

MEMORANDUM

March 10, 2010

TO: Board Members

FROM: Terry B. Grier, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

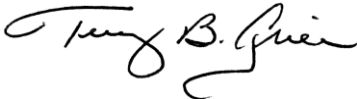
SUBJECT: **ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) REPORT: 2008–2009**

CONTACT: Carla Stevens, Research and Accountability, 713-556-6700

The Department of Research and Accountability has completed the 2008–2009 Advanced Placement (AP) Report. The AP Program provides high school students with the opportunity to take college-level courses and earn college credit. A possible 37 AP exams are offered in 22 subject areas, and exams are administered over a two-week period each year in May. The AP grade scale ranges from 1 to 5, and a score of 3 or higher qualifies a student to earn advanced placement, college credit, or both. Some key findings are as follows:

- The number of HISD high school students who participated in AP exams increased from 5,425 in 2008 to 6,069 in 2009. The 6,069 HISD students who took AP exams in 2009 took a total of 11,594 exams, an increase of 1,446 exams from 2008.
- In the 2007–2008 school year, 30 HISD campuses offered at least one AP course, but in 2008–2009 every HISD high school offered at least one AP course.
- Of the 30 HISD campuses who tested students on AP exams in both 2008 and 2009, 21 of 30 (70%) increased the number of students taking exams, 22 of 30 (73%) campuses increased the number of exams taken, and 19 of the 30 campuses (63%) experienced an increase in the number of exams scoring a 3 or higher.

Attached is the complete report including an analysis of districtwide results as well as for all HISD schools that had participating students. Data presented include AP course enrollment, AP course completion, and AP exam participation and performance. Results were analyzed by grade, race/ethnicity, and gender.



TBG

Attachment

c: Superintendent's Direct Reports
Regional Superintendents
Executive Principals
High School Principals

Noelia Garza
Tracye Wear
June Giddings

RESEARCH

Educational Program Report



Advanced Placement (AP) Report 2008–2009



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Advanced Placement 2008–2009

Introduction

The College Board's Advanced Placement (AP) Program provides participating students with the opportunity to take college-level courses while still in high school and earn college credit, advanced placement, or both. A possible 37 examinations, covering 22 subject areas, are administered in May at participating schools. Ninety percent of colleges and universities grant credit, placement, or both to students receiving a qualifying score on an AP exam (usually 3 or higher on a scale of 1 to 5). Studies show that students who take AP courses and exams are more likely to succeed in college. Families may experience financial benefits if their child receives advanced placement, college credit or both.

Other benefits afforded to students include opportunities that lead to scholarships or recognition. The Siemens Awards for Advanced Placement is a scholarship with an award ranging from \$2,000 to \$5,000 given to two students (one male and one female) from each of the 50 states, and the AP program also offers a number of Scholar Awards to AP students who have shown outstanding achievement, which is acknowledged on any grade report that is sent to colleges the following fall. In addition, teachers involved in the AP program benefit from professional development opportunities such as workshops and Summer Institutes (College Board, AP Central, 2008g). For the 2008–2009 school year, HISD schools had all courses labeled as “AP” authorized through the College Board AP Course Audit process. This audit process will ensure that quality courses meeting “AP” requirements are being offered, and that colleges and universities have a venue to review authorized courses offered by secondary schools (College Board, AP Central, 2008f).

Administration

The Educational Testing Services (ETS) mails out the AP exams along with other exam-related materials to participating schools in April or early May. The AP exams are administered each year in May over a two-week period. Once testing is completed, all AP exams are returned to ETS.

Scoring

Each examination subject is graded on a scale of 1 (No recommendation) to 5 (Extremely well qualified). Typically, scores of 3 or above qualify a student to receive advanced placement, college credit, or both. Multiple-choice sections are scored by computer. The free-response section is typically scored using a three-step process: development of preliminary scoring standards, establishment of final scoring standards, and the reading. AP examinations may be compared from one year to another through equating (College Board, AP Central, 2004).

