

PRESS RELEASE

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City Schools' AP Participation and Performance Jumps, Outpacing State, Nation

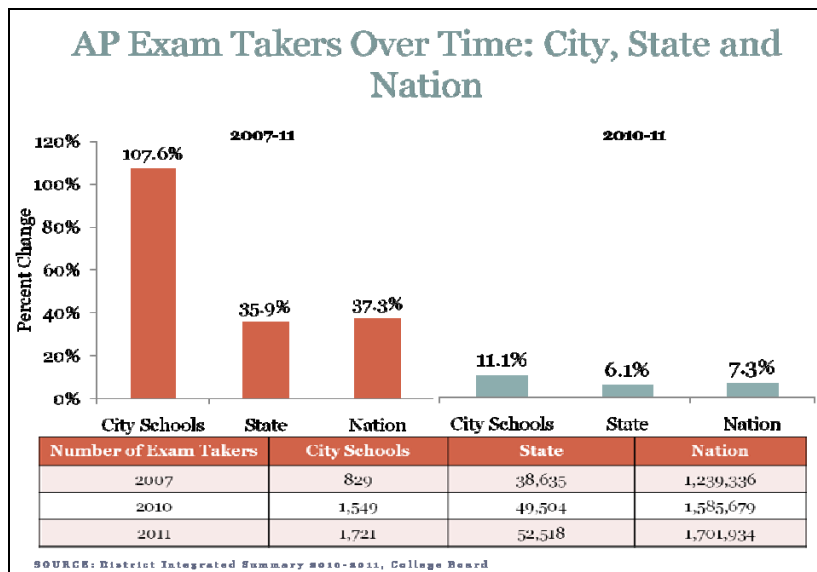
Latest results show that African American students are leading district's growth

(Baltimore, MD) — The College Board issued its official release of Advanced Placement (AP) results for the Class of 2011 today, with standout results for Maryland and Baltimore City. Maryland leads all other states in percentage of high school seniors who take and pass at least one AP exam during their high school years. And the increase in overall AP participation and performance of Baltimore City Public Schools' high school students, both from year to year and over time, is consistently close to double, double or in some cases triple overall increases for the state and nation.

- From 2010 to 2011, the **number of City Schools students taking AP exams** increased 11.1 percent, compared to 6.1 percent for the state and 7.3 percent for the nation.
 - From 2007 to 2011, the number of City Schools students taking AP exams increased 107.6 percent, compared to 35.9 percent for the state and 37.3 percent for the nation.
- From 2010 to 2011, the **number of AP exams taken** by City Schools students was up 11.6 percent, compared to 6.9 percent for the state and 7.7 percent for the nation.
 - From 2007 to 2011, the number of AP exams taken by City Schools students increased 97.2 percent, compared to 36.8 percent for the state and 38.7 percent for the nation.
- From 2010 to 2011, the **number of AP exams passed** by City Schools students increased 33.3 percent, compared to 5.9 percent for the state and 7.8 percent for the nation.
 - From 2007 to 2011, the number of AP exams passed by City Schools students increased 73 percent, compared to 27.6 percent for the state and 35.2 percent for the nation.

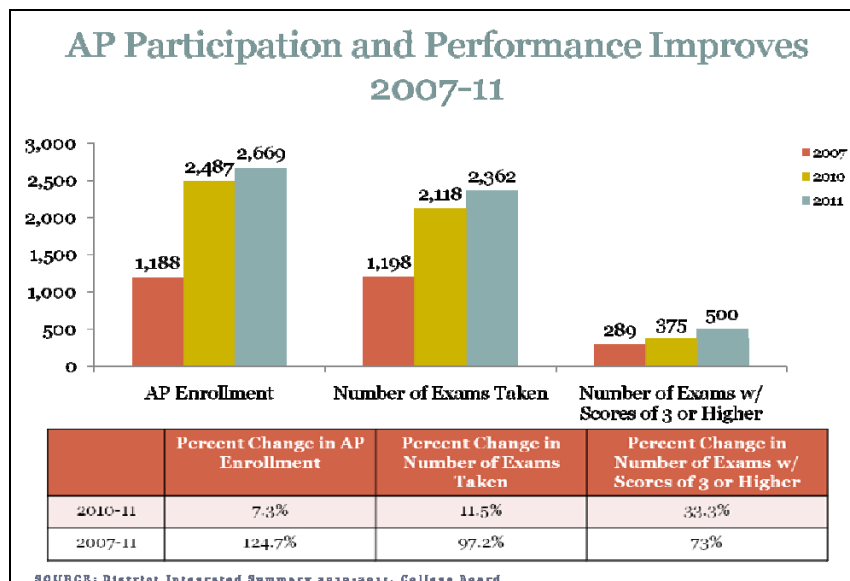
“These results underscore that we are making progress in establishing a college-going culture in City Schools, and they are consistent with the growth in student achievement that we are seeing across many measures,” said City Schools CEO Andrés A. Alonso. “But we must do much better. The number of students taking exams is way up, and the number of students passing exams is up too. But it still remains very low overall, and represents far too small a percentage of our total high school senior population.”

“We are on the right trajectory, but our numbers have to improve—dramatically. The passing score numbers emphasize the need for us to continue to work on building a long-term AP student pipeline at most of our high schools. And that is where we are putting our energy right now,” said City Schools Chief Academic Officer Sonja Brookins Santelises.



While the College Board initially released 2011 AP results in September, these latest results offer a deeper analysis of district performance. The data reflect the recent expansion of AP course offerings at Baltimore City’s high schools, and the increase in AP participation of City Schools’ African American students.

In 2007, 13 Baltimore City public high schools offered 58 AP courses; in 2010, 30 high schools offered 122 courses; and in 2011, 29 schools offered 138 AP courses. The number of AP courses available to City Schools students has increased 137.9 percent from 2007 to 2011. Meanwhile, the number of City Schools students taking AP courses has increased 124.7 percent during that time, from 1,188 in 2007 to 2,669 in 2011. And as reflected in the data above and the chart below, City Schools students are also taking and passing more AP exams.



The increase in City Schools’ AP participation and performance is largely driven by the increase in the number of African American students taking AP exams. In the last year alone, the number of African American students taking AP exams increased 11.1 percent, and the number of AP exams taken by African American students increased 11.6 percent.

At the state level, these one-year growth rates were lower: The number of African American students taking AP exams increased 8.2 percent from 2010 to 2011, and the number of exams taken by African American students increased 10.6 percent. Nationally, the growth in participation of African American students was similar: The number of African American students taking AP exams

increased 9 percent from 2010 to 2011, and the number of exams taken by African American students increased 10.2 percent.

This progress among City Schools' African American students continues the growth seen across achievement measures for this student subgroup in recent years. City Schools' African American male students have led the increase in the district's graduation rate and the decrease in its dropout rate since 2007.

The AP results released today by the College Board also show which AP subject areas are most popular among City Schools students. More students take AP exams in English Literature and Composition than any other subject (19 percent), followed by English Language and Composition (15 percent), U.S. Government and Politics (10 percent), U.S. History (9 percent) and Mathematics-Calculus (7 percent).