



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
September 13, 2010

Contact:
Christine Dufour (651) 582-8720
Barb Schlaefer (651) 259-3902

MINNESOTA ADVANCED PLACEMENT SCORES AND PARTICIPATION INCREASE

*AP participation and scores for Minnesota black students increase,
SAT Scores Higher than National Scores*

Roseville – For the fifth consecutive year, the number and performance of Minnesota students taking Advanced Placement (AP) tests increased.

New data released today showed a 7.6 percent increase in the number of students taking AP exams, up to 28,975 students taking one or more exams. This includes a 20.3 percent increase in black students taking the AP exams. Since 2005, when 19,596 students participated in AP courses, the number of students enrolled in AP courses has increased by more than 9,000 students.

At the same time, the number of students achieving high test results also increased. There was an 8 percent increase in the number of students scoring a three or higher on their exams, which is the cut score used by most colleges to award college credit to students.

“Minnesota has deliberately focused on increasing Advanced Placement student participation and performance,” said Education Commissioner Alice Seagren. “This demonstrates that by strategically focusing on increasing participation, performance and student expectations, students can and will succeed.”

The number of Minnesota’s black students achieving high test scores (a score of 3 or higher) increased 28.3 percent. “Minnesota significantly increased access to AP courses and exams for its black students and these students performed exceedingly well,” Seagren said. “We must continue to increase access to postsecondary courses in high school for Minnesota’s underrepresented groups by encouraging students to accept the challenge of rigorous courses.”

Minnesota Public School Students Taking AP Tests

Advanced Placement	# of test takers	# of exams taken	# of scores 3-5
Total	28,975	46,973	29,910
Change from last year	+7.6%	+7.9%	+8.0%

The continued increase in the number of students taking AP coincided with the implementation of the Get Ready Get Credit program proposed by Governor Tim Pawlenty and passed by the legislature during the 2005 legislative session. The Get Credit portion of the program encourages students to earn college credit while in high school through AP and other programs.

Additionally, Minnesota received a three-year \$4.5 million grant from the United States Department of Education to increase Advance Placement (AP) participation for low income students. The Minnesota Department of Education collaborated with leaders from Minneapolis and Saint Paul Public Schools on the Advanced Placement Access Initiative Program grant.

Both Minneapolis and St. Paul identified 13 high-poverty high schools (more than 40 percent of students eligible for free and reduced price lunch) and 15 high-poverty feeder schools that will qualify for AP Access grant services.

SAT scores improve

Minnesota students also continued to perform well on the SAT, which is a college entrance exam administered by the College Board and taken by fewer than 5 percent of Minnesota high school graduates. The ACT is the predominant college entrance exam taken in Minnesota, with the SAT typically taken by students interested in attending college on the east and west coasts.

Minnesota public school students posted SAT mean scores of 605 in critical reading, 613 in mathematics and 586 in writing. These mean scores for the state compare to a national critical reading mean score of 501, a national math mean score of 517, and a national writing mean score of 492.

View AP and SAT Summary Data (with a link to highlighted data)

<http://education.state.mn.us/mdeprod/groups/communications/documents/announcement/018449.pdf>