



Board Monitoring System: Indicator G

Purpose

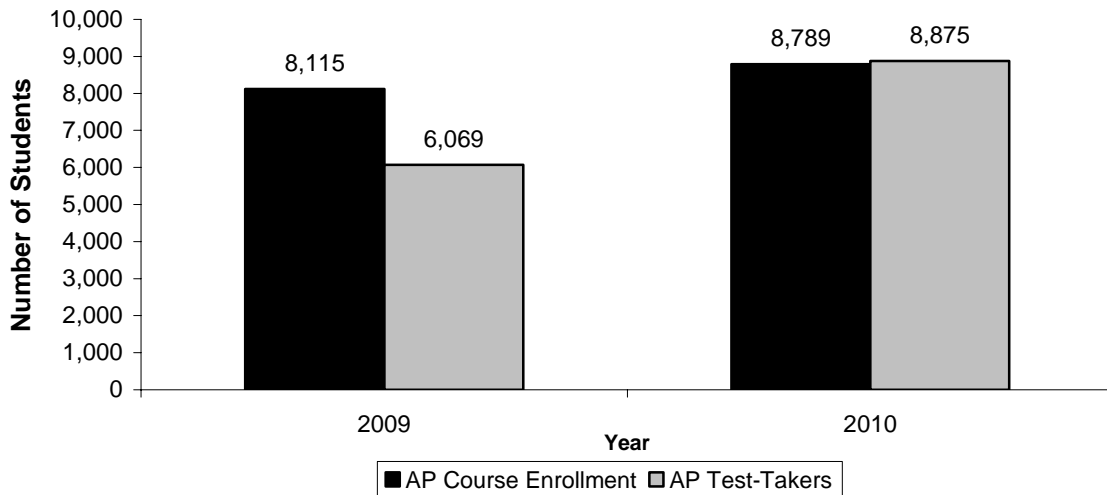
The Houston Independent School District (HISD) exists to strengthen the social and economic foundation of Houston by assuring its youth the highest-quality elementary and secondary education available anywhere. In fulfilling this goal, HISD's Board of Education has designed a program to systematically 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 2009–2010, 8,789 high-school students enrolled in AP courses, and 8,875 high school students took at least one AP exam, for a 99 percent participation rate. In 2008–2009, 6,069 of the 8,115 high-school students who enrolled in AP courses took an AP subject test (Figure 1). The district nearly met its target of 100 percent.
- The number of AP exams taken by high-school students increased by 43 percent, from 11,594 in 2009 to 16,556 in 2010 (Figure 2). The district exceeded the target for a 10 percent annual increase in the number of AP exams taken annually by 33 percentage points.
- Over the past six years, the number of Advanced Placement (AP) exams taken by HISD high-school students has increased from 7,169 in 2005 to 16,556 in 2010 (Figure 2).
- While the number of exams scored at a 3 or higher has increased from 4,915 in 2009 to 6,262 in 2010 at the high-school level, the percentage has decreased to 38 percent in 2010 from 42 percent in 2009 (Figure 2). Based on this decline in the percentage of AP exams that scored at 3 or higher, the district did not meet its target for an increase of two percentage points annually.
- At the middle-school level, 180 students were enrolled in AP courses in 2010, and 238 middle-school students from 11 campuses took AP exams (Figure 3). From 2005 to 2010, the number of AP exams taken has increased from 19 to 238. While the number of exams scored at 3 or higher has increased from 127 in 2009 to 173 in 2010, the percentage scoring 3 remained constant at 73 percent in 2009 and 2010 (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 2008–2009 and 2009–2010 is presented by campus in Table 1, and corresponding data for students in grades 8 and 9 are presented in Table 2. Twelve high schools of the campuses who offered AP exams in both schools 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 2008–2009 to 2009–2010, for students in grades 10–12.
- Relevant IB data are provided (see Figure 5) for 2009 and 2010.

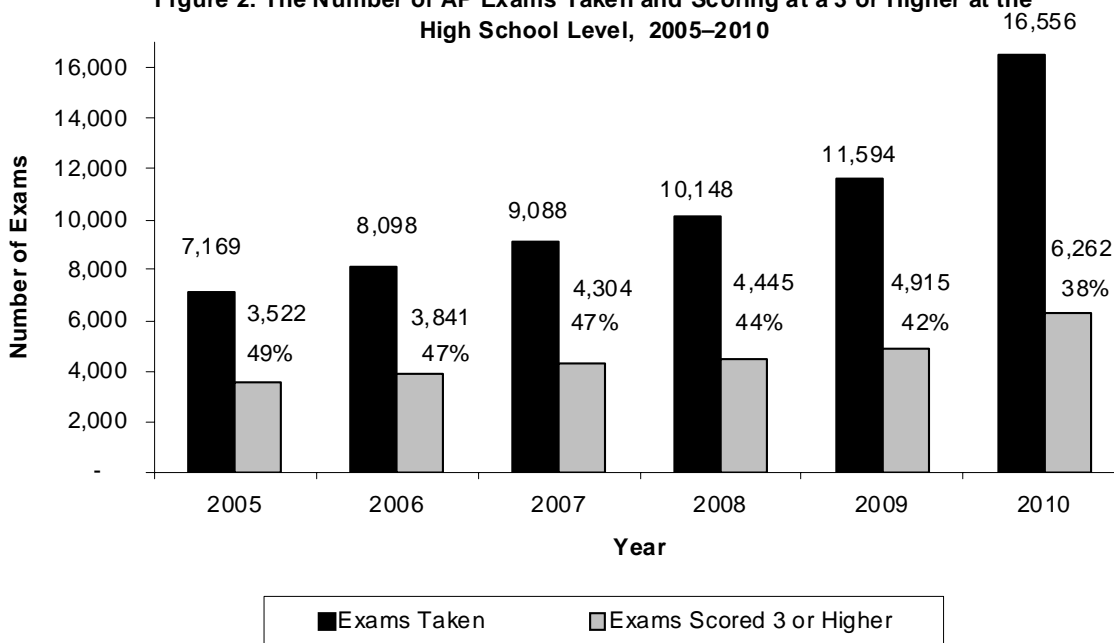
Figure 1: The Number of High School Students Taking AP Courses and AP Exams