Methods

Data Limitations

The College Board receives AP data from the Educational Testing Service (ETS). It is important to understand that the extracts are made from a “live” data base that changes from one day to the next as scoring and adjustments to individual student records progresses in the months following the examination administration. **Therefore, discrepancies may exist between the two sources of data that are used for AP exam reporting purposes, namely the College Board Reports (hard copy) and the College Board (electronic) data file based on the time of the data extract.** AP data for prior years were extracted from

the most recent, updated files available at the time of the present report, and data for the current school year were extracted from the September 2009 electronic files. Data for the state of Texas is included in the College Board Report, but this information is also available by late November on the College Board website. The Texas data may differ for these two sources.

To provide disaggregated student level demographic information, the College Board AP electronic databases were matched to the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) database. Since the PEIMS database reflects a snapshot taken on the last Friday in October, those students who were not present would not be included in the database. Students who were identified as enrolled in AP courses were required to be active students and to have completed the course with a final semester grade.

Participants

Longitudinal test performance from 2005–2009, along with demographic information supplied by students, was reported to HISD for each participating campus by the College Board via printed reports and an electronic database (September, 2009). The 2009 global scores for test performance by subject were extracted from the 2009 College Board Report. These data, together with enrollment data from PEIMS, were analyzed. State level data, including the number of AP subject tests taken along with the percentage of scores that were 3 or above, were extracted from the 2008–2009 College Board Reports. Participation rates for juniors and seniors were calculated by dividing the number of students tested by the PEIMS snapshot of fall enrollment for the same group. Participation rates for juniors and seniors were calculated across the district and by school.

The number of students eligible to complete AP courses consists of those enrolled in the second semester of a two-semester course and/or those enrolled in a one semester course. Completion percentages are based on the number eligible to complete and the number completing.

Course completion was determined by counting those students who received a semester average grade of 70 or higher for the second semester (Part B) of a two-semester course or receiving a 70 or higher for a one-semester course. Once this was computed, it was divided by the total number of students who were eligible to complete.

Mean test scores by gender, race/ethnicity, and economic status for AP subjects were analyzed by comparing mean scores. For race/ethnicity, the number of Hispanic students combines the total populations for the Chicano/Mexican, Puerto Rican, and Other Hispanic racial/ethnic categories. To determine the percentage of students who scored 3 or above on AP subject tests by race/ethnicity, the total number of tests scoring a 3 or higher was divided by the total number of tests taken for each ethnic category.

Data Collection and Analysis

The College Board reported test performance, along with demographic information supplied by the students to HISD. These data included results for all HISD schools that had participating students. These data, together with enrollment data from the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) database, were analyzed. Analyses were conducted using the aggregated data by grade, race/ethnicity, and gender. Results were analyzed districtwide and by campus level.

