



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE No. 16-108

September 20, 2016

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**INFORMATION EMBARGOED UNTIL
SEPTEMBER 20, 2015 12:01 A.M. ET**

STUDENTS SCORE HIGHER ON ADVANCED PLACEMENT TESTS

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Kentucky students who took rigorous [Advanced Placement](#) (AP) tests in May scored higher according to data released today from the [College Board](#). In fact, the number of students scoring at the top two levels is up between 4 and 5 percent from last year.

However, for the first time in recent years, both the number of test-takers and the number of AP tests given is down. It is thought that may be due to the fee charged for the test.

ALL KENTUCKY PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TAKING AP EXAMS

	Number of Test-Takers	Number of Tests	Number of Scores 3-5
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
2016	30,796	49,960	24,400

Advanced Placement courses are available in more than [35 subjects](#), ranging from high-level math and science to fine arts. Students may opt to take a standardized end-of-course exam at the conclusion of each course and if they score well enough on it, they may earn college credit. 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. It is estimated that taking AP courses and earning a qualifying score saves Kentucky students more than \$23 million a year in college costs. The most widely given tests in Kentucky in the 2015-16 school year were in English Language and Composition, U. S. History and English Literature and Composition.

“While I’m happy to see the number of qualifying scores increase, I’m disappointed that we saw a drop in the number of students choosing to take AP exams,” said Commissioner of Education Stephen Pruitt. “We have to do a better job of ensuring all students have the opportunity to take Advanced Placement courses, and the opportunity to take the tests that could earn them college credit.”

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Last year, the Kentucky Department of Education’s Advanced Placement for All project allowed low income students to take AP exams for free. The project is supported through a grant from the United States Department of Education (USED) and a partial fee waiver by the College Board. Last year 7,466 students, took advantage of fee waivers or reductions. Many more were eligible.

“I’m concerned that a lot more students who could have taken exams didn’t,” Pruitt said. “We need high school AP teachers and counselors to get the word out about this program. The inability to pay for an AP exam should never be a barrier for a student wanting to take an AP exam.”

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

	Number of test takers	Percentage of total test takers	Number of tests given	Number of tests scores 3 or higher
American Indian	89	0.3%	124	40
Asian	1,106	3.6%	2,453	1,633
Black	1,560	5.1%	2,288	626
Hispanic	1,464	4.8%	2,341	985
Pacific Islander	19	0.1%	37	15
2 or more races	1,225	4.0%	1,967	879
White	24,749	80.4%	39,945	19,924
Other	9	0.0%	20	8
No Response	575	1.9%	785	290
TOTAL	30,796	100%	49,960	24,400

**Beginning in the 2015-16 school year, reporting of race/ethnicity was updated to reflect the United States Department of Education guidelines. Due to these changes, it is not possible to make direct comparisons of student group populations in prior years. Race/ethnicity information is self-reported by students.*

According to the College Board, the number of traditionally underrepresented minority students in Kentucky taking an AP exam increased 38 percent in the last year, in part thanks to AdvanceKentucky.

The [AdvanceKentucky](#) initiative, a partnership of the Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation and the Kentucky Department of Education, is designed to expand access to, as well as participation and success in Advanced Placement classes, especially among those who are traditionally underrepresented, including minority and low income students. AdvanceKentucky has served about 95,000 students in 109 Kentucky public high schools since its inception in 2008.

The data shows significantly more students who attend AdvanceKentucky schools earn qualifying scores on AP exams compared to students in other schools. Qualifying scores on math, science, and English exams were up 77 percent among schools in the newest AdvanceKentucky cohort, consistent with every cohort in the first year of participation in open enrollment with AdvanceKentucky. Independent longitudinal research shows that these students earn significantly higher ACT scores, go to college at higher rates, enroll in fewer remedial classes, earn

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higher GPAs in college, and graduate in a timelier manner.

The College Board also released results from the [SAT](#) college-entrance exam, the PSAT 10 and the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test ([PSAT/NMSQT](#)).

The PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10 are the same assessment offered at different times of year. The standardized test provides firsthand practice for the SAT test and is designed to measure the essential knowledge and skills for college and career readiness and success, as shown by research. The PSAT 10 is typically taken by 10th graders, and PSAT/NMSQT is typically taken by 10th and 11th graders.

Potential scores on each section of the PSAT 10 and PSAT/NMSQT – Math and Evidence-based Reading and Writing (ERW) – range from 160 to 760.

KENTUCKY PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TAKING THE PSAT 10 or PSAT/NMSQT*

	NUMBER OF TEST-TAKERS	TOTAL MEAN SCORE	ERW MEAN SCORE	MATH MEAN SCORE
Sophomores	4,163	1075	548	526
Juniors	6,493	1120	572	548

** The College Board redesigned the PSAT/NMSQT in October 2015 and introduced the PSAT 10 in February 2016. Statistical information for the two assessments are combined and reported by grade level. Students are counted once per grade and only their latest scores are included. Since this is the first year for the redesigned test, mean score trend data is not reported.*

The average scores of Kentucky public high school students who took the SAT in 2016 were up in each area by at least a dozen points. The SAT assesses student reasoning based on knowledge and skills developed by the students in their course work. It 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*

	CRITICAL READING	MATH	WRITING
2012	581	583	566
2013	588	592	572
2014	588	591	571
2015	592	596	576
2016	609	614	588

**Statistical information is based on a year's graduating seniors and may include exams taken at any time during each student's high school career, through the January 2016 administration. The College Board redesigned the SAT test this year and first administered it in March 2016. This report includes only those students who took the SAT prior to that date. Students are counted only once, no matter how often they tested, and only their latest scores are included in this report.*

About 900 students, approximately 2 percent of Kentucky public school graduates, took the SAT in 2016. 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.

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