

REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Office of Superintendent of Schools
Board of Education Meeting of October 11, 2012

SUBJECT: BOARD MONITORING SYSTEM—GOAL 1, SECTION G: INCREASE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS TAKING ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMS AND SCORING THREE OR HIGHER

At the February 11, 2010, meeting, the Houston Independent School District (HISD) Board of Education implemented a revised Board Monitoring System in order to efficiently maintain and measure HISD's goals and core values. The monitoring system was designed to give district administrators clear direction on how to meet the board's expectations in these crucial areas.

Board Policy AE(LOCAL) states “[T]he administration shall report to the Board of Education on each goal and core value using the specific method and timing set out below, . . .”

In reference to the district's **Goal 1: Increase Student Achievement**, the attached report provides information regarding **Section G: Increase the Number of Students Taking Advanced Placement Exams and Scoring Three or Higher**. The policy states that “[T]he administration shall provide the Board of Education with a bar graph reflecting the number of students taking Advanced Placement (AP) courses and AP exams. A second graph will show the number of examinations taken and the number and percent of AP exams scored at a three or higher. Also presented will be the percent of students taking AP courses, AP exams, and exams scored three or higher by campus for two years. Relevant data for International Baccalaureate (IB) enrollment and examinations taken will also be provided.

Timing: The report will be available to the Board of Education in October of each year.”

The attached reports provide the information requested for the 2011–2012 school year.



Board Monitoring System: Indicator G

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose

The Houston Independent School District (HISD) exists to strengthen the social and economic foundation of Houston by assuring its youth the highest-quality elementary and secondary education available anywhere. In fulfilling this goal, HISD's Board of Education has designed a program to systematically monitor the district's goals and core values. The Board Monitoring System will report on each goal and core value on a routine basis. The goal currently under review is to increase the number of students taking advanced placement courses, exams and the number and percentage of students scoring three or higher (Goal 1, Section G).

Findings

Number of Students Taking Advanced Placement (AP) Courses, Exams and the Number and Percentage of Students Scoring 3 or Higher

- In 2011–2012, 13,195 high-school students enrolled in AP courses, and 13,403 high school students took at least one AP exam; once again this is the largest total of AP test takers in HISD over the last six years. In 2010–2011, 11,825 students enrolled in an AP course and 12,298 took an AP subject test (**Figure 1**). In both years, there were more students taking an AP exam than there were students taking an AP course. The district's goal was met.
- The number of AP exams taken by high-school students increased by 9 percent, from 21,347 in 2011 to 23,227 in 2012 (**Figure 2**). The district did not meet the target for a 10-percent annual increase in the number of AP exams taken annually.
- Over the past six years, the number of Advanced Placement (AP) exams taken by HISD high-school students has increased from 9,088 in 2007 to 23,227 in 2012 (**Figure 2**) representing the largest total number of exams taken in HISD history. This is a 156 percent increase over the past six years.
- While the number of exams scored at a 3 or higher has increased from 6,657 in 2011 to 7,106 in 2012 at the high-school level, the percentage has remained the same at 31 percent in 2011 and 2012 (**Figure 2**). It is not unusual, when increasing the number of AP tests taken and providing more students than ever before the opportunity to take AP exams, to see a dip in the percentage scoring a 3 or higher. Based on this same percentage of AP exams that scored at 3 or higher from 2011 to 2012, the district did not meet its target for an increase of two percentage points annually.
- At the middle-school level, 273 students were enrolled in AP courses in 2012, and 336 middle-school students took AP exams (**Figure 3**). From 2007 to 2012, the number of AP exams taken has increased from 48 to 336, an increase of 600 percent. While the number of exams scored at 3 or higher has increased from 197 in 2011 to 214 in 2012, the percentage scoring 3 or higher decreased slightly from 65 percent in 2011 to 64 percent in 2012 (**Figure 4**).
- The percentages of students in grades 10–12 taking at least one AP exam, the total number of exams taken, and the number and percentages of exams scored at 3 or higher for 2010–2011 and 2011–2012 is presented by campus in **Table 1**, and corresponding data for students in grades 8 and 9 are presented in **Table 2**. Fifteen high schools of the campuses who offered AP exams in both school years met the district target of increasing the number of AP exams taken

