Virginia

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About This Report

This report provides educators and policymakers with information they can use to celebrate their successes, understand their unique challenges, and set meaningful goals to increase opportunity for all students. It’s important to note that while AP Exams are valid measures of students’ content mastery of college-level studies in specific academic disciplines, AP results should never be used as the sole measure for gauging educational excellence and equity.

Because reliable demographic data for nonpublic schools are not available for all states, this report represents public school students only. Additionally, this report looks at students’ entire experience with AP — tracking exams taken by graduates throughout their high school careers — as opposed to reporting exam results from a particular calendar year.

Additional data are available at apreport.collegeboard.org.

Note: Throughout this report, public high school graduates represent projections supplied in Knocking at the College Door (Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, 2008).
Figure 1 | Growth in AP® participation and success

- Number of graduates leaving high school having taken an AP® Exam
- Number of graduates scoring 3+ on an AP Exam during high school

![Circle chart showing growth in AP participation and success from 2002 to 2012]

More graduates are succeeding on AP Exams today than took them in 2002

Figure 2 | Participation in and success on AP Exams in the class of 2012

- Percentage of graduates leaving high school having taken an AP Exam
- Percentage of graduates scoring 3+ on an AP Exam during high school

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>0%</th>
<th>30%</th>
<th>60%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
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<td>English</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
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<td>History and Social Sciences</td>
<td>33.9%</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
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<td>Mathematics and Computer Science</td>
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<td>Sciences</td>
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<td>World Languages</td>
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<tr>
<td>Any Discipline</td>
<td>42.4%</td>
<td>27.2%</td>
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</table>

Total Number of Graduates: 79,257

History and social sciences had the greatest number of graduates scoring a 3 or higher

*The AP Computer Science AB, French Literature, and Latin Literature Exams were last offered in the 2008-09 school year. AP Italian Language and Culture was discontinued after the 2008-09 school year, and was reinstated in 2011-12.
## Figure 3 | Score distributions of AP Exams taken by the class of 2012 during high school

**Ten Most Popular AP Exams**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>No. of Exams</th>
<th>Score of 1</th>
<th>Score of 2</th>
<th>Score of 3</th>
<th>Score of 4</th>
<th>Score of 5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>United States Government and Politics</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>Computer Science A</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Italian Language and Culture*</td>
<td>2</td>
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</table>

*Due to rounding, percentages do not always add up to 100.0.

*AP Italian Language and Culture was discontinued after the 2008-09 school year, and was reinstated in 2011-12.

Discontinued subjects, as well as those with fewer than five AP Exam takers, were omitted from this figure.
Low Income

Figure 4 | Trends in AP Exam participation and success

The percentage or number of ...
- graduates leaving high school having taken an AP Exam
- graduates scoring 3+ on an AP Exam during high school

... who are from low-income backgrounds

10,921 exams were taken by low-income graduates in the class of 2012

At time of press, the numbers of low-income students for each graduating class and for low-income AP Exam takers prior to the class of 2003 were not available.
Black/African American

Figure 5 | Trends in AP Exam participation and success

The percentage or number of...
- students in the graduating class
- graduates leaving high school having taken an AP Exam
- graduates scoring 3+ on an AP Exam during high school

...who are black/African American

4,442 black/African American graduates in the class of 2012 took an AP Exam during high school

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<td>18,985</td>
<td>19,639</td>
<td>18,825</td>
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<td>1,623</td>
<td>2,584</td>
<td>4,083</td>
<td>4,442</td>
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<td></td>
<td>573</td>
<td>892</td>
<td>1,364</td>
<td>1,588</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The percentage or number of ...
- students in the graduating class
- graduates leaving high school having taken an AP Exam
- graduates scoring 3+ on an AP Exam during high school

... who are Hispanic/Latino

2,573
Hispanic/Latino graduates in the class of 2012 took an AP Exam during high school
American Indian/Alaska Native

Figure 7 | Trends in AP Exam participation and success

The percentage or number of...
- students in the graduating class
- graduates leaving high school having taken an AP Exam
- graduates scoring 3+ on an AP Exam during high school
... who are American Indian/Alaska Native

160 American Indian/Alaska Native graduates in the class of 2012 took an AP Exam during high school.

The 9th Annual AP Report to the Nation | Virginia Supplement
A Closer Look at Equity Gaps in AP Participation and Success
Asian/Asian American/Pacific Islander

Figure 8 | Trends in AP Exam participation and success

The percentage or number of...
- students in the graduating class
- graduates leaving high school having taken an AP Exam
- graduates scoring 3+ on an AP Exam during high school

...who are Asian/Asian American/Pacific Islander

3,762
Asian/Asian American/Pacific Islander graduates in the class of 2012 took an AP Exam during high school

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A Closer Look at Equity Gaps in AP Participation and Success

The percentage of specific population in the graduating class of...

- 2002: 6.9%
- 2007: 12.4%
- 2011: 11.2%
- 2012: 11.2%

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Graduating Class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>3,353</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>4,418</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>5,323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>5,466</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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CollegeBoard
White

Figure 9 | Trends in AP Exam participation and success

The percentage or number of...
- students in the graduating class
- graduates leaving high school having taken an AP Exam
- graduates scoring 3+ on an AP Exam during high school

... who are white

20,464 white graduates in the class of 2012 took an AP Exam during high school
About the College Board
The College Board is a mission-driven not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the College Board was created to expand access to higher education. Today, the membership association is made up of over 6,000 of the world’s leading educational institutions and is dedicated to promoting excellence and equity in education. Each year, the College Board helps more than seven million students prepare for a successful transition to college through programs and services in college readiness and college success — including the SAT® and the Advanced Placement Program®. The organization also serves the education community through research and advocacy on behalf of students, educators and schools.

For further information, visit www.collegeboard.org.