



# NEWS

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## **Minority students represent more than half of Texas Advanced Placement test takers in 2007**

AUSTIN – Minority students represented 52 percent of all Advanced Placement (AP) test takers in Texas in 2007, the Texas Education Agency announced Thursday.

High school students who make high scores on AP exams can earn college credit for courses, saving their families thousands of dollars in tuition costs and giving students a head start on a college education.

Figures just released from the College Board, which oversees the AP program, show that 135,130 Texas students took Advanced Placement exams, an increase of 10 percent from 2006 and a 49 percent increase in the last five years. Of that total, 125,526 were public school students.

Many students take more than one AP exam each year. In 2007, the total number of tests taken was 246,096, up almost 10 percent from 2006.

Of those, 52 percent self-reported that they were minority students, compared to 50 percent in 2006 and 45 percent five years ago. Nationally, 35 percent of test-takers self-reported as minority students this year.

Hispanic students represent 34 percent of Texas AP exam-takers compared to 13 percent nationally. Over the last five years, the number of Hispanic test-takers in Texas has increased 79 percent from 25,436 to 45,612.

Performance on Advanced Placement tests improved as well, reflecting a 7.3 percent increase in the number of exam scores of 3 or higher from 2006 and an increase of 37 percent in the last five years.

The grading scale on the exams is one to five, with five being the highest possible score. All totaled, 116,809 tests earned scores of three, four, or five. Universities typically award college course credit for AP scores of three or more. Many selective colleges give special consideration to AP and honors classes when making admissions decisions.

The most popular among the exams taken by Texas students in 2007 were English language and composition (43,109), history of the United States (33,952), and English literature and composition (26,552).

To support and recognize AP classes, the Texas AP/IB Incentives program awards campuses up to \$100 for each student earning a score of three or higher on an Advanced Placement exam. State funds are also available to provide training to teachers and to help reduce the cost of the exams for all students.