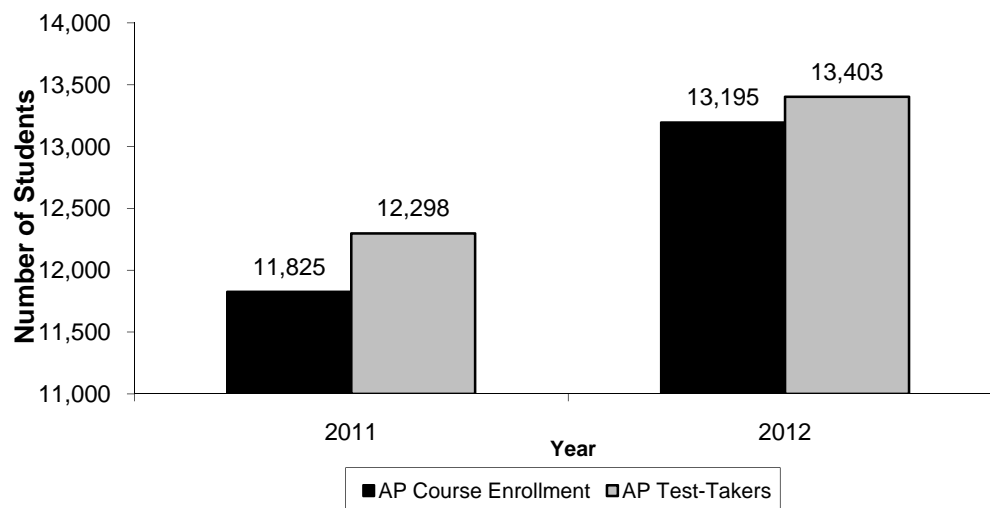
and both the number and percent of exams scored at 3 or higher from 2010–2011 to 2011–2012, for students in grades 10–12.

- Relevant international baccalaureate (IB) data are provided (see **Figure 5**) for 2011 and 2012.