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

Source: The College Board Reports, 2009 printed report, 2010 online score report, August 14, 2010. Chancery 2008–2010, End of Year data include only students with “active” status. Data reflect the most current information available.

Figure 2: The Number of AP Exams Taken and Scoring at a 3 or Higher at the High School Level, 2005–2010



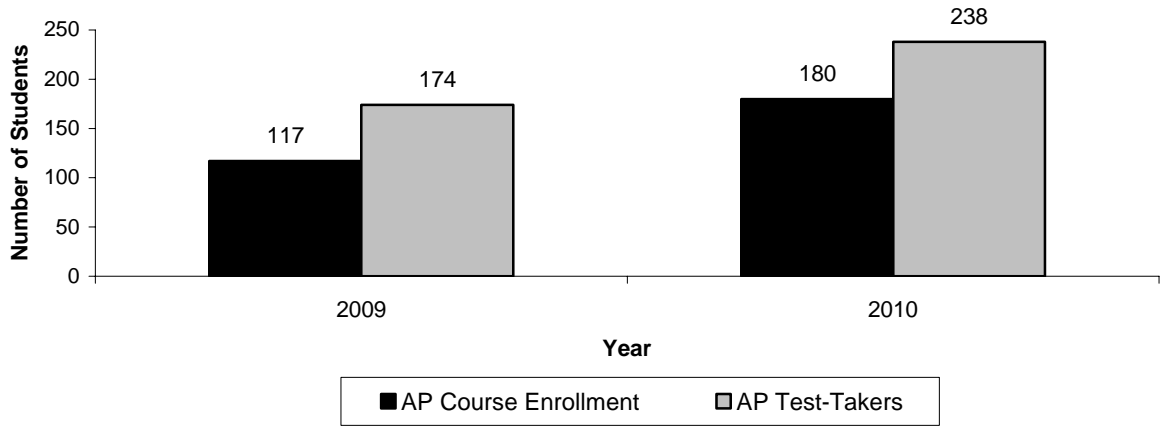
Target:
The number of
AP exams taken
will increase by
10% annually.

Target:
The percent of
AP exams
scored at 3 or
higher will
increase by 2
percentage
points annually.

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

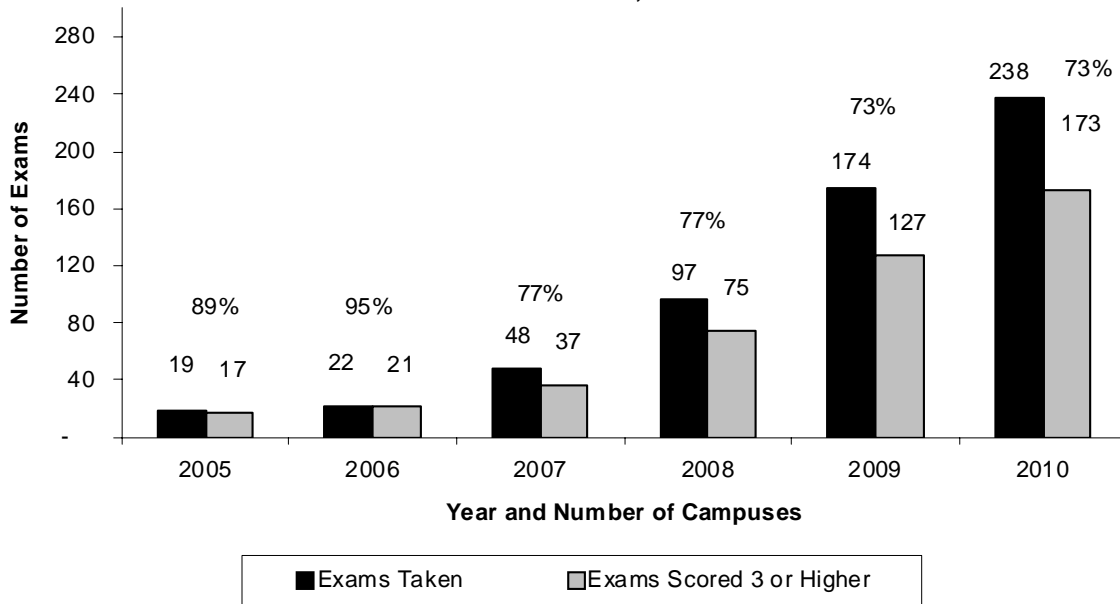
Source: The College Board Reports, 2005–2010. Data reflect the most current information available.

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



Source: The College Board Reports, 2009 printed report, 2010 online score reports, August 14, 2010. Chancery 2008–2010, 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, 2005–2010



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, 2005–2010. Data reflect the most current information available.