

Richland County School District One Summary Report



2004 Results of the Advanced Placement (AP) Exam

Office of Research and Evaluation

August 2004

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program allows high school students the opportunity to take college-level courses during high school to gain college-level skills and possibly earn college credit depending upon exam performance and college requirements. In May 2004, a total of 465 Richland District One students participated in the administration of the Advanced Placement (AP) Exams in 19 courses. AP Exam scores range from one to five with scores of three or higher indicating passing.

The percentage of passing AP Exams for 2004 was 50.0%, which was 10 percentage points lower than the passing rate for 2003 (60.0%). The passing rate for district AP students (50%) was below the state's passing rate (56%) and the national's passing rate (60%). The passing rate for Richland One's AP students in 2004 reached its lowest since 1999 (**Table 1**) while the actual number of exams scoring "3" or higher increased from 312 to 331 and that was the highest for the past five years (**Table 3**).

The number of students taking one or more AP exams in 2004 was 465 compared to 383 in 2003 (**Table 2**). The increase in the number of students taking one or more AP exams (21%) reflects the greatest single increase in the past six years as a result of the district's continuous efforts on encouraging students taking more rigorous courses.

The AP Exam results by gender and ethnicity are shown in **Table 3**. Although more exams were taken by females (373) than males (289), the passing rate was lower for females (44.8%; 167) than for males (56.7%; 164). This trend has remained consistent over the past six years except for 2000, where the passing rates for males (52.6%; 101) and females (52.8%; 162) were about the same. The passing rate for African-American students increased steadily over the years but slipped greatly in 2004 and reached its all time low at 19.8% since 1999.

In 2004, the AP exams that were most frequently taken were Calculus AB (115), English Literature and Composition (111), US History (103), English language and Composition (70), Government and Politics of the US (60), and Calculus BC (44). Of these six exams, Calculus BC had the highest passing rate (77.3%; 34), followed by Calculus AB (73.0%; 84), English Language and Composition (45.7%; 32), US History (41.7%; 43), and Government and Politics of the US (35%; 21). English Literature and Composition (34.2%; 38) had the lowest passing rates (**Table 5**).

Table 1
1999-2004 Passing Rates of Advanced Placement Exam
By District, State, and the Nation

	1999	2000	2001	2002		2003		2004	
	% of 3 & Above Scores	% of 3 & Above Scores	% of 3 & Above Scores	% of 3 & Above Scores	# Exams Taken	% of 3 & Above Scores	# Exams Taken	% of 3 & Above Scores	# Exams Taken
District	49.2	52.7	57.0	57.5	518	60.0	520	50.0	662
State	55.0	55.2	56.8	60.4	18,750	57.0	19,765	56.0	18,044
National	61.9	62.0	61.6	63.4	1,585,516	61.5	1,737,231	60.0	1,887,770

Table 2
Number of Students Taking One or More AP Exams for 1999-2004

School	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Columbia	41	34	19	37	44	52
Dreher	99	109	132	128	133	138
Eau Claire	24	15	11	29	24	14
Flora	72	91	79	52	87	114
Johnson	25	23	21	20	22	35
Keenan	40	24	39	40	26	26
Lower Richland	40	38	41	42	47	86
District	341	334	342	348	383	465

Note: The above table reports an unduplicated count of students taking AP Exams (i.e., students were counted only once even though some may have taken more than one exams).

Table 3
1999-2004 Passing Rates of Advanced Placement Exams
By Gender and Ethnicity

Group	1999		2000		2001		2002			2003		2004			
	% (N) Passing		% (N) Passing		% (N) Passing		% (N) Passing	# Exams Taken		% (N) Passing	# Exams Taken	% (N) Passing	# Exams Taken		
Male	53.8	(121)	52.6	(101)	63.6	(140)	58.2	(117)	(201)	67.6	(140)	(207)	56.7	(164)	(289)
Female	46.5	(179)	52.8	(162)	52.7	(178)	57.1	(181)	(317)	55.0	(172)	(313)	44.8	(167)	(373)
African American	17.6	(42)	22.2	(40)	27.1	(58)	32.4	(80)	(247)	37.7	(84)	(223)	19.8	(59)	(298)
White	71.1	(216)	72.6	(207)	76.4	(243)	82.6	(204)	(247)	79.4	(204)	(257)	75.1	(250)	(333)
All Students	49.2	(300)	52.7	(263)	57.0	(318)	57.5	(298)	(518)	60.0	(312)	(520)	50.0	(331)	(662)

Note: Some students take the AP exams in more than one area. The numbers of males and females may not add up to the All Students total if gender was not indicated.