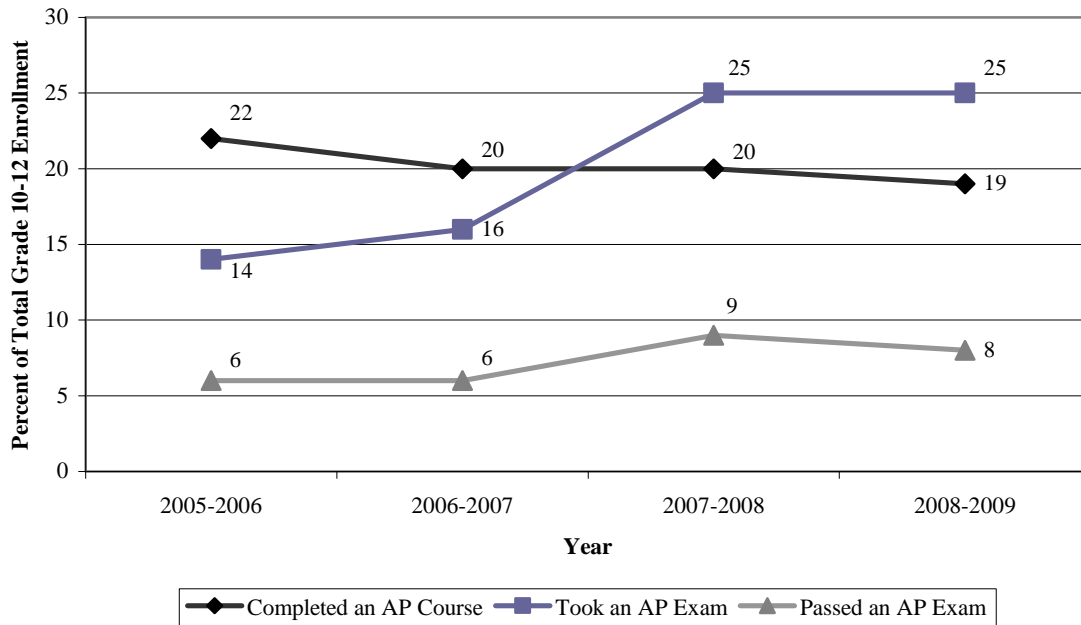
Results

Districtwide Participation

The number of HISD high school students in grades 9–12 who participated in AP exams increased from 5,425 in 2008 to 6,069 in 2009. The 6,069 HISD students who took AP exams in 2009 took a total of 11,594 exams, an increase of 1,446 exams from 2008. The percent of exams scored at a 3 or higher was

42 percent, a decrease of 2 percentage points from 2008. District data for 2008–2009 were drawn from the corrected electronic file provided by the College Board and only included exams taken by HISD high school students. **Figure 1** shows the percent of students in grades 10–12 who completed an AP course, the percent who took an AP exam, and the percent who passed an AP exam in 2008 and 2009.

Figure 1: Grade 10-12 AP Participation and Performance



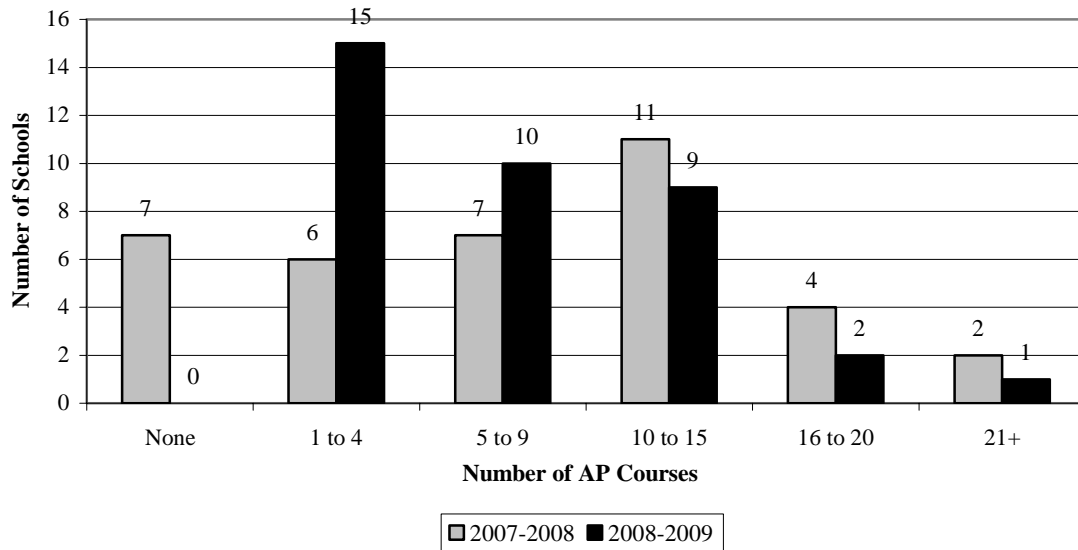
Note: Completion of an AP course is defined as receiving a passing grade at the end of the course.

- Since the 2005–2006 school year, the percentage of students in grades 10 through 12 who took at least one AP exam has increased from a low of 14 percent in 2005–2006 to a high of 25 percent in both 2007–2008 and again in 2008–2009.
- The percentage of HISD students in grades 10 through 12 who completed at least one AP course has decreased slightly from 22 percent in 2005–2006 to 19 percent in 2008–2009.
- Eight percent of HISD students enrolled in grades 10-12 passed at least one AP exam in 2008–2009, up from a low of 6 percent in the 2005–2006 and 2006–2007 school years.

AP Course Offerings

Figure 2 shows the number of AP courses offered in district high schools for the 2008–2009 school year.

