



News Release

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Brevard County Schools scores highest on Advanced Placement Tests among ten largest counties in Florida for students scoring 3 or higher

For those scoring 3 or higher, Brevard's 62.5% is also higher than the State's 47.7% and Global 59.6%

Viera – Brevard Public Schools students enrolled in the Advanced Placement (AP) program in Brevard Public Schools have achieved impressive results in their coursework and exams during the 2005-06 academic year. The overall results of the Advanced Placement Test show that the percentage of Brevard students scoring 3 or higher is far greater than students in the state (62.5% compared to 47.7%) and also greater than the global average (62.5% compared to 59.6%). The percentage of total tests with a score of 3 or higher in Brevard in 2006 was 62.5% (0.8% higher than 2005).

"We are extremely pleased to see an increase in students showing improvement in their AP scores," said Dr. Richard A. DiPatri, Superintendent. "Not only has the percentage of students scoring 3 or higher increased, but also the number of Brevard students, including minority participation, taking AP exams has increased. AP coursework provides challenge and rigor for students, and also helps them focus their interests for their future. Research shows that students who take AP courses are much more likely to enter and graduate from college."

The Advanced Placement (AP) Program is a series of college-level courses and examinations for secondary school students. Most colleges and universities in the United States, as well as in more than 30 other countries, recognize AP exam results and award college credit or placement into a higher-level college courses based upon students' success in these curricula. All Florida state colleges and universities award credit by examination equivalencies.

Twenty-seven different AP courses were offered in Brevard's fourteen public high schools in 2005-06. The number of students taking these courses has increased each year, from 1515 in 2001 to 2430 in 2006. The number of tests taken in 2006 has increased, from 2369 in 2001 to 4127 in 2006. Minority participation has increased in the past five years, from 273 candidates taking 428 tests in 2001 to 387 candidates taking 717 tests in 2006.

"While AP enrollment from 2001 to 2006 has increased substantially among Asian, Hispanic and White test-takers," said Dr. DiPatri, "I'm concerned that the number of Black test-takers has not substantially increased in that time period. We have put several solid measures in place that will hopefully boost this group's level of participation in AP courses in the future."

One such program is the guidance counselor initiative. Last summer the district began reviewing individual student records, as well as course requests and schedules of students. This process was used to identify students who have the potential to take more rigorous courses and/or AP courses and then develop a student schedule that would include the more rigorous courses.

Faculty and counselors have also begun carefully reviewing students who score 3 or above on the Florida Comprehensive Achievement Test (FCAT), recommending that these students take more advanced level courses. The College Board provides a service that identifies tenth grade students who score well on the PSAT as those who possess potential to take AP coursework.

According to Dr. Walt Christy, Director of Secondary Programs for the district, students and their families benefit from enrollment and success in AP courses in many important ways. "They may earn credit, advanced placement, or both, for college. They can earn scholarships and save money on college tuition, and even graduate early from college. Their success in AP programs gives students access to public and private universities, as well as community colleges. Because AP courses are rigorous and challenging, the AP program strengthens the link between high school and post high school education and encourages student achievement."

To view all District Test Results for 2006, contact the Office of District Communications for a copy of the Advanced Placement Report 2006.