

PRESS RELEASE

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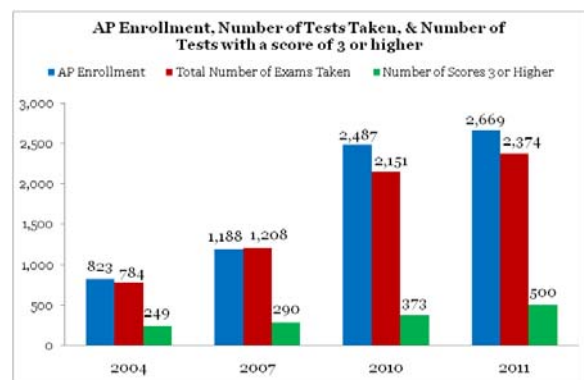
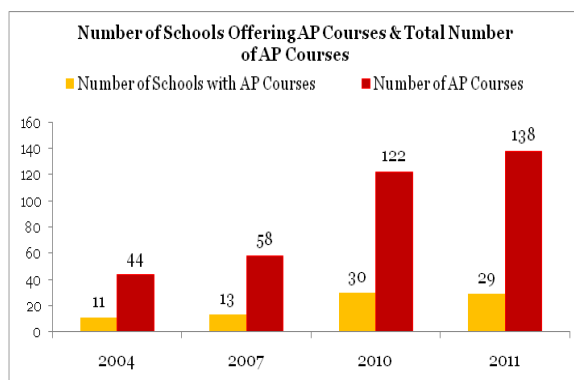
Advanced Placement Participation More than Doubles since 2007; Passing Scores Up 72 Percent

District implementing three-year plan to build on momentum over next three years

(Baltimore, MD)—More Baltimore City Public Schools students are preparing—and proving prepared—for college-level courses now than four years ago, according to the 2011 Advanced Placement (AP) results the district released today.

The number of AP courses offered in City Schools' high schools has increased 138 percent from 2007 to 2011, the number of schools offering AP courses is up 123 percent and the number of students taking them is up 125 percent. And with this growth in participation has come an increase in the student performance. The number of AP exams taken in City Schools is up 97 percent from 2007 to 2011, and the number of exams on which students achieved "college mastery," or an exam score of 3 or higher, is up from 290 in 2007 to 500 in 2011, a four-year increase of 72 percent.

City Schools' 2011 AP results also show year-to-year growth over 2010. The number of AP exams taken in the district was up 10 percent last year, from 2,151 in 2010 to 2,374 in 2011; the number of exams on which students achieved college mastery-level scores was up 34 percent, from 373 in 2010 to 500 in 2011; and the percentage of exams with college mastery scores was up from 17.3 percent in 2010 to 21 percent in 2011.



“The growth over the last four years is quite dramatic and clearly shows that more of our students want, and are preparing to pursue college,” said City Schools CEO Andrés A. Alonso. “Where the focus needs to be in the next four years is on getting them there. That means we need more students taking AP courses and exams and achieving college mastery scores on those exams, which in turn means we need to make sure that City Schools’ AP offerings meet the highest possible standard for rigor.”

While the percentage of exams with college mastery-level scores in 2011 was up over 2010, it is still just 21 percent, compared to nearly 62 percent for Maryland and 60 percent for the nation. To address this gap and aggressively increase the percentage of City Schools students passing AP exams, City Schools is launching a

three-year plan this year to strengthen both its AP courses and students' AP performance. The plan covers three key areas: professional development of AP teachers, a review of AP materials and curriculum and earlier identification and preparation of candidates for AP courses and exams.

City Schools also released its 2011 SAT results today. Overall SAT scores for the district were down slightly from last year, but the decline was one-third less than the declines reported by both the state and nation. City Schools' overall average score on the SAT was 1,140 in 2011, down from 1,142 in 2010, a decline of 0.2 percent. The overall average score for the state, meanwhile, was 1,492 in 2011, down from 1,498 in 2010, a decline of six points or 0.4 percent; and the overall average score for the nation was 1,500 in 2011, down from 1,506 in 2010, a decline of six points or 0.4 percent. Over time, City Schools has shown slight growth in its SAT scores; the district's 2011 overall average score of 1,140 is up from 1,136 in 2007. (A comparison to 2004 is not possible because the SAT only tested reading and math at that time; now it tests reading, math and writing.)

City Schools' 2011 SAT participation rate is also up significantly over 2010, and considerably more when compared to 2004. The number of City Schools students who took the SAT in 2011 is up 6.2 percent from 2010 and 49 percent from 2004. By comparison, the state's participation numbers are up 0.9 percent from 2010, and 15 percent from 2004.

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