Figure 2: Distribution of AP Course Offerings, 2007-2008 and 2008-2009



- In the 2007–2008 school year, 30 HISD campuses offered at least one AP course, but in 2008–2009 every HISD high school offered at least one AP course.
- The majority of district campuses offered between one and four AP courses in 2008–2009; while 12 campuses offered ten or more AP courses, compared to 17 campuses in 2007–2008.

Participation by Student Group

The number and percent of HISD total enrollment and AP course enrollment for grades 10–12 by race/ethnicity and economic status are presented in **Table 1**.

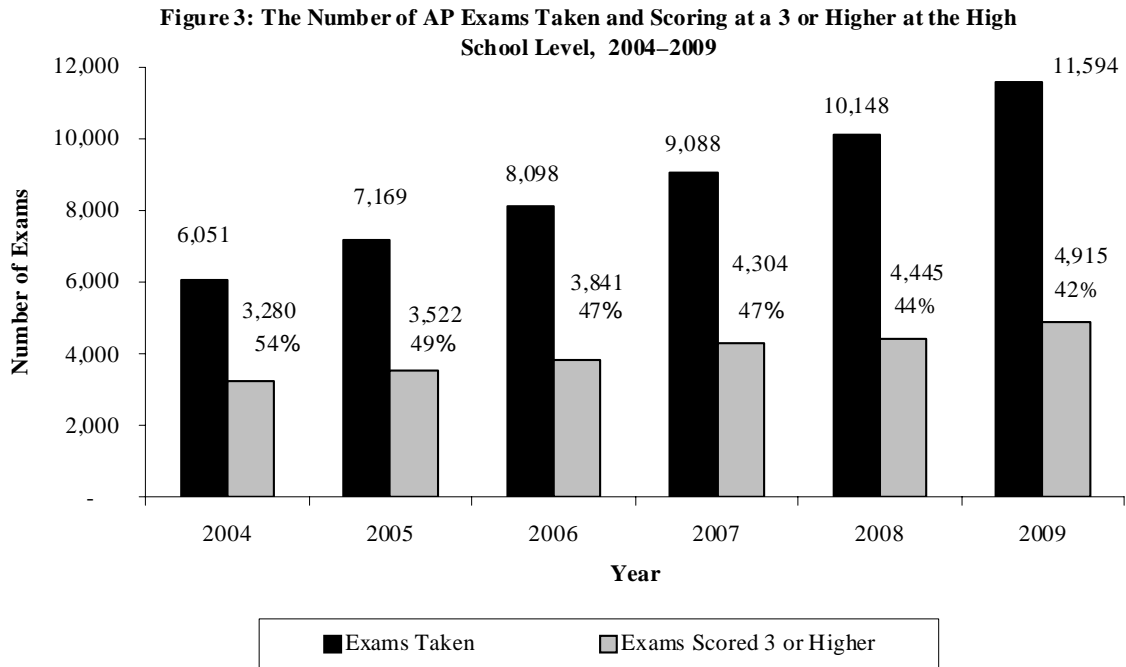
Student Group	N Enrolled	% Total Enrollment	N Enrolled in AP	% of Total Enrollment
African American	7,066	31	1,273	26
Asian American	950	4	530	11
Hispanic	12,150	54	2,202	45
White	2,303	10	905	18
Economically Dis.	14,354	64	2,665	54
Non-Econ. Dis.	8,132	36	2,249	46
Total	22,486		4,914	

- Hispanic students comprise the largest racial/ethnic group enrolled in grades 10 through 12, accounting for 54 percent of the total enrollment, and they represent 45 percent of all students in grades 10 through 12 enrolled in AP courses. Students in the African American group represent the second largest percentage of both total enrollment, at 31 percent, and AP course enrollees, at 26 percent.
- While Asian American and White students combine for only 14 percent of the total population of grades 10 through 12, they account for 29 percent of all AP course enrollees.

- Sixty-four percent of HISD students in grades 10–12 are economically disadvantaged, but they constitute only 54 percent of those students enrolled in AP courses.

AP Exams Taken

The number of AP exams taken at district high schools and the number and percent scored at 3 or higher are shown in **Figure 3**.



