

News Release

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Advanced Placement participation continues to grow

2015 graduates have strong SAT performance

MADISON — The College Board’s preliminary data on the Advanced Placement (AP) program showed an 8 percent increase in Wisconsin test-takers and a 9 percent increase in the number of exams taken compared to the previous school year. The AP information comes with state and national SAT scores, where Wisconsin’s 2015 graduates posted strong results.

Wisconsin had 2,277 public and private school graduates take the SAT during high school, which was 3.6 percent of the state’s graduating class of 2015. They had mean scores of 591 for critical reading, 605 for mathematics, and 575 for writing. Of the state’s SAT test-takers, 77.5 percent achieved College and Career Readiness benchmark scores for each of the tests (500). Based on research, achieving a benchmark score

2015 SAT Results			
All Students			
	Critical		
	Reading	Mathematics	Writing
Wisconsin	591	605	575
Nation	495	511	484

indicates a 65 percent probability of obtaining a first-year grade point average of B- or higher at a four-year college or university. Nationally, 1.7 million students took the SAT. Their mean scores were 495 for critical reading, 511 for mathematics, and 484 for writing.

Most of the state’s graduates, 73 percent, take the ACT college admissions exam. The average composite score for the class of 2015 was 22.2, placing Wisconsin second in the nation among ACT-taking states. Last spring, more than 61,000 Wisconsin public high school juniors took the ACT as part of the state’s testing program. Those scores will be reported later in fall and are expected to be lower as nearly all students, not just those preparing for postsecondary studies, are included in the statewide results.

“Testing programs open up opportunities and can prompt students and their families to think about postsecondary options they otherwise may not have considered,” said State Superintendent Tony Evers. “I’m quite proud of our 2015 graduates and their performance on college admissions tests. I am equally pleased with the

(more)

growth in the AP program in Wisconsin. This is the kind of accelerated learning our kids need to ensure they leave high school ready for college and careers.”

Overall, Wisconsin had 41,398 students in grades 11 and 12 who took an AP exam in May 2015. Those public and private school students took 70,007 exams and earned a score of three or higher on 46,969 exams (67.1 percent). Students earning scores of three or higher on an AP exam generally qualify for credit or advanced standing at most colleges and universities.

2015 AP Program		
All Students		
	Wisconsin	Nation
Number of AP Test-Takers	41,398	2,483,452
Number of Exams	70,007	4,478,936
Number of Scores 3-5	46,969	2,595,735
Percent Earning Scores of 3-5	67.1	58.0

Nationwide, 2.5 million students took 4.5 million AP exams. They earned scores of three or higher on 2.6 million exams (58.0 percent). Participation in the program across the nation was up 6.0 percent and the number of exams taken increased 7.2 percent from the prior year.

Participation in AP testing in Wisconsin was up 7.7 percent from the prior year, a larger increase than the previous year (4.3 percent). Additionally, there were strong increases in participation across most racial and ethnic student groups. Students of color made up 13.7 percent of the state’s public and private school students taking AP exams. While most groups outperformed their peers nationally, disparities between groups are apparent.

“Achievement gaps are not inevitable. My Promoting Excellence for All Task Force pulled together a broad cross-section of strategies that have proven results at closing achievement gaps,” Evers said. “It takes a conscious effort. We must build the relationships within our schools and across our communities to support all students’ academic achievement.”

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ATTACHMENT: Tables that provide additional information about preliminary Advanced Placement results follow. This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2015_81.pdf.

NOTES: The Department of Public Instruction does not receive SAT results for schools or school districts. AP results for public high school students are expected to be published in WISEdash in fall. A more detailed analysis of AP results will be provided in the “AP Report to the Nation,” usually issued in February.

2015 Preliminary AP Results

AP Participation by Racial and Ethnic Group

Wisconsin All Students	Number of Test-Takers						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
African American	651	667	812	840	1,122	1,086	1,355
American Indian	114	108	120	132	158	181	176
Asian	1,244	1,306	1,581	1,610	1,912	2,010	2,163
Hispanic*	760	970	1,251	1,366	1,580	1,764	1,958
White	23,673	25,251	26,637	28,231	30,934	32,194	34,266
Other	399	442	443	464	616	563	572
No Response	428	638	571	812	507	633	908
TOTAL	27,269	29,382	31,415	33,455	36,829	38,431	41,398

* Total participation by students who identify as Mexican American, Puerto Rican, or Other Hispanic

AP Performance over Time

Wisconsin	All Students						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of AP Test-Takers	27,269	29,382	31,415	33,455	36,829	38,431	41,398
Number of Exams	43,830	47,552	51,486	55,300	61,335	64,398	70,007
Number of Grades 3-5	30,000	32,740	35,062	37,808	41,508	43,864	46,969
Percent Earning Grades of 3-5	68.4	68.9	68.1	68.4	67.7	68.1	67.1
Nation							
Number of AP Test-Takers	1,691,905	1,845,006	1,973,545	2,099,948	2,218,578	2,342,528	2,483,452
Number of Exams	2,929,929	3,213,225	3,456,020	3,698,407	3,938,100	4,176,200	4,478,936
Number of Grades 3-5	1,725,168	1,861,669	2,003,811	2,191,472	2,323,157	2,468,811	2,595,735
Percent Earning Grades of 3-5	58.9	57.9	58.0	59.3	59.0	59.1	58.0

2015 AP Performance by Racial and Ethnic Group

	All Students				All Students			
	Test-Takers	Number of Exams	Number of Scores 3-5	Percent of Scores 3-5	Test-Takers	Number of Exams	Number of Scores 3-5	Percent of Scores 3-5
WISCONSIN								
African American	1,355	1,984	579	29.2	192,960	307,435	94,746	30.8
American Indian	176	291	164	56.4	13,098	21,830	9,775	44.8
Asian	2,163	4,389	3,002	68.4	334,194	732,323	504,321	68.9
Hispanic	1,958	3,126	1,656	53.0	444,048	765,513	322,861	42.2
Mexican American	1,211	1,867	914	49.0	212,216	363,888	146,642	40.3
Puerto Rican	203	312	156	50.0	25,652	42,542	19,587	46.0
Other Hispanic	544	947	586	61.9	206,180	359,083	156,632	43.6
White	34,266	57,846	40,120	69.4	1,336,283	2,387,044	1,522,759	63.8
Other	572	1,069	750	70.2	80,291	151,769	90,384	59.6
No Response	908	1,302	698	53.6	82,578	113,022	50,889	45.0
TOTAL	41,398	70,007	46,969	67.1	2,483,452	4,478,936	2,595,735	58.0
NATION								

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