



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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Alabama  
State Board  
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Governor Kay Ivey  
President

**ALABAMA STUDENTS CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE AND  
SUCCEED IN ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES**

Jackie Ziegler  
District I

**Montgomery, Ala.** – Over the past 10 years, the total percentage of U.S. public high school graduates who took an Advanced Placement (AP) exam and the number who have successfully scored a *3 or higher* on at least one of these exams has increased overall, according to the official [AP Program Results 2021](#) report.

Tracie West  
District II

*With the Class of 2021, more students than ever are participating and succeeding in AP.*

Amid disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, 1,178,256 public high school graduates in the nation’s Class of 2021 took at least one AP Exam, which is an increase from the 898,134 graduates in the class of 2011.

Stephanie Bell  
District III

Also, 12,987 Alabama public school graduates took an AP exam during high school. This represents 27.5 percent of the Class of 2021, an 8.9 percentage point increase compared to 10 years ago.

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.  
District IV  
Vice President

This increase in participation matters, because even students who earn scores of 1 and 2 have significantly stronger college outcomes than students who did not take an AP course and exam.

Tonya S. Chestnut, Ed.D.  
District V

When it comes to performance:

- Approximately 758,842 students in the class of 2021 scored 3 or higher on at least one AP Exam, compared to 539,341 in the class of 2011 according to this [report](#).
- Approximately 14 percent of public school graduates in the Alabama Class of 2021 scored a three (3) or higher on at least one AP exam during high school, compared to 12.9 percent in 2020.

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.  
District VI

“The focus of *A+ College Ready, Equip, Empower and Expect More (E3)* ensures our students are provided high quality standards-based learning experiences, which truly support our goal for every student to leave our schools, both college and career ready,” said Deputy State Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer Angela Martin.

Belinda McRae  
District VII

At this time, approximately 67 percent of Alabama public schools offer AP courses, which places our state at number 20 in the nation for AP course availability. Alabama continues to provide funding assistance for AP Exams.

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.  
District VIII  
President Pro Tem

To address the national disparity in underrepresented students in computer science courses and careers, over the last five years AP CSP participation by underrepresented minorities, has already more than doubled.

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.  
Secretary and  
Executive Officer

–more–

## *ALABAMA STUDENTS SUCCEED IN ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES*

[Recent research](#) indicates students who take AP CSP in high school are more than *3 times as likely to major in computer science and STEM fields in college*, compared to students who did not take AP CSP. These differences are also similarly large among female, Black, Hispanic, and first-generation college students.

There is growth in diversity in AP Computer Science Principles – 13 percent of Alabama’s AP CSP students are African-American and 39 percent are female.

### *Additional Information*

Top 5 States with the Highest Percentage of 2021 Public High School Graduates Scoring a 3 or Higher on an AP Exam During High School:

- Massachusetts: 31.1
- Connecticut: 30.7
- New York: 30.4
- Maryland: 30.2
- Florida: 30.1

More high schools than ever offer AP classes. In 2021, 60.4 percent of schools across the country participated in AP; in Alabama, 67.3 percent of schools participated in AP – exceeding the national average.

Research consistently demonstrates that AP students are better prepared for college. They are more likely to enroll in college, stay in college, do well in classes, and graduate in four years.

*AP will be launching two new courses soon – AP African American Studies and AP Precalculus. AP Seminar will also be extended to Grade 10.*

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