- The number of AP exams taken by high-school students increased by 14 percent, from 10,148 in 2008 to 11,594 in 2009.
- Over the past six years, the number of Advanced Placement (AP) exams taken by HISD high-school students has increased from 6,051 in 2004 to 11,594 in 2009. While the number of exams scored at a 3 or higher has increased from 4,445 in 2008 to 4,915 in 2009 at the high-school level, the percentage has decreased to 42 percent in 2009 from 44 percent in 2008.

District Summary by Student Group

AP course completion and AP exam participation and performance by student groups including race/ethnicity, gender, economic status, and LEP status were examined for 2009. The number and percent of HISD students in grades 10–12 who completed an AP course, who took an AP exam, and who passed an AP exam are presented by student group in **Table 2**.

Table 2: 2009 AP District Summary of AP Course Completers by Demographic Group, Grades 10–12

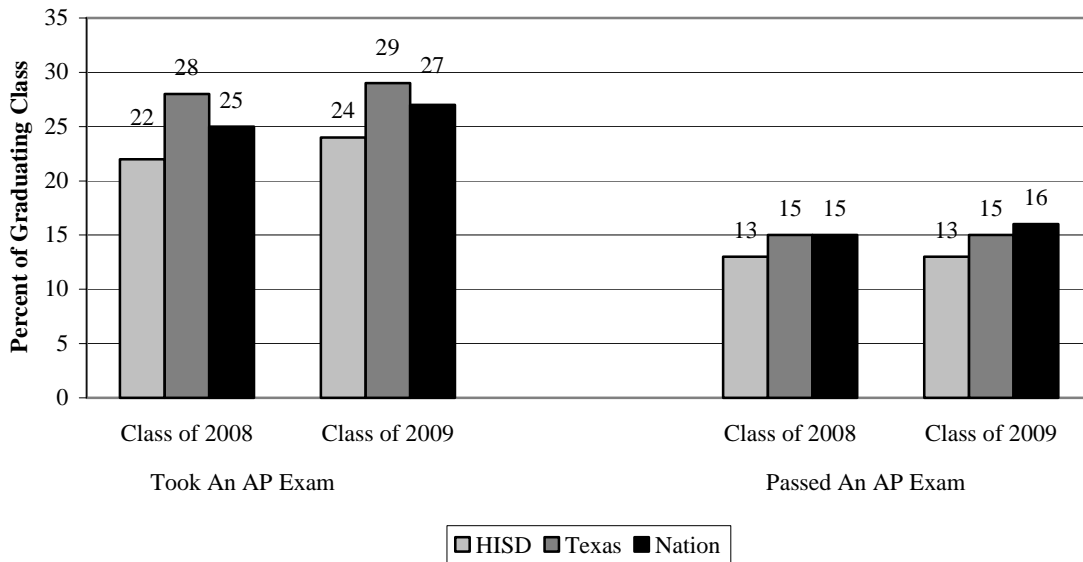
Student Group	Total Gr 10-12 Enroll.	AP Course Completion		AP Exams of AP Comp.		AP Exam Passing	
		Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Afr. Amer.	7,066	1,484	21.0	1,002	67.5	181	18.1
Asian Amer.	950	937	98.6	1,086	115.9	786	72.4
Hispanic	12,150	2,759	22.7	2,355	85.4	606	25.7
White	2,303	1,452	63.0	1,343	92.5	830	61.8
Econ. Dis.	14,354	3,336	23.2	2,802	84.0	640	22.8
Non-Eco. Dis.	8,132	3,300	40.6	2,986	90.5	1,763	59.0
LEP	1,947	68	3.5	44	64.7	29	65.9
Non-LEP	20,539	6,568	32.0	5,744	87.5	2,374	41.3
Female	11,290	3,720	32.9	3,182	85.5	1,245	39.1
Male	11,196	2,916	26.0	2,606	89.4	1,158	44.4
Total	22,486	6,636	29.5	5,788	87.2	2,403	41.5