Table 4
1999-2004 Passing Rates of Advanced Placement Exams
By School

School	1999		2000		2001		2002			2003		2004			
	% (N) Passing		% (N) Passing		% (N) Passing		% (N) Passing	# Exams Taken		% (N) Passing	# Exams Taken	% (N) Passing	# Exams Taken		
Columbia	26.2	(16)	48.8	(20)	36.4	(12)	33.3	(18)	(54)	24.1	(14)	(58)	17.1	(12)	(70)
Dreher	85.2	(156)	74.0	(128)	78.7	(155)	85.3	(151)	(177)	89.9	(169)	(188)	93.2	(193)	(207)
Eau Claire	2.8	(1)	10.0	(2)	0	(0)	0	(0)	(34)	13.9	(5)	(36)	0.0	(0)	(28)
Flora, A.C.	61.6	(90)	62.3	(81)	76.2	(109)	76.4	(68)	(89)	62.1	(59)	(95)	48.3	(70)	(145)
Johnson, C.A.	0	(0)	2.0	(1)	10.0	(5)	16.7	(8)	(48)	0.0	(0)	(34)	5.5	(3)	(55)
Keenan	10.6	(7)	41.7	(15)	22.5	(16)	46.9	(30)	(64)	64.2	(34)	(53)	42.3	(22)	(52)
Lower Richland	42.3	(30)	32.7	(16)	39.6	(21)	44.2	(23)	(52)	55.4	(31)	(56)	29.5	(31)	(105)
District	49.2	(300)	52.7	(263)	57.0	(318)	57.5	(298)	(518)	60.0	(312)	(520)	50.0	(331)	(662)

Table 5
1999-2004 Passing Rates of Advanced Placement Exams
By Course

Subject	1999	2000	2001	2002		2003		2004		
	% Passing	% Passing	% Passing	% Passing	# Exams Taken	% Passing	# Exams Taken	% Passing	# Scoring 3 or More	# Exams Taken
Studio Art: Drawing	100	100	83.3	-	-	66.6	(3)	100	7	(7)
Studio Art: 2-D Design	77.8	100	100	100	(11)	92.8	(14)	80	4	(5)
Studio Art: 3-D Design	-	-	-	100	(1)	-	-	-	-	-
Biology	32.8	40.0	43.2	22.9	(48)	13.0	(23)	37.2	16	43
Calculus AB	41.1	67.1	78.3	84.2	(95)	68.4	(111)	73.0	84	(115)
Calculus BC	88.5	71.4	76.5	83.3	(24)	86.7	(45)	77.3	34	(44)
Chemistry	57.5	71.4	29.4	35.7	(42)	0.0	(11)	55.0	11	(20)
Economics (Micro)	-	-	100	-	-	0.0	(1)	-	-	-
Economics (Macro)	-	-	(9)	44.4	(9)	70.0	(10)	21.4	3	(14)
English Lang-Comp	100	66.7	70	75.7	(37)	84.2	(19)	45.7	32	(70)
English Lit-Composition	60.0	60.3	52.4	70.3	(64)	50.7	(71)	34.2	38	(111)
European History	90.3	51.9	94.1	82.6	(23)	-	-	-	-	-
French: Language	-	-	27.3	100	(1)	66.6	(3)	60.0	3	(5)
French: Literature		100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Government/Politics - US	40.3	31.3	45.3	33.3	(51)	36.0	(50)	35.0	21	(60)
Latin: Vergil		4.2		100	(1)	-	-	-	-	-
Latin: Literature	46.4				(0)	-	-	0.0	0	(2)
Music Theory	100	30.0		71.4	(7)	-	-	-	-	-
Physics B			33.3	45.0	(20)	76.9	(13)	64.3	9	(14)
Physics C: Mechanics	66.7				(0)	100	(6)	-	-	-
Physics C: Elec. & M.	-	-	-	-	-	100	(6)	-	-	-
Spanish: Language	73.3	33.3			(0)	25.0	(8)	18.2	2	(11)
Statistics	10.0	38.1	20.0	0	(7)	-	-	0.0	0	(10)
US History	25.0	44.9	51.3	40.3	(77)	60.3	(126)	41.7	43	(103)
Total Tested	49.2	52.7	57.0	57.5	(518)	60.0	(520)	50.0	331	(662)