



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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NUMBER OF STUDENTS TAKING AP TESTS UP; SCORES HIGHER

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

In the past five years, the number of Kentucky public high school students taking AP examinations is up 35 percent and the number of tests with a qualifying score of 3, 4, or 5, has increased by 40 percent.

ALL KENTUCKY PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TAKING AP EXAMS

| | Number of Test-Takers | Number of Tests | Number of Scores 3-5 |
|-------------|------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2011 | 23,443 | 37,818 | 17,336 |
| 2012 | 26,451 | 43,079 | 20,264 |
| 2013 | 28,066 | 45,419 | 21,854 |
| 2014 | 30,133 | 48,734 | 23,519 |
| 2015 | 31,658 | 50,593 | 24,311 |

The Advanced Placement program gives high school students the opportunity for college credit in more than 30 subjects, ranging from high-level math and science to fine arts, if they score well on a standardized end-of-course exam. 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.

“A lot of Kentucky’s success in Advanced Placement can be attributed to the AdvanceKentucky initiative,” said Interim Education Commissioner Kevin Brown. “The state has made an investment in AdvanceKentucky and it is paying off based on the number of students who are not only taking higher level coursework, but also are succeeding on AP exams.”

[AdvanceKentucky](#) is a statewide math-science initiative designed to expand access to, and participation and success in academically rigorous coursework such as AP classes. A total of 101 Kentucky public high schools in 74 districts have participated since its inception in 2008. More than 4,500 AP and Pre-AP math, science and English teachers statewide have taken advantage of AdvanceKentucky’s training programs.

(more)

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Significantly more students who attend AdvanceKentucky schools earn qualifying scores on AP exams compared to students in other schools. Also, independent longitudinal research shows that these students earn significantly higher ACT scores, go to college at higher rates, enroll in fewer remedial classes, earn higher GPAs in college, and graduate in a timelier manner.

The AP participation and performance of various student groups in Kentucky’s public high schools likewise has increased significantly under AdvanceKentucky’s mission to engage many more students traditionally underrepresented in AP, including minority and low income students.

**NUMBER OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS TAKING ONE OR MORE AP EXAMS – BY ETHNICITY
ALL KENTUCKY PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS**

| | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| African American | 1,278 | 1,404 | 1,477 | 1,466 | 1,748 |
| American Indian | 76 | 91 | 115 | 120 | 116 |
| Asian | 821 | 916 | 1,036 | 1,093 | 1,203 |
| Hispanic | 568 | 741 | 857 | 965 | 1,117 |
| White | 19,732 | 21,974 | 23,459 | 25,304 | 26,013 |
| Other | 536 | 580 | 677 | 670 | 696 |
| No Response | 432 | 745 | 445 | 515 | 765 |
| TOTAL | 23,443 | 26,451 | 28,066 | 30,133 | 31,658 |

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

**NUMBER OF STUDENTS SCORING 3, 4 OR 5 ON AN AP EXAM – BY ETHNICITY
ALL KENTUCKY PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS**

| | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| African American | 370 | 377 | 378 | 436 | 505 |
| American Indian | 24 | 44 | 455 | 49 | 49 |
| Asian | 555 | 622 | 665 | 752 | 831 |
| Hispanic | 296 | 356 | 371 | 458 | 522 |
| White | 9,600 | 10,959 | 11,833 | 12,618 | 13,067 |
| Other | 269 | 266 | 336 | 334 | 313 |
| No Response | 168 | 338 | 136 | 192 | 240 |
| TOTAL | 11,331 | 12,962 | 13,763 | 14,839 | 15,527 |

Longitudinal research demonstrates significantly more minority and low income students who attend AdvanceKentucky schools go to college and enroll in far fewer remedial courses compared to graduates from other public schools. They are closing the gap with performance patterns very similar to their white colleagues.

AdvanceKentucky is an initiative of the [Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation](http://www.kentucky.gov), in partnership with the Kentucky Department of Education, and is the state’s affiliate with the [National Math and Science Initiative](http://www.nmsi.org).

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The College Board also released results from the [SAT](#) college-entrance exam and the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test ([PSAT/NMSQT](#)).

The average scores of Kentucky public high school students who took the SAT in 2015 were up several points. The SAT is scored on a scale of 200-800 and is typically taken by high school juniors and seniors. The test is administered several times a year.

KENTUCKY PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS MEAN SCORES ON THE SAT

| | SAT CRITICAL READING | SAT MATH | SAT WRITING |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 2011 | 579 | 581 | 564 |
| 2012 | 581 | 583 | 566 |
| 2013 | 588 | 592 | 572 |
| 2014 | 588 | 591 | 571 |
| 2015 | 592 | 596 | 576 |

In 2015, the number of Kentucky students taking the SAT decreased. Only 1,020 seniors, approximately 2.6 percent of Kentucky public school graduates, took the SAT in 2015. 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.

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.

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

KENTUCKY PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TAKING THE PSAT/NMSQT

| YEAR | GRADE LEVEL | NUMBER OF PSAT/NMSQT TEST-TAKERS | MEAN SCORE CRITICAL READING | MEAN SCORE MATHEMATICS | MEAN SCORE WRITING |
|-------------|--------------------|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2011 | Sophomore | 4,605 | 47.8 | 48.7 | 45.6 |
| 2012 | Sophomore | 3,953 | 49.1 | 48.8 | 46.2 |
| 2013 | Sophomore | 4,208 | 49.2 | 49.9 | 47.7 |
| 2014 | Sophomore | 4,229 | 49.7 | 50.6 | 47.7 |
| 2015 | Sophomore | 3,965 | 49.9 | 51.2 | 47.9 |

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|-------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 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 | 51.1 | 51.2 | 49.9 |
| 2014 | Junior | 7,733 | 51.3 | 52.1 | 49.5 |
| 2015 | Junior | 7,194 | 51.8 | 52.7 | 49.9 |

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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