- In 2009, Hispanic students represented the largest student group of students in grades 10 through 12; however, only 22.7 percent of Hispanic students completed an AP course. By contrast, 98.6 percent of Asian American students, who represented the smallest student group by ethnicity, completed at least one AP course.
- Of students in grades 10–12 who completed an AP course in 2009, 115.9 percent of Asian American student, 92.5 percent of White students, 85.4 percent of Hispanic students, and 67.5 percent of African American students took at least one AP exam. Additionally, 89.4 percent of males and 85.5 percent of females who completed an AP course also took an AP exam. Students are not required to take or complete a course to take an exam.
- In 2009, 72.4 percent of Asian American students and 61.8 percent of White students who took an AP exam scored a 3 or higher on an AP exam, compared to only 25.7 percent of Hispanic students and 18.1 percent of African American students.
- The total numbers of economically disadvantaged (3,336) and non-economically disadvantaged (3,300) students who completed an AP course were nearly the same; however, the percentages based on enrollment differed by 1.7 percentage points. The percentages of AP course completers who took an AP exam were comparable, 84.0 and 90.5, respectively. However, 22.8 percent of economically disadvantaged students who took an AP exam passed an AP exam, compared to 59.0 of non-economically disadvantaged students.
- While more females than males completed an AP course and took an AP exam, a higher percentage of males than females scored a 3 or higher on an AP exam in 2009.

Comparison with State and Nation

Participation and performance for the district, state, and nation are presented in **Figure 4**.

**Figure 4: Percent of Graduates Who Took and Passed an AP Exam:
Classes of 2008 and 2009**



- In both 2008 to 2009, HISD trailed Texas and the nation in both the percent of graduates who took an AP exam and who passed an AP exam.
- While the percent of HISD graduates who took an AP exam increased by two percentage points from 2008 to 2009, matching the national increase, the percent who passed an AP exam remained constant over the same time period.

Participation by Schools

A total of 32 HISD high schools had students taking AP exams in 2008 or 2009. **Table 3** presents the number of students and the number of exams taken for each of these high schools as well as the number and percent scoring a 3 or higher.

Table 3: HISD 2009 AP Participation and Number and Percent of Exams Scored at 3 or Higher: Grades 9-12

School	2008				2009			
	Number Taking Exams	Number Exams Taken	Number Scored 3+	% Scored 3+	Number Taking Exams	Number Exams Taken	Number Scored 3+	% Scored 3+
Austin	238	369	64	17	215	347	56	16
Bellaire**	896	2,546	2,053	81	870	2,559	2,133	83
Carnegie	171	339	207	61	210	464	286	62
Challenge	82	95	45	47	79	84	49	58
Chavez	474	673	155	23	518	763	172	22
Davis	100	191	30	16	116	162	43	26
DeBakey	192	450	364	81	266	530	424	80
Eastwood	12	12	*	*	28	32	18	56
Empowerment [†]					42	43	*	*
Furr	32	51	8	16	66	109	29	27
Houston	122	196	15	8	243	511	58	11
HSLECJ	95	159	50	31	130	179	45	25
HSPVA	183	288	165	57	200	367	204	56
International [†]					5	5	*	*
Jones	78	123	*	*	23	23	*	*
Jordan	107	117	12	10	93	126	6	5
Kashmere	40	47	*	*	48	57	*	*
Lamar**	38	38	32	84	37	37	14	38
Lee	183	362	107	30	280	572	144	25
Madison	240	337	8	*	282	435	22	5
Milby	249	503	119	24	199	442	83	19
Reagan	130	197	59	30	185	230	41	18
Scarborough	56	103	10	10	104	187	44	23
Sharpstown	151	248	54	22	206	401	74	18
Sterling	45	45	*	*	29	45	*	*
Waltrip	162	312	71	23	188	373	108	29
Washington	38	72	18	25	78	111	19	17
Westbury	281	487	91	19	265	539	55	10
Westside	846	1,556	701	45	865	1,601	768	48
Wheatley	84	110	*	*	87	135	12	9
Worthing	41	50	*	*	50	60	*	*
Yates	59	72	*	*	62	65	6	9

[†]Note: Did not offer AP exams in 2008.

*Fewer than 5 students.

**Bellaire and Lamar high schools offer the International Baccalaureate Program.

Source: 2008 & 2009 College Board Reports, **hard copies**.

- Of the 30 HISD campuses who tested students on AP exams in both 2008 and 2009, 21 of 30 (70%) increased the number of students taking exams, 22 of 30 (73%) campuses increased the number of exams taken, and 19 of the 30 campuses (63%) experienced an increase in the number of exams scoring a 3 or higher.

