

News Release

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Steady growth in Advanced Placement program

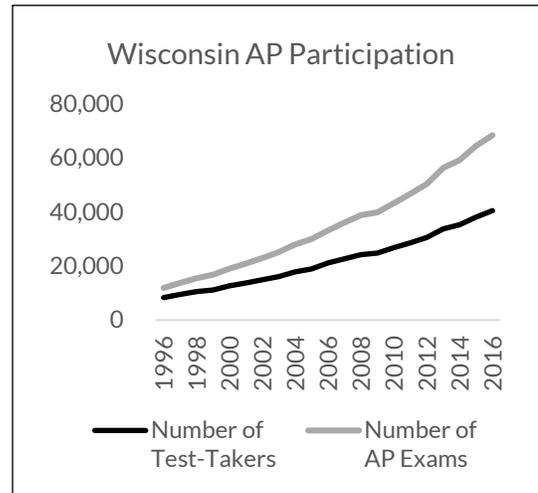
AP results part of SAT data release from the College Board

MADISON — Wisconsin experienced another increase in Advanced Placement (AP) participation, with an additional 2,457 students taking exams in the 2015-16 school year compared to the prior school year.

Nationally, 2.3 million public school students took just over 4 million AP exams in the 38 tested subjects, a 5.3 percent increase in student participation from the prior year compared to Wisconsin’s 6.5 percent jump.

Wisconsin has experienced steady growth in the AP program over the years and dramatic growth from 20 years ago.

“We have seen a generational shift in expectations for high school graduates,” explained State Superintendent Tony Evers. “Students who wanted to go on to college have always been encouraged to take a rigorous, preparatory curriculum. However, today’s students are expected to graduate with some college-level experience through the AP program or opportunities offered in partnerships or with our technical colleges and private colleges and universities.”



Wisconsin public school students took 68,316 AP exams in May 2016 and earned scores of three or higher on 65.5 percent of those exams. Nationally, public school students took 2,268,277 AP exams, earning scores of three or higher on 55.9 percent of the exams. Students earning a score of three, four, or five on AP exams generally receive college credit, advanced standing, or both at many colleges and universities worldwide.

While most student groups in Wisconsin had better AP performance than their peers nationally, disparities in achievement by race and ethnicity remain. Because the College Board changed its collection and reporting of race and ethnicity data categories to align with the U.S. Department of Education guidelines, valid inferences cannot be made when comparing the 2015-16 race and ethnicity data with prior years.

(more)

“Education is the key to a successful future,” Evers said. “Breaking a cycle of low achievement is no easy task and cannot happen if we are unwilling to address achievement gaps and their underlying causes head on. Our kids need support, starting at home and throughout their communities, that continues through the caring, dedicated teachers they interact with in our schools. Building strong relationships so all kids achieve will ensure our students graduate college and career ready.”

The preliminary AP results accompanied the College Board’s national release of results for both its old and new SAT exams. Wisconsin had 1,046 public school students in the class of 2016 take the old SAT at least once through January, with critical reading, mathematics, and writing scores that averaged 128 points higher than averages for the 1.3 million public school graduates who took the old SAT.

There were 840 Wisconsin public school students who took the new SAT between March and June of 2016, and nearly 1.36 million students took the new SAT nationally. According to the College Board, the SAT was redesigned to make it more straightforward and connected to classroom learning. Some of the changes included removing the guessing penalty, focusing on words students will use in college and careers, and making the essay optional.

Wisconsin had a total of 1,079 students in the class of 2016 who took an SAT assessment, with some students taking the exam more than once. The SAT suite of assessments, launched in 2015, includes the SAT, a college aptitude exam, and PSAT-related assessments. Formerly known as the Pre-SAT and National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), Wisconsin had 17,308 10th- and 11th-grade students who took the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT during the 2015-16 school year.

