



Board Monitoring System: Indicator G

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose

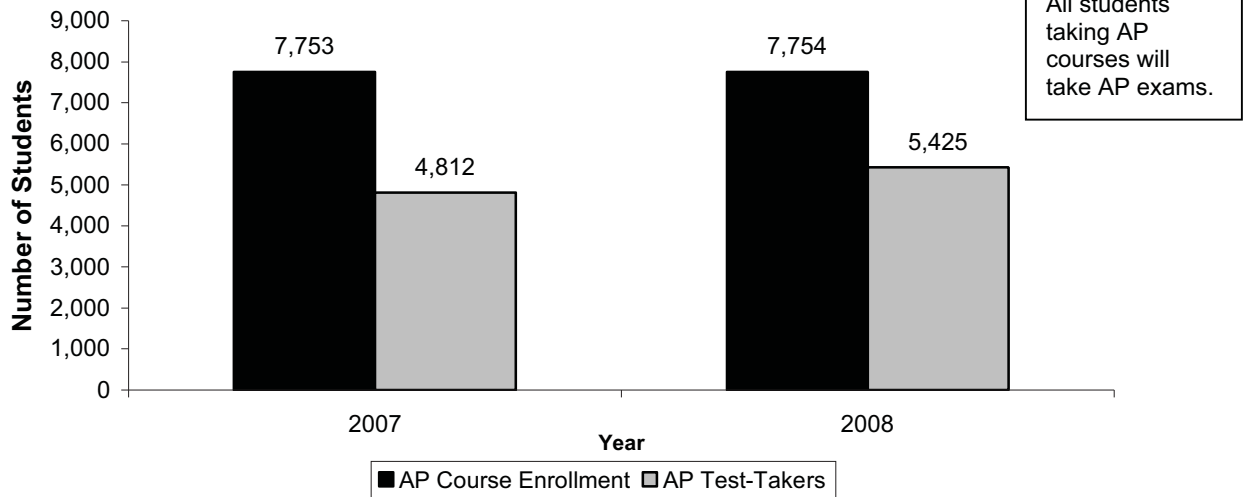
The Houston Independent School District (HISD) exists to strengthen the social and economic foundation of Houston by assuring its youth the highest-quality elementary and secondary education available anywhere. In fulfilling this goal, HISD's Board of Education has designed a program to systematically 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 Courses, Exams and the Number and Percentage of Students Scoring 3 or Higher

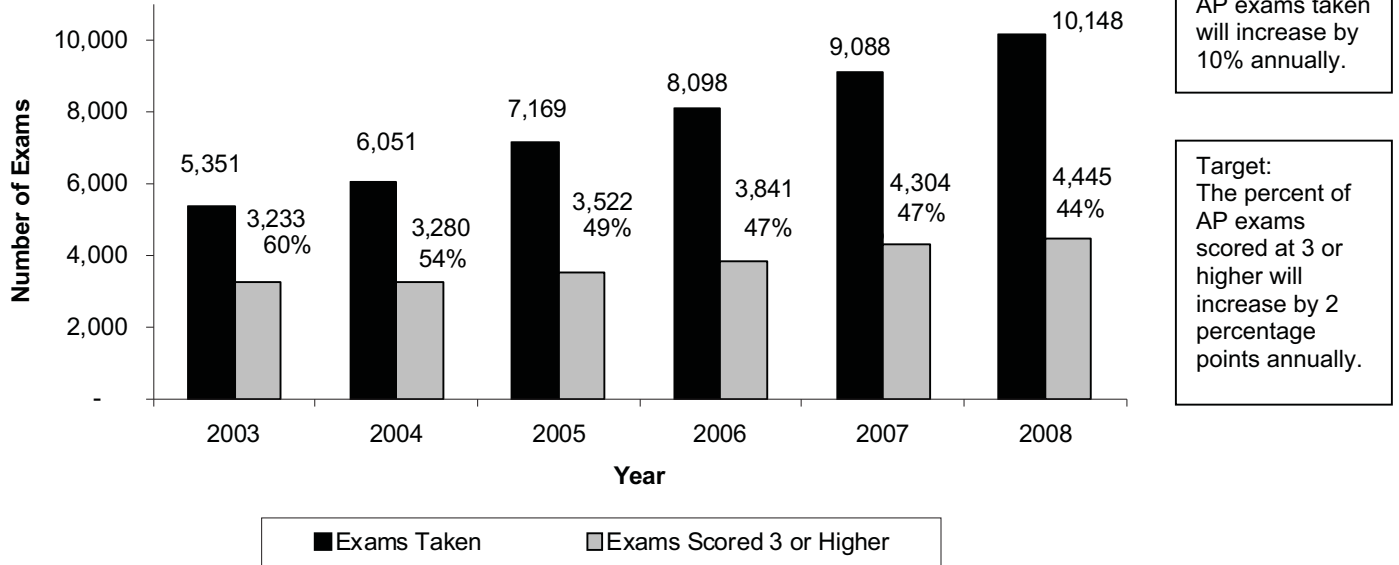
- Although 7,754 high school students enrolled in AP courses for 2008, only 5,425 or 70 percent of the students took AP subject tests. This is an increase from 2007 when only 62 percent of the high school students who enrolled in AP courses took AP subject tests (Figure 1). The district did not meet its target of 100 percent.
- The number of AP exams taken by high school students increased by 12 percent from 9,088 in 2007 to 10,148 in 2008 (Figure 2). The district exceeded the target for a 10 percent annual increase in the number of AP exams taken annually by 2 percentage points.
- Over the past six years, the number of Advanced Placement (AP) exams taken by HISD high school students has increased from 5,351 in 2003 to 10,148 in 2008 (Figure 2).
- While the number of exams scored at a 3 or higher has increased from 4,304 in 2007 to 4,445 in 2008 at the high school level, the percentage has decreased to 44 percent in 2008 from 47 percent in 2007 (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 by 2 percentage points annually.
- At the middle school level, 81 students enrolled in the AP Spanish Language course in both 2007 and 2008. In 2007, 59 percent of the middle school students who enrolled in the AP Spanish Language course took the corresponding AP subject test (Figure 3). In 2008, 97 students took the AP Spanish Language Exam. These students attended five middle schools: Jackson, Johnston, Lanier, Long, and Sharpstown. The 2008 AP enrollment numbers do not include Jackson and Sharpstown students because they were not coded for the AP Spanish Language course.
- From 2004 to 2008, the number of middle school students taking AP courses and AP exams has increased from 1 campus to 5 campuses, respectively. While the number of exams scored at 3 or higher has increased from 37 in 2007 to 75 in 2008, the percentage scoring 3 or higher has remained the same for both years (77 percent).