Student AP Participation and Performance by Campus

Student participation and performance for students in grades 10–12 in AP courses and exams are presented in **Table 4**. Data presented are unduplicated counts by student. Data analyzed included the grade 10–12 enrollment on each campus, the number and percent of students completing at least one AP course, and the number and percent of students taking at least one AP exam, and the number and percent of students earning a 3 or higher on AP exams.

School	Total Enroll. 10-12	Number Comp.AP Course	% of Enroll Comp.AP Course	Number Taking AP Exam	% Enr Taking AP Ex	Number Pass AP Exam	% Enr Pass AP Exam
HISD	22,486	4,337	19.3	5,694	25.3	1,871	8.3
Austin	899	131	14.6	214	23.8	16	1.8
Bellaire**	1,598	529	33.1	867	54.3	692	43.3
Carnegie	181	178	98.3	209	115.5	118	65.2
Challenge	216	63	29.2	71	32.9	39	18.1
Chavez	1,223	219	17.9	377	30.8	208	48.7
Davis	768	100	13.0	117	15.2	27	3.5
DeBakey	427	173	40.5	266	62.3	208	48.7
Eastwood	123	*	*	28	22.8	14	11.4
Empowerment	36	*	*	42	116.7	*	*
Furr	381	49	12.9	65	17.1	14	3.7
Houston M/S/T	1,134	134	11.8	243	21.4	27	2.4
HSLECJ	293	142	48.5	130	44.4	26	8.9
HSPVA	320	246	76.9	200	62.5	89	27.8
International	125	7	5.6	*	*	*	*
Jones	379	41	10.8	23	6.1	*	*
Jordan	623	153	24.6	90	14.4	*	*
Kashmere	231	33	14.3	48	20.8	*	*
Lamar**	1,487	*	*	38	2.6	14	0.9
Lee	875	191	21.8	267	30.5	61	7.0
Madison	1,031	179	17.4	280	27.2	6	0.6
Milby	1,032	130	12.6	198	19.2	28	2.7
Reagan	770	143	18.6	181	23.5	31	4.0
Scarborough	336	58	17.3	103	30.7	29	8.6
Sharpstown	665	126	18.9	186	28	19	2.9
Sterling	500	31	6.2	28	5.6	*	*
Waltrip	877	234	26.7	178	20.3	37	4.2
Washington	424	107	25.2	78	18.4	15	3.5
Westbury	945	170	18.0	262	27.7	26	2.8
Westside	1,358	578	42.6	702	51.7	255	18.8
Wheatley	467	54	11.6	86	18.4	7	1.5
Worthing	534	34	6.4	50	9.4	*	*
Yates	606	95	15.7	62	10.2	5	0.8

*Fewer than 5 students.

**Bellaire and Lamar high schools offer the International Baccalaureate Program.

- For the 2008–2009 school year, nine HISD campuses had at least 25 percent of their students enrolled in grades 10 through 12 enrolled in an AP course. In 2008–2009, 13 HISD campuses had at least 25 percent of their students in grades 10 through 12 take an AP exam, and 5 campuses had at least 25 percent of their tenth through twelfth graders pass an AP exam.

AP Exam Participation and Performance by Campus

Advanced Placement Course enrollment and exam data are presented by campus in **Appendix A**. Data analyzed are duplicated by exam and included the grade 10–12 enrollment on each campus, the number of AP courses offered, and the number and percent of students completing an AP course, the number and percent of students taking AP exams and earning a 3 or higher on AP exams.

Conclusion

The purpose of this report was to provide an examination of the participation and performance of HISD students on Advanced Placement exams and courses. The investigation was also designed to supply a comparison of current year AP results with the results from the previous year. The results from this report indicated that student participation on AP exams in the district increased from the previous year. In addition, enrollment in AP courses also increased in 2008–2009 from the previous school year. Though the number of students scoring a 3 or higher on AP exams increased in 2009, the percentage of students scoring at this level decreased slightly over the same time period.