Administrative Response

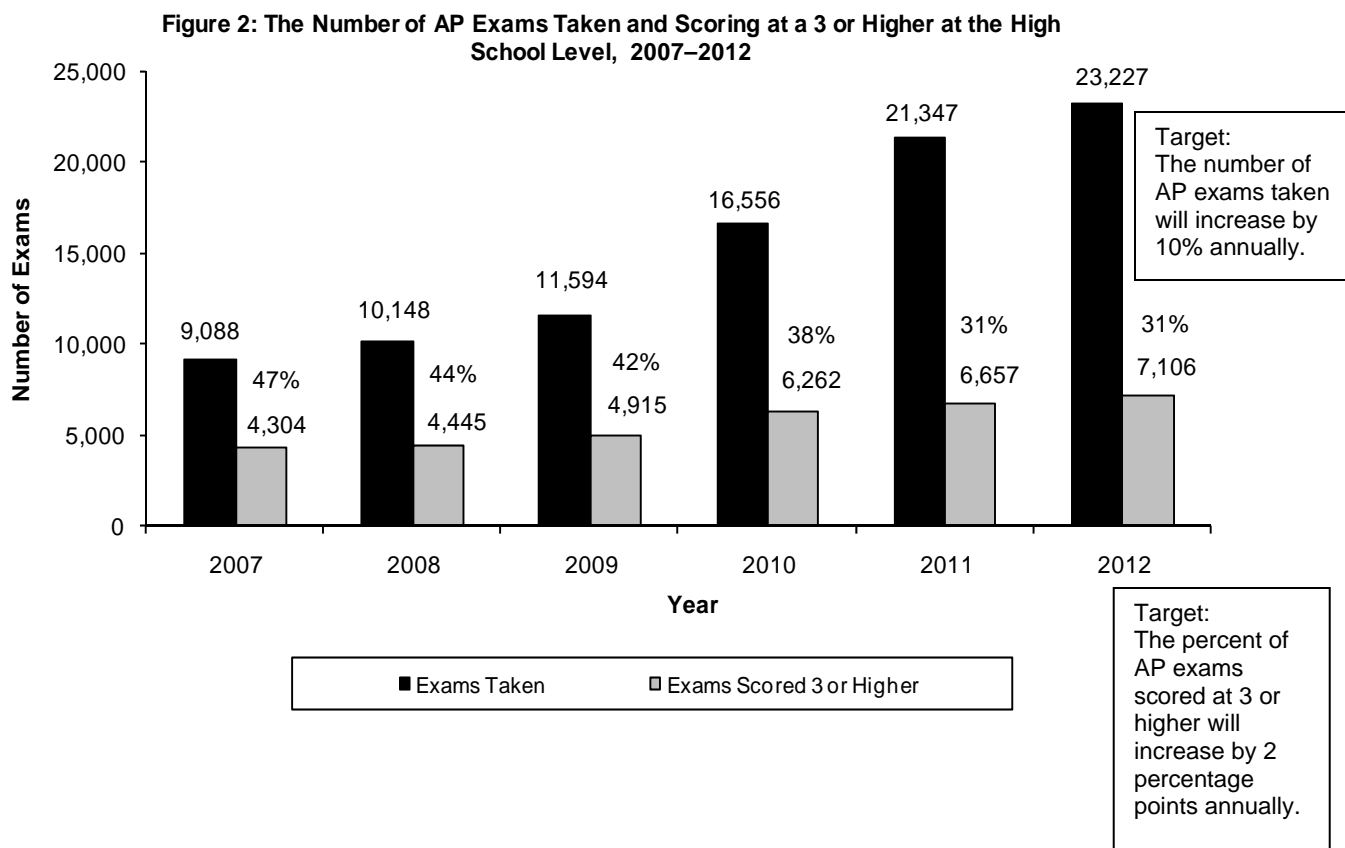
Houston ISD's Advanced Placement program continues to focus on providing professional development based on the data indicated in this report as well as what teachers have indicated they need. By working directly with organizations such as College Board and Laying the Foundation, training offered for Pre-AP and AP teachers provides direct instruction on strategies that assist students. In addition, HISD has begun hosting AP Professional Learning Community for HISD AP teachers to participate in throughout the year. Led by highly effective HISD AP teachers, this program will provide participants the opportunity to share best practices and ideas for the AP classroom in 16 different AP subjects. The district's efforts to provide teachers with specific professional development are also aligned to HISD's AP results. The growth in HISD's AP numbers for both participation and performance are an indication of the dedication of HISD AP teachers, administrators and students who have come to understand the importance of this program.

Figure 1: The Number of High School Students Taking AP Courses and AP Exams



Target:
All students
taking AP
courses will
take AP exams.

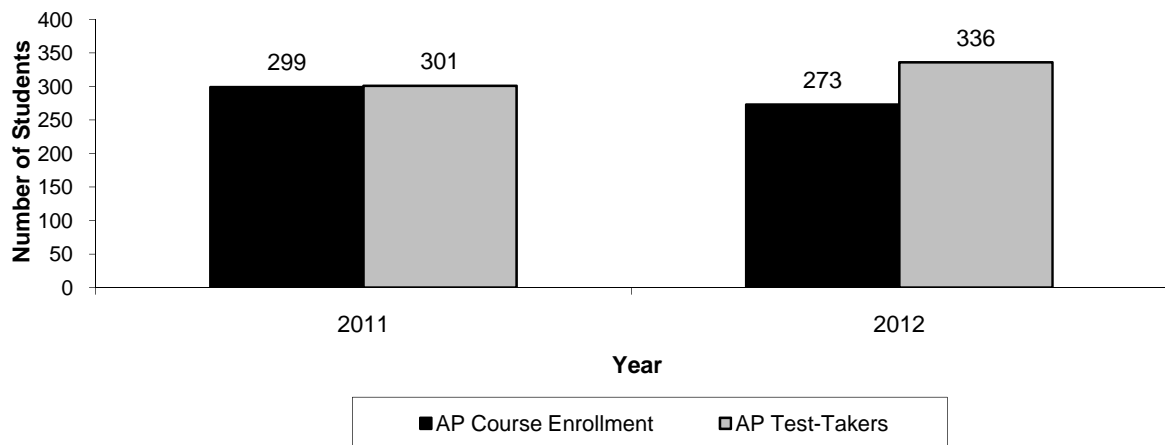
Source: The College Board Reports, 2011 data disk August 23, 2011; 2012 data disk July 30, 2012
Chancery 2010–2012, End of Year data include only students with “active” status. Data reflect the most current information available.



