



Arizona Public Schools

Advanced Placement Program Participation & Performance

In Arizona, the AP Program is growing steadily in public schools with marked increases in the number of low-income, African-American, and Latino students.

Overall Participation and Performance

In 2004: 9893 AZ public school students took AP Exams

In 2005: 11790 AZ public school students took AP Exams

19.2% increase in number of students participating

In 2004: 16483 AP Exams taken by AZ public school students

In 2005: 19672 AP Exams taken by AZ public school students

14.3% increase in number of exams taken

In 2004: 10223 AZ public school exams scored 3+

In 2005: 11592 AZ public school exams scored 3+

13.4% increase in the number of exams scoring 3+

- Since 2000, the number of AP Exams taken by AZ public school students has grown by 9473.
- By way of contrast, the number of AP Exams taken by AZ public school students from 1995 to 2000 grew by 1963.
- Since 2000, the number of AP Exams receiving a grade of 3 or higher by AZ public school students has grown by 5329.
- By way of contrast, the number of AP Exams receiving a grade of 3 or higher by AZ public schools from 1995 to 2000 grew by 1466.

Low-income Student Participation

- Since 2000, the number of AP Exams taken by low-income AZ public school students has grown by 969.
- By way of contrast, the number of AP Exams taken by low-income AZ public school students from 1995 to 2000 **decreased** by 217.

***For 1995 and 2000, the totals are listed by the number of fee reductions (low-income and other); this was not broken out in the data at this time. For 2005, the totals are listed by the number of fee reductions only for students from low-income families.*

African-American Student Participation

- Since 2000, the number of AP Exams taken by African-American AZ public school students has grown by 179.
- By way of contrast, the number of AP Exams taken by African-American AZ public school students from 1995 to 2000 grew by 22.

Latino Student Participation

- Since 2000, the number of AP Exams taken by Latino AZ public school students has grown by 1609.
- By way of contrast, the number of AP Exams taken by AK public school students from 1995 to 2000 grew by 181.

A 1999 study by the U.S. Department of Education found that participation in rigorous, college-level courses such as AP courses was the best indicator of whether a student would successfully complete a bachelor's degree. The State of Arizona deserves commendation for its commitment to helping students, particularly traditionally underserved minority and low-income students, prepare themselves for college success by taking AP courses and exams.

Why Is Access to AP Important?

- **45%** of students **who have taken one AP course** and **61%** of students **who have taken two or more AP courses** are **completing their bachelor's degrees in four years or less.**
- **Only 29%** of students who enroll in colleges **without having taken AP** are **completing** their bachelor's degrees **on schedule.**
- **60%** of all recent high school graduates entering a community college last year **needed** to take **at least one remedial course.**





