



New Jersey Students' Advanced Placement Scores and Participation Increase

For Immediate Release

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Trenton, NJ – Today the College Board released data showing 28 percent of New Jersey's students in the class of 2017 successfully passed an Advanced Placement (AP) exam, moving the state from ninth to seventh in the nation. Nationally, 22.8 percent of the total number of students in the class of 2017 who took an AP test scored a 3 or higher, which is considered passing on the exam's five-point scale.

"Our students are on the path to leading the nation in AP exam achievement," said Dr. Lamont O. Repollet, Acting Commissioner of Education. "This means more schools are helping make college more affordable to more students."

Additionally, many New Jersey public schools have embraced technology by participating in the newly launched Computer Science Principles AP course. Eighty two percent of the students in New Jersey who participated in the first year received a score of 3 or higher on the exam, compared to the national average of 71 percent.

While New Jersey students continue to participate and succeed on AP exams, economically disadvantaged students remain underrepresented. Of the 36.8 percent of all students in New Jersey who are eligible for free and reduced price lunch, 16.4 percent took an AP exam and 12 percent passed.

Some school districts are working to expand access to AP courses to more students. For instance, 71 percent of Weehawken High School's 11th and 12th graders had taken one or more AP exams – more than double the state average, and a 389 percent increase in participation since 2012-13, according to New Jersey School Performance Report data. A total of 39 New Jersey districts made the College Board's "AP District Honor Roll," such as Dover Township, which saw its AP exam participation increase by more than 200 percent in the past three years.

Successful completion of AP courses can allow students to receive credit at some colleges and universities, or qualify those students for advanced coursework in college. Currently, 35 AP courses are available.

Information about each high school's Advanced Placement offerings can be found in the [NJ School Performance Reports](#) Detailed Report under "College and Career Readiness."

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