Note: Pending university or college requirements, students scoring 3 or higher qualify to get college credit, advanced placement, or both.

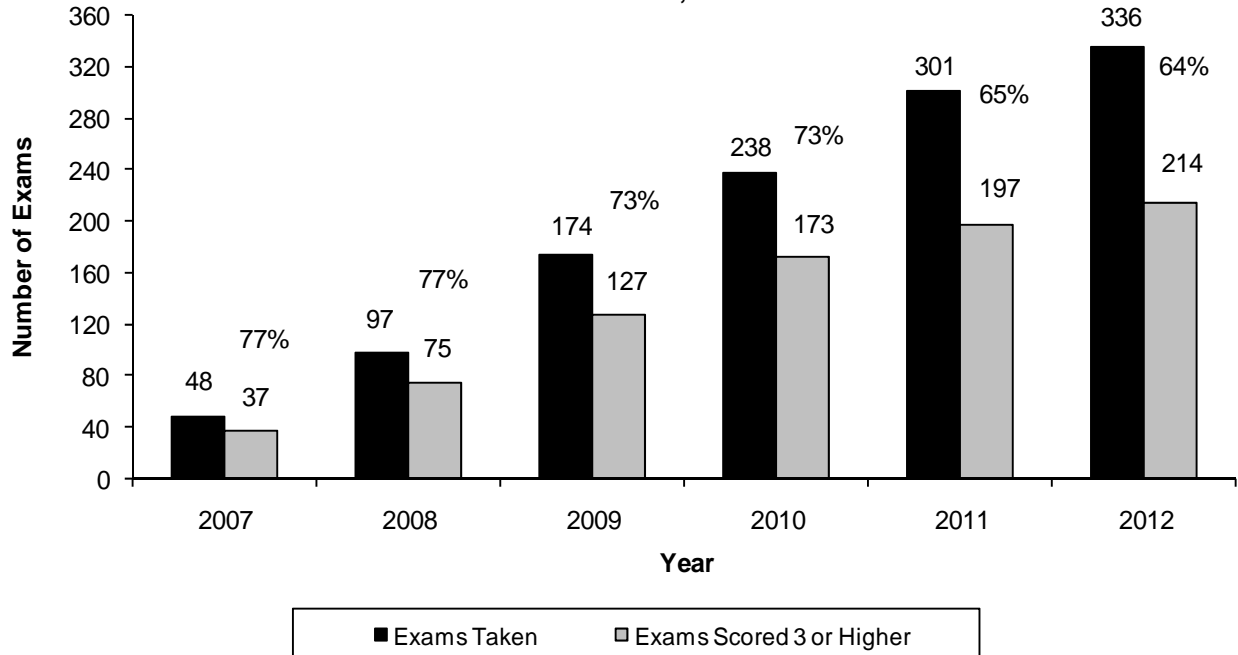
Source: The College Board Reports, 2007–2012. Data reflect the most current information available.

Figure 3. The Number of Middle School Students Taking AP Courses and AP Exams



Source: The College Board Reports, 2011 data disk August 23, 2011; 2012 data disk July 30, 2012. Chancery 2010–2012, End of Year data include only students with “active” status. Data reflect the most current information available.