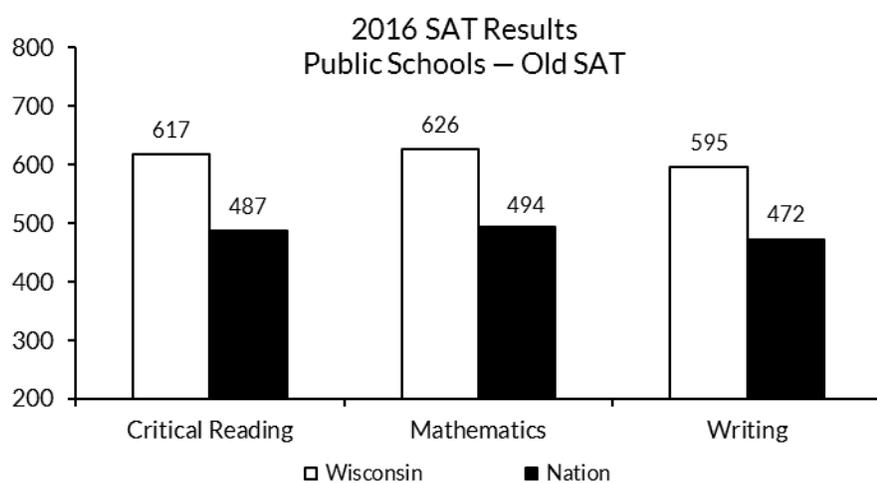
Wisconsin adopted the ACT suite of assessments for high school students. Results from the second year of statewide testing of high school juniors will be reported later this month.

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ATTACHMENT: A chart and tables with additional results for SAT and Advanced Placement follow.

NOTES: School- and district-level Advanced Placement data is available on the [WISEdash Public Portal](#), with 2015-16 data available on Oct. 18. Statewide totals on WISEdash may not match numbers in this news release, which is based on materials supplied by the College Board. This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2016_96.pdf.

2016 SAT and Preliminary AP Results



Wisconsin SAT Participation – 2015-16	
Public School Old SAT	1,046
Public School New SAT	840
Total SAT Participation*	1,079
* Students may take the SAT more than once.	

Wisconsin AP Performance Public Schools

Year	Number of Test-Takers	Number of AP Exams
1996	8,296	11,872
1997	9,421	13,676
1998	10,500	15,465
1999	11,127	16,730
2000	12,604	19,012
2001	13,736	20,815
2002	14,882	22,850
2003	16,034	25,070
2004	17,768	27,984
2005	18,896	29,890
2006	21,058	33,124
2007	22,656	36,094
2008	24,200	38,698
2009	24,768	39,785
2010	26,727	43,268
2011	28,520	46,647
2012	30,467	50,307
2013	33,737	56,270
2014	35,242	59,099
2015	38,000	64,339
2016	40,457	68,316

Source: The College Board

AP Participation by Racial and Ethnic Group – 2015-16 Public Schools

	Wisconsin				Nation			
	Test-Takers	Number of Exams	Number of Scores 3-5	Percent of Scores 3-5	Test-Takers	Number of Exams	Number of Scores 3-5	Percent of Scores 3-5
American Indian	100	159	77	48.4	7,719	11,970	4,201	35.1
Asian	1,877	3,638	2,409	66.2	261,774	575,493	395,161	68.7
Black or African American	1,139	1,658	397	23.9	174,976	273,859	76,444	27.9
Hispanic or Latino	2,765	4,346	2,173	50.0	532,709	902,524	370,230	41.0
Pacific Islander	24	44	31	70.5	4,021	6,621	2,694	40.7
White	32,804	55,604	37,948	68.2	1,160,729	2,062,971	1,296,886	62.9
Two or More Races	1,259	2,117	1,332	62.9	95,429	168,733	95,678	56.7
Other	11	32	25	78.1	1,792	4,323	2,883	66.7
No Response	478	718	389	54.2	33,371	50,096	24,100	48.1
TOTAL	40,457	68,316	44,781	65.5	2,272,520	4,056,590	2,268,277	55.9

In the 2015-16 school year, the College Board changed its collection and reporting to align with U.S. Department of Education race and ethnicity data categories. As a result, comparisons to results from prior years are invalid.