

COLLEGE READINESS

Advanced Placement Courses and Exams

DISTRICT TARGET:

- By 2008, increase from 29% to 50% the percentage of high school graduates, including all subgroups, who satisfactorily complete at least one advanced placement course as preparation for college.

NOTABLE FACTS:

The districtwide goal *to increase student achievement through a comprehensive literacy effort* requires preparing greater numbers of students for successful post-high school learning. Since most Poway Unified graduates enroll in college after grade 12, there is a clear and compelling need for these college-bound students to be adequately prepared. Poway Unified offers Advanced Placement (AP) courses in 19 subjects. The number of students who successfully complete at least one AP course before graduation is a key measure of progress. The district target is to increase the rate of successful completion of Advanced Placement courses while maintaining a high percentage of students earning a 3 or higher on the National AP Exams. Each AP course allows students to experience college-level curriculum and take a nationwide end-of-course exam to earn college credit. For more information about AP exams, visit the College Board web site at: www.collegeboard.com.

Advanced Placement Course Titles Offered in 2004

Mt. Carmel	18
Poway High	17
Rancho Bernardo	17
Westview	18

WHAT IS BEING MEASURED:

The percentage of students graduating from high school with a grade of C or better in at least one AP course over 3 years.



12th Grade Graduates that have taken at least one AP Course since 10th grade

	2002	2003	2004	2005
All PUSD Students	28%	29%	40%	46%
Mt. Carmel	21%	26%	39%	41%
Poway	34%	33%	46%	46%
Rancho Bernardo	33%	34%	48%	49%
Westview ¹	n/a	n/a	n/a	47%

WHAT THE RESULTS SHOW:

- Since 2002, there has been a significant increase (18%) in the percentage of students completing at least one AP course with a grade of C or better.
- All high schools have made gains, but in 2005 high numbers at Rancho Bernardo High and Westview High were off-set by declines at the other two comprehensive high schools.
- The performance of graduates from Westview High was significantly higher and influenced the district total.

¹ No seniors attended Westview High School until 2004-2005.

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WHAT IS BEING MEASURED:

The 11th and 12th grade enrollment compared to the number of 11th and 12th grade students taking Advanced Placement (AP) exams and the number of AP test takers. These numbers reflect the degree of participation in the AP Program. The participation rate is the number of AP test takers divided by 11th and 12th grade enrollment. Many students take more than one AP exam each year.

Advanced Placement Participation Rates

	2003			2004			2005		
	Grade 11 and 12 Enrollment	# of test takers	Participation Rate	Grade 11 and 12 Enrollment	# of test takers	Participation Rate	Grade 11 and 12 Enrollment	# of test takers	Participation Rate
Poway Unified	5,248	1,639	31%	5,237	1,757	33%	5,209	2,315	44%
San Diego County	66,696	17,308	25%	67,512	18,692	27%	69,867	21,111	30%
California	813,508	151,781	18%	835,734	165,164	19%	868,700	183,365	21%
Abraxas	293	0	0%	277	0	0%	248	0	0%
Mt. Carmel	1,777	541	30%	1,474	476	32%	1,027	438	43%
Poway High	1,554	448	28%	1,520	445	29%	1,476	592	40%
Rancho Bernardo	1,624	549	33%	1,571	530	33%	1,534	703	45%
Westview*	n/a	n/a	-	392*	306	78%	924	582	62%

*Westview graduated its first class in 2005. Results for 2004 reflect the performance of 10th and 11th grade students only.

 In year three of a six-year effort, this district target has been achieved.

WHAT THE RESULTS SHOW:

Statewide participation rates have grown 3% from 2003 to 2005. The participation rate in Poway Unified School District has increased much faster (+13%). In 2005, the participation rate was more than twice as high as the state. Westview High School has a significantly higher participation rate compared to the other Poway Unified School District's high schools.

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WHAT IS BEING MEASURED:

The percentage of 11th and 12th grade students earning college credit via an AP exam. To earn college credit, a student must earn a score of 3 or better on a 5-point scale. Students may take several AP exams, therefore, percentages may exceed 100%.



Advanced Placement Test Results 2002-2004

	2003		2004		2005	
	Grade 12 AP Exams % \geq 3	Grades 11 and 12 AP Exams % \geq 3	Grade 12 AP Exams % \geq 3	Grades 11 and 12 AP Exams % \geq 3	Grade 12 AP Exams % \geq 3	Grades 11 and 12 AP Exams % \geq 3
Poway Unified	87%	44%	94%	48%	120%	60%
San Diego County	54%	27%	59%	28%	62%	30%
California	41%	19%	43%	20%	45%	21%
Abraxas ²	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mt. Carmel	91%	46%	86%	52%	106%	58.7%
Poway High	76%	37%	80%	41%	105%	51.7%
Rancho Bernardo	107%	51%	95%	49%	133%	64.1%
Westview ¹	n/a	n/a	n/a	94%	209%	85.7%

¹ Westview had no 11th/12th grade in 2002/2003 and 2003/2004.

² Continuation High School. No AP courses offered.

WHAT THE RESULTS SHOW:

The percentage of 11th and 12th grade students earning college credit via Advanced Placement Exams has increased statewide. Poway Unified School District results have increased dramatically since 2002, driven by significant increases in grade 12 at Rancho Bernardo and Westview High Schools. In 2005, Poway Unified School District students were two times more likely to earn college credit via Advanced Placement Exams than students in California.

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WHAT IS BEING MEASURED:

The ethnic distribution of students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses is one way to determine if all students are benefiting from the educational opportunities provided by taking Advanced Placement courses. The chart below displays the percentage of 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students in each ethnic group actually enrolled in 2005 compared to the percent enrolled in AP courses. From this we can determine if AP enrollment reflects school enrollment patterns.



Students Enrolled in AP Courses in 2005 by Ethnicity in Grades 10, 11, and 12

School	Student Enrollment in AP Courses in Grades 10, 11, 12	10 th -12 th % Enrolled in AP Courses	African American		Asian		Filipino		Hispanic		White	
			% in School	% in AP	% in School	% in AP	% in School	% in AP	% in School	% in AP	% in School	% in AP
Mt. Carmel	576	35%	4%	1.8%	13%	27%	15%	12.1%	8%	6.4%	56%	49%
Poway High	749	32.4%	2%	1.6%	5%	13.1%	2%	3%	12%	5.2%	76%	75%
Rancho Bernardo	899	38.9%	4%	2.5%	15%	29%	6%	6.4%	8%	5.7%	64%	53%
Westview	763	51.2%	3%	1.6%	13%	23%	9%	8%	8%	7.7%	60%	55%

WHAT THE RESULTS SHOW:

- Compared to their proportion of the population, Asian students comprise a much greater proportion of Advanced Placement courses.
- Most other ethnic groups are under-represented in Advanced Placement courses compared to their proportion of the student population.

NEXT STEPS:

- Expand opportunities for students to enter and successfully complete Advanced Placement courses.
- Implement a staff development program geared toward increasing effective instructional strategies for student success in Advanced Placement courses.
- Institute a districtwide communication plan to inform parents and staff of course work and academic requirements for entering and successfully completing Advanced Placement courses.
- Continue to implement AVID and AVID strategies.