Figure 4. The Number of AP Exams Taken and Scoring at a 3 or Higher at the Middle School Level, 2007-2012



Note: Pending university or college requirements, students scoring 3 or higher qualify to get college credit, advanced placement, or both.

Source: The College Board Reports, 2007–2012. Data reflect the most current information available.

Table 1: 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 Advanced Placement Campus Data, Grades 10-12

	2010–2011				2011–2012			
Campus	Percent of Students Taking an AP Course	Number of AP Exams Taken	Number of Exams Scored at 3+	Percent of AP Exams Scored at 3+	Percent of Students Taking an AP Course	Number of AP Exams Taken	Number of Exams Scored at 3+	Percent of AP Exams Scored at 3+
Austin**	17.7	428	69	16.1	27.3	516	105	20.3
Bellaire**	34.9	2,561	2,022	79.0	36.9	2,590	2,128	82.2
Carnegie Vanguard**	100.0	789	494	62.6	100.0	814	533	65.5
Challenge	49.8	239	65	27.2	47.2	217	74	34.1
Chavez**	30.0	856	146	17.1	33.8	944	162	17.2
CLC HS	4.4	13	0	0.0	20.8	6	0	0.0
Davis	24.6	550	113	20.5	29.7	549	114	20.8
DeBakey**	66.5	971	834	85.9	68.0	991	878	88.6
East Early College	86.6	374	45	12.0	55.4	268	58	21.6
Eastwood**	77.3	521	142	27.3	74.7	530	197	37.2
Empowerment**	100.0	11	0	0.0	101.7	63	4	6.3
Energ. E-STEM West	100.0	0	-	-	100.0	66	0	0.0
Energ. E-STEM	100.0	263	18	6.8	100.0	332	1	0.3
Furr	68.8	596	25	4.2	71.1	583	13	2.2
Houston Acad Int'l**	63.6	275	15	5.5	81.1	324	51	15.7
Houston MST**	19.6	478	41	8.6	24.9	788	111	14.1
HSLECJ	73.0	448	60	13.4	83.8	636	62	9.7
HSPVA	76.8	626	286	45.7	77.3	706	305	43.2
Jones	21.4	142	7	4.9	32.1	168	1	0.6
Barbara Jordan**	29.9	344	25	7.3	45.1	394	33	8.4
Kashmere	19.8	127	0	0.0	18.3	112	0	0.0

Table 1 cont'd: 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 Advanced Placement Campus Data, Grades 10-12								
	2010-2011				2011-2012			
Campus	Percent of Students Taking an AP Course	Number of AP Exams Taken	Number of Exams Scored at 3+	Percent of AP Exams Scored at 3+	Percent of Students Taking an AP Course	Number of AP Exams Taken	Number of Exams Scored at 3+	Percent of AP Exams Scored at 3+
Lamar**	28.7	659	84	12.7	33.6	1,095	170	15.5
Lee	25.0	566	118	20.8	30.6	562	53	9.4
Madison	24.7	516	30	5.8	24.7	483	39	8.1
Milby**	20.4	735	160	21.8	25.4	796	185	23.2
Mt. Carmel Academy	33.8	110	8	7.3	22.4	93	7	7.5
N. Houston Early Coll.	56.3	174	97	55.7	50.7	219	19	8.7
Reagan	24.6	531	93	17.5	28.3	709	109	15.4
Scarborough	19.6	191	33	17.3	39.8	281	18	6.4
Sharpstown HS**	34.7	430	13	3.0	38.8	639	79	12.4
Sharpstown Int'l**	77.3	275	21	7.6	67.7	290	38	13.1
South Early C. HS	100.0	48	0	0.0	-	-	-	-
Sterling	24.5	252	9	3.6	22.7	205	3	1.5
Waltrip	29.9	531	92	17.3	31.3	566	98	17.3
Washington	26.5	253	49	19.4	29.2	196	26	13.3
Westbury	23.5	756	100	13.2	35.8	1,039	125	12.0
Westside	47.4	1,973	858	43.5	44.6	1,664	751	45.1
Wheatley**	20.6	173	3	1.7	24.2	316	14	4.4
Worthing	31.0	339	5	1.5	24.8	220	7	3.2
Yates	19.2	241	5	2.1	23.1	162	0	0.0
HISD	31.7	19,367	6,185	31.9	35.7	21,132	6,571	31.1

*Less than 5 exams met the criteria.

