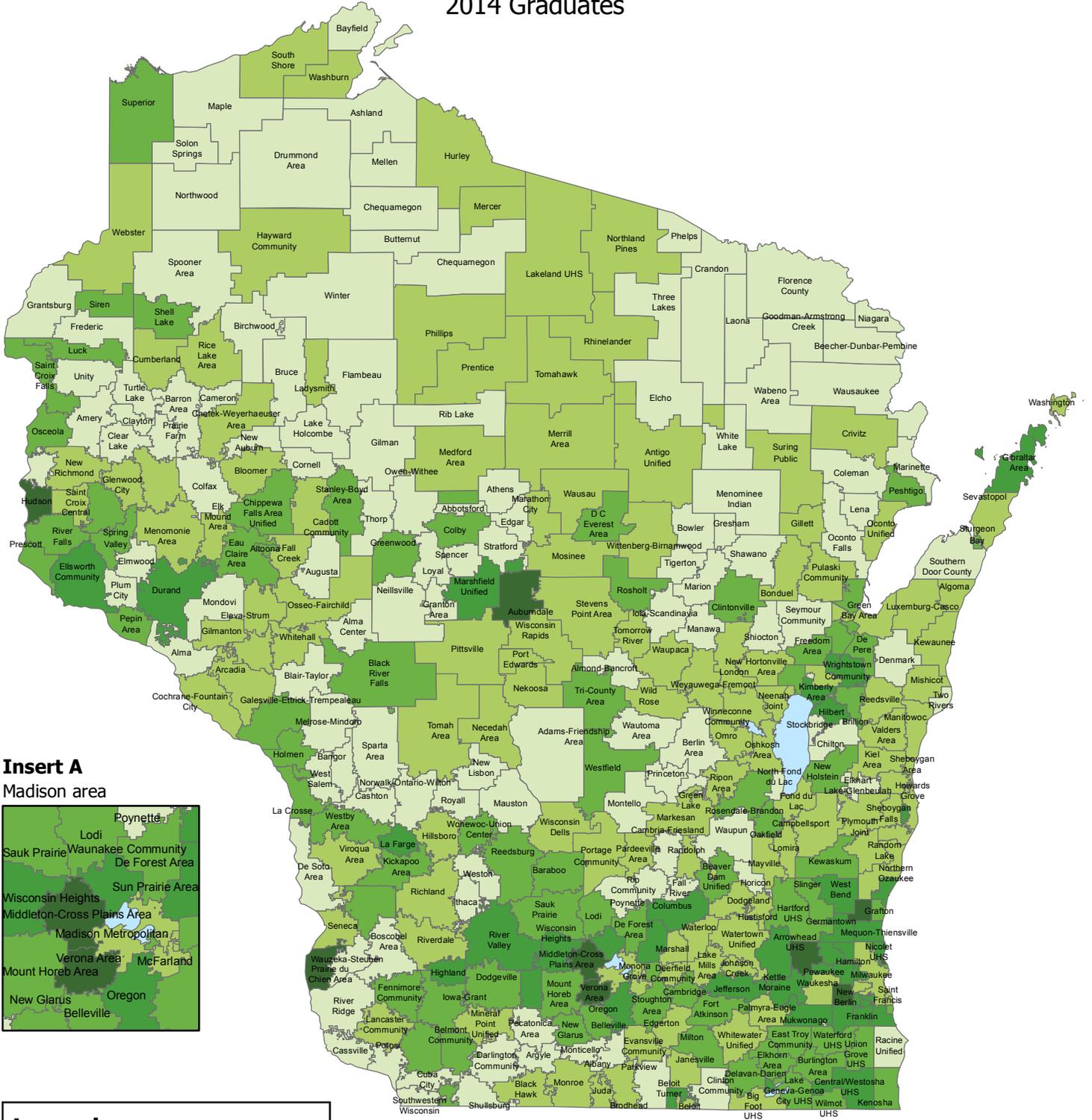
## AP STEM Participation among Wisconsin Public School Graduates

<b>Science</b>	Number of Exams Taken					<b>% Scoring 3 or Higher (2014)</b>
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	
Biology	2,788	2,865	3,003	3,113	3,346	69.4
Chemistry	1,829	1,946	2,148	2,296	2,424	56.8
Environmental Science	649	772	904	1,011	1,079	61.7
Physics B	1,006	1,061	1,199	1,348	1,373	72.4
Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism	72	94	94	111	131	71.8
Physics C: Mechanics	293	342	343	395	531	82.6
<b>Mathematics</b>						
Calculus AB	3,940	4,254	4,315	4,757	5,039	63.7
Calculus BC	1,372	1,413	1,409	1,571	1,727	80.2
Computer Science A	216	197	211	252	276	71.7
Statistics	2,047	2,317	2,631	2,778	3,054	65.7

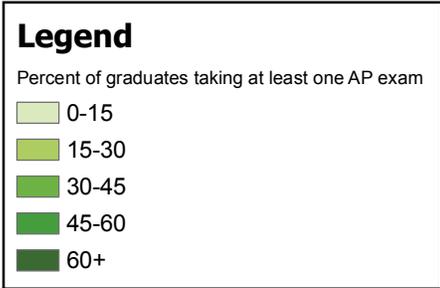
\*Public school graduates are a projection supplied by "Knocking at the College Door" (Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, 2012).

# Advanced Placement Participation

2014 Graduates



**Insert A**  
Madison area



AP Cohort Data: Graduating Class of 2014  
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