



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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NUMBER OF STUDENTS TAKING AP TESTS UP; SCORES HIGHER

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – More Kentucky students are taking [Advanced Placement](#) (AP) tests and scoring higher according to data released from the [College Board](#).

Since 2008, the number of Kentucky public high school students taking AP examinations has nearly doubled and the number of tests with a qualifying score of 3, 4, or 5, has increased by 100 percent.

	Number of AP Test-Takers	Number of Tests	Number of Scores 3-5
2008	14,664	23,280	10,925
2009	16,958	27,129	13,178
2010	19,604	31,742	14,837
2011	23,547	37,977	17,404
2012	26,523	43,185	20,316
2013	28,147	45,553	21,922

The most exams were given in English Language and Composition followed by English Literature and Composition, United States History, World History and Calculus AB.

“With more rigorous standards and an emphasis on college/career-readiness, we’re seeing more students take tougher courses and be successful,” said Kentucky Education Commissioner Terry Holliday. “The AdvanceKentucky initiative is contributing significantly to the numbers, especially among students who are traditionally underserved and underrepresented in Advanced Placement courses.”

[AdvanceKentucky](#) is a statewide math-science initiative designed to expand access to, and participation and success in, academically rigorous coursework such as AP classes for Kentucky high school students.

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A total of 88 Kentucky high schools in 67 districts have participated in AdvanceKentucky since its inception in 2008; more than 2,500 pre-AP math, science and English teachers statewide have taken advantage of Advance Kentucky's summer training program. Significantly more students in AdvanceKentucky schools earn higher scores on AP exams when compared with their peers. New research also shows they are less likely to need postsecondary remediation and are more likely to stay in college. AdvanceKentucky is an initiative of the [Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation](#) the state's affiliate of the [National Math and Science Initiative](#) (NMSI).

Since 2008, the AP participation and performance of ethnic groups in Kentucky's public schools has increased significantly, in large part due to the AdvanceKentucky initiative.

NUMBER OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS TAKING ONE OR MORE AP EXAMS - BY ETHNICITY

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
African American	686	814	1,011	1,295	1,412	1,495
American Indian	45	41	60	76	91	116
Asian	602	693	720	832	922	1,044
Hispanic	283	388	448	577	754	869
White	12,511	14,369	16,496	19,794	22,014	23,493
Other	303	409	442	538	582	684
No Response	234	244	427	435	748	446
TOTAL	14,664	16,958	19,604	23,547	26,523	28,147

The number of AP test scores of 3, 4 or 5 has risen for students in all ethnic groups.

NUMBER OF STUDENTSSCORING 3, 4 OR 5 ON AN AP EXAM - BY ETHNICITY

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
African American	204	255	287	372	379	384
American Indian	19	21	25	24	44	45
Asian	406	471	477	561	624	667
Hispanic	150	190	223	301	364	379
White	6,088	7,298	8,247	9,633	10,979	11,854
Other	150	182	199	270	268	342
No Response	112	130	224	170	341	137
TOTAL	7,129	8,547	9,682	11,331	12,999	13,808

Although it varies from school to school, most colleges require a minimum qualifying score of 3 on an AP exam to earn college credit for the course.

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The College Board also has released results from the [SAT](#) college-entrance exam and Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test ([PSAT/NMSQT](#)). The average scores of Kentucky public high school students who took the SAT in 2013 increased in all subjects. At the same time, however, the number of students taking the test decreased dramatically in 2013. Therefore, these data are difficult to interpret.

	SAT CRITICAL READING	SAT MATH	SAT WRITING
2008	566	573	550
2009	575	581	560
2010	578	585	563
2011	578	580	563
2012	580	582	565
2013	587	591	571

Only about 1,200 seniors, approximately 3 percent of Kentucky public school graduates, took the SAT in 2013. Due to the varying degrees of participation among states, and changes in the number of students taking the test each year, the College Board cautions against making between-state or between-year comparisons based on mean scores.

The SAT is a three-hour test that measures verbal and mathematical reasoning skills that students have developed over time and skills they need to be successful academically. Many colleges and universities use the SAT as one indicator of a student's readiness to do college-level work. SAT scores are compared with the scores of other applicants and the accepted scores at an institution and can be used as a basis for awarding merit-based financial aid. Kentucky colleges and universities typically use the ACT as an admission requirement, which is reflected in the small percentage of students who take the SAT.

The SAT is scored on a scale of 200-800 (for math and verbal) and is typically taken by high school juniors and seniors. The test is administered several times a year.

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The mean scores of Kentucky public high school sophomores and juniors who took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) showed slight increases overall at the sophomore and junior levels. The PSAT/NMSQT is scored on a scale of 0 to 80.

YEAR	GRADE LEVEL	NUMBER OF PSAT/NMSQT TEST-TAKERS	MEAN CRITICAL READING	MEAN MATHEMATICS	MEAN WRITING
2008	Sophomore	4,071	47.4	48.0	46.6
2009	Sophomore	4,060	47.3	48.7	46.2
2010	Sophomore	4,509	46.6	47.3	45.7
2011	Sophomore	4,605	47.8	48.7	45.6
2012	Sophomore	3,953	49.1	48.8	46.2
2013	Sophomore	4,208	48.7	49.3	47.2
2008	Junior	8,901	49.6	49.9	48.2
2009	Junior	8,354	49.7	50.8	48.1
2010	Junior	7,802	49.8	50.3	48.4
2011	Junior	7,939	50.9	51.2	48.7
2012	Junior	7,523	51.0	50.7	48.2
2013	Junior	7,604	50.9	51.0	49.6

Some Kentucky public school districts offer the PSAT/NMSQT to students at the 9th-grade level, which may impact the number of students who participate as sophomores. Score information for 9th-grade students is not yet available from the College Board.

The PSAT/NMSQT is co-sponsored by the College Board and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. It's a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT Reasoning Test. The PSAT/NMSQT measures critical reading skills, mathematics problem-solving skills and writing skills.

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