**Met goal of increasing both the number of exams taken and percentage scored at 3+.

Note: Only results for students with "active" status as of the last day of the school year were included for analysis. Source for AP data: 2010-2011 from College Board electronic file, August 23, 2011; 2011-2012 from College Board electronic file, July 30, 2012

Table 2: 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 Advanced Placement Campus Data, Grades 8 and 9

	2010–2011				2011–2012			
Campus	Number of Students Taking an AP Course	Number of AP Exams Taken	Number of Exams Scored at 3+	Percent of AP Exams Scored at 3+	Number of Students Taking an AP Course	Number of AP Exams Taken	Number of Exams Scored at 3+	Percent of AP Exams Scored at 3+
Austin	22	24	0	0.0	0	0	-	-
Bellaire	0	15	9	60.0	0	8	6	75.0
Carnegie Vanguard	149	151	85	56.3	175	172	117	68.0
Challenge	115	140	33	23.6	123	151	59	39.1
Chavez	7	157	41	26.1	37	126	36	28.6
Davis	0	2	*	*	0	3	*	*
DeBakey	0	0	-	-	0	1	*	*
East Early College	0	9	6	66.7	0	40	18	45.0
Eastwood	0	11	9	81.8	8	54	32	59.3
Empowerment	0	0	-	-	39	42	5	11.9
Energized E-STEM	0	43	0	0.0	11	23	0	0.0
Furr	68	84	7	8.3	64	65	3	4.6
Hope Acad.	0	1	*	*	0	0	-	-
Houston 9 th C.P.	0	2	*	*	-	-	-	-
Houston Acad Int'l	107	100	2	2.0	2	13	8	61.5
Houston MST	0	2	*	*	0	0	-	-
HSLECJ	7	6	2	33.3	8	8	4	50.0
HSPVA	1	4	*	*	1	1	*	*

Table 2 cont'd: 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 Advanced Placement Campus Data, Grades 8 and 9