Appendix A: AP Exam Data by Campus, 2009

School	Grade 10-12 Enroll.	AP Courses Offered	AP Course Enroll.	% Enroll. In AP Course	N Comp. AP Course	% Comp. AP Course (of AP Enr.)	% Comp. AP Course (of Gr 10-12 Enr.)	N Exams Taken	% Exams Taken (of AP Comp.)	N Exams Pass.	% Exams Pass (of AP Comp.)
Austin	899	6	182	20.2	174	95.6	19.4	346	198.9	55	31.6
Bellaire [†]	1,598	19	991	62	948	95.7	59.3	2,704	285.2	2,239	236.2
Carnegie	181	14	330	182.3	324	98.2		474	146.3	289	89.2
Challenge	216	2	73	33.8	63	86.3	28.2	76	120.6	43	68.3
Chavez	1,223	11	387	31.6	371	95.9	30.3	622	167.7	126	34.0
Davis	768	5	135	17.6	121	89.6	15.8	164	135.5	43	35.5
DeBakey	427	12	301	70.5	276	91.7	64.6	542	196.4	433	156.9
Eastwood	123	2	*	3.3	*	100	3.3	33	825.0	18	450
Empowerment	36	1	*	8.3	*	66.7	5.6	43	2,150.0	*	0
Furr	381	3	83	21.8	76	91.6	19.9	108	142.1	28	36.8
Houston	1,134	9	222	19.6	203	91.4	17.9	511	251.7	58	28.6
HSLECJ	293	9	244	83.3	209	85.7	71.3	179	85.6	45	21.5
HSPVA	320	10	375	117.2	354	94.4	110.6	411	116.1	238	67.2
International	125	1	7	5.6	7	100.0	5.6	5	71.4	*	14.3
Jones	379	3	45	11.9	41	91.1	10.8	23	56.1	*	0
Jordan	623	5	251	40.3	189	75.3	30.3	123	65.1	5	2.6
Kashmere	231	4	47	20.3	42	89.4	18.2	58	138.1	*	*
Lamar [†]	1,487	2	*	0.1	*	50	0.1	45	4,500.0	21	2,100.0
Lee	875	16	361	41.3	284	78.7	32.5	568	200.0	143	50.4
Madison	1,031	9	274	26.6	252	92	24.4	461	182.9	22	8.7
Milby	1,032	8	234	22.7	203	86.8	19.7	441	217.2	83	40.9
Reagan	770	10	236	30.6	183	77.5	23.8	224	122.4	40	21.9

[†]Bellaire and Lamar high schools offer the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program.

*Not a sum of column values. Total represents the number of different AP courses offered districtwide.

Appendix A: AP Exam Data by Campus, 2009

School	Grade 10-12 Enroll.	AP Courses Offered	AP Course Enroll.	% Enroll. In AP Course	N Comp. AP Course	% Comp. AP Course (of AP Enr.)	% Comp. AP Course (of Gr 10-12 Enr.)	N Exams Taken	% Exams Taken (of AP Comp.)	N Exams Pass.	% Exams Pass (of AP Comp.)
Scarborough	336	13	130	38.7	118	90.8	35.1	186	157.6	44	37.3
Sharpstown	665	14	219	32.9	188	85.8	28.3	381	202.7	74	39.4
Sterling	500	3	106	21.2	50	47.2	10.0	44	88	*	2.0
Waltrip	877	11	362	41.3	325	89.8	37.1	364	112.0	101	31.1
Washington	424	7	181	42.7	167	92.3	39.4	111	66.5	19	11.4
Westbury	945	14	352	37.2	267	75.9	28.3	537	201.1	55	20.6
Westside	1,358	28	1050	77.3	957	91.1	70.5	1,480	154.6	744	77.7
Wheatley	467	6	97	20.8	77	79.4	16.5	134	174	11	14.3
Worthing	534	3	46	8.6	43	93.5	19	60	139.5	*	*
Yates	606	3	120	19.8	115	95.8	28.3	65	56.5	6	5.2
Total	22,486	32*	7,466	33.2	6,636	88.9	29.5	11,523	173.6	4,985	75.1

†Bellaire and Lamar high schools offer the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program.

*Not a sum of column values. Total represents the number of different AP courses offered districtwide.