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



Source: The College Board Reports, 2007 and 2008. Chancery 2006–2008. Data reflect the most current information available.

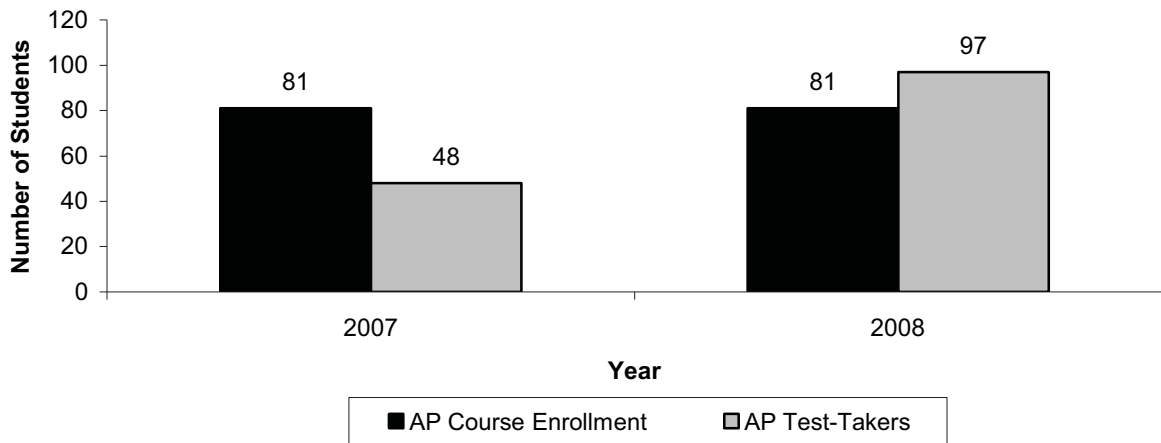
Figure 2: The Number of AP Exams Taken and Scoring at a 3 or Higher at the High School Level, 2003–2008



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

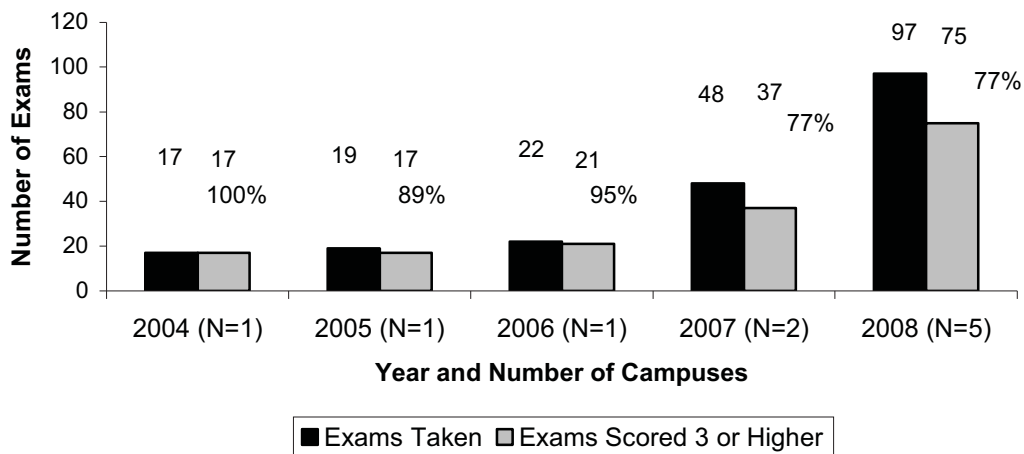
Source: The College Board Reports, 2003–2008. Data reflect the most current information available.

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



Source: The College Board Reports, 2007 and 2008. Chancery 2006–2008. Data reflect the most current information available. For 2008, students attending Jackson and Sharpstown middle schools were not coded for the AP Spanish Language Course so their enrollment numbers are not included.

Figure 4. The Number of AP Exams Taken and Scoring at a 3 or Higher at the Middle School Level, 2004-2008



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, 2004–2008. Data reflect the most current information available.