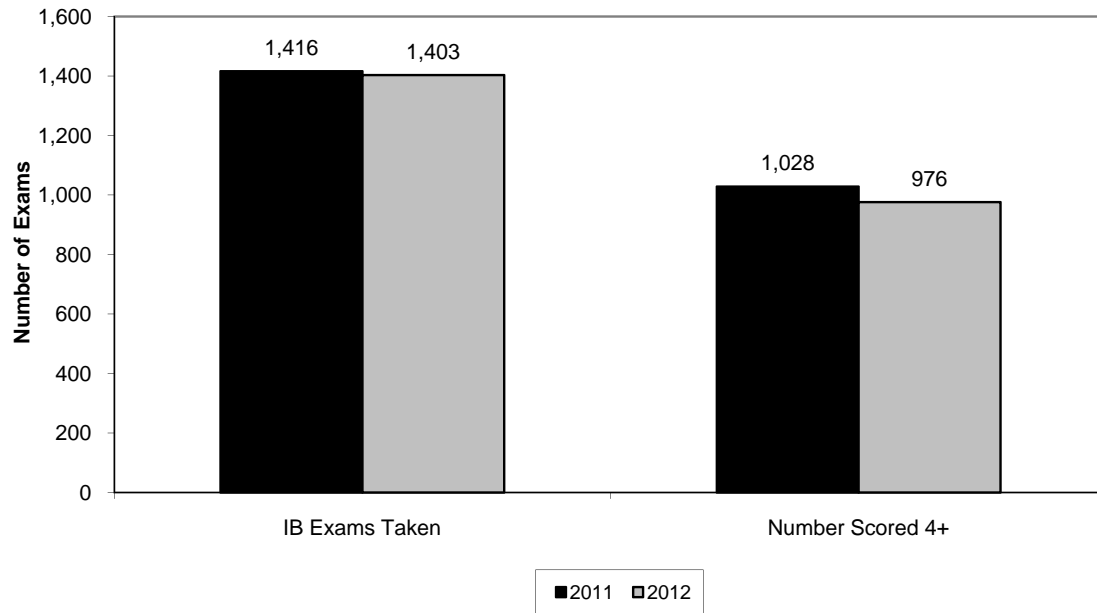
	2010-2011				2011-2012			
Campus	Number of Students Taking an AP Course	Number of AP Exams Taken	Number of Exams Scored at 3+	Percent of AP Exams Scored at 3+	Number of Students Taking an AP Course	Number of AP Exams Taken	Number of Exams Scored at 3+	Percent of AP Exams Scored at 3+
Jones	2	1	*	*	4	2	*	*
Barbara Jordan	0	9	4	44.4	0	7	3	42.9
Kashmere	12	13	0	0.0	0	0	-	-
Lamar	506	488	92	18.9	635	615	75	12.2
Lee	5	9	2	22.2	2	1	*	*
Madison	1	13	0	0.0	62	40	0	0.0
Milby	0	43	12	27.9	1	43	19	44.2
N. Houston Early Coll.	4	50	26	52.0	2	2	*	*
Reagan	26	24	2	8.3	37	12	3	25.0
Scarborough	13	16	0	0.0	36	33	0	0.0
Sharpstown HS	20	21	0	0.0	37	61	7	11.5
Sharpstown Int'l (Gr 9)	72	91	17	18.7	53	61	8	13.1
South Early C. HS	13	14	1	7.1	-	-	-	-
Sterling	6	2	*	*	1	1	*	*
Waltrip	1	10	5	50.0	0	1	*	*
Washington	2	2	*	*	99	55	0	0.0
Westbury	15	104	21	20.2	5	87	18	20.7
Westside	216	283	91	32.1	119	186	85	45.7
Wheatley	28	27	0	0.0	33	29	0	0.0
Worthing	2	3	*	*	6	8	0	0.0
Yates	1	2	*	*	1	0	-	-
YW College Prep	-	-	-	-	77	81	1	1.2

Table 2 cont'd: 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 Advanced Placement Campus Data, Grades 8 and 9								
	2010–2011				2011–2012			
Campus	Number of Students Taking an AP Course	Number of AP Exams Taken	Number of Exams Scored at 3+	Percent of AP Exams Scored at 3+	Number of Students Taking an AP Course	Number of AP Exams Taken	Number of Exams Scored at 3+	Percent of AP Exams Scored at 3+
Burbank MS	98	96	56	58.3	88	97	62	63.9
Hamilton MS	0	0	-	-	-	2	*	*
Jackson MS	10	8	4	50.0	12	12	6	50.0
Johnston MS	26	26	23	88.5	29	29	19	65.5
Lanier MS	12	12	10	83.3	19	27	22	81.5
Long MS	36	34	18	52.9	25	44	27	61.4
Pershing MS	17	20	17	85.0	19	19	12	63.2
Pin Oak MS	24	24	15	62.5	24	24	21	87.5
Project Chrysalis	24	24	22	91.7	0	0	-	-
Revere MS	0	0	-	-	15	16	13	81.3
Sharpstown Int'l (Gr 8)	18	18	12	66.7	0	6	0	0.0
Westbriar MS	15	15	13	86.7	13	12	12	100.0
Wharton	19	19	4	21.1	29	28	16	57.1
HISD	1,720	2,270	668	29.4	1,951	2,348	725	30.9

*Less than 5 exams met the criteria.

Note: Only results for students with “active” status as of the last day of the school year were included for analysis. Source for AP data: 2010–2011 from College Board electronic file, August 23, 2011; 2011–2012 from College Board electronic file, July 30, 2012.

Figure 5: 2011 and 2012 IB Exams Participation and Performance



Note: Exam totals as of September 2012, including only exams that were scored. Total does not include no-shows and pending results.