



STATE OF ALABAMA  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**



Joseph B. Morton  
 State Superintendent  
 of Education

Alabama  
 State Board  
 of Education

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**ALABAMA STILL GAINING IN ADVANCED PLACEMENT®**

Governor Bob Riley  
 President

**Montgomery, AL** – Alabama public schools are still showing gains in Advanced Placement® (AP), according to the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual *AP Report to the Nation*, released today by the [College Board](#). AP is a rigorous academic program that offers high school students the chance for college-level study in more than 30 courses in a wide variety of subject areas.

Randy McKinney  
 District I  
 Vice President

“Expanding Advanced Placement programs is critical to providing a world-class education for our children and making sure they are prepared to succeed in today’s global economy,” said Gov. Bob Riley.

Betty Peters  
 District II

Student participation in AP courses and exams and AP exam scores continue to rise in Alabama. Success on an AP exam is defined as a grade of 3 or higher – a score research shows is indicative of college success and graduation. More Alabama students earned qualifying scores (3 or higher) than ever before, and more students are prepared to succeed in – not just attend college.

Stephanie W. Bell  
 District III

Dr. Ethel H. Hall  
 District IV  
 Vice President  
 Emerita

“Through the [National Governors Association](#), Alabama was one of six states to receive funding to expand AP courses to more minority and low-income students. Alabama was one of seven states to be awarded a [National Math and Science Initiative](#) grant to strengthen AP programs,” said Dr. Joe Morton, State Superintendent of Education. “[A+ College Ready](#), the Alabama AP Initiative, [ACCESS](#) [Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators & Students Statewide] and our state funding enable us to offer more AP classes to more students, including rural areas of the state, but this is just the beginning. We must continue to expand AP access for all students, including traditionally underserved students.”

Ella B. Bell  
 District V

David F. Byers, Jr.  
 District VI

Gary Warren  
 District VII

According to today’s report, since 2004 in Alabama public schools:

Dr. Mary Jane Caylor  
 District VIII  
 President Pro Tem

- The number of test takers has almost doubled.
- The number of African American test takers has more than quadrupled.
- Qualifying exam scores (3 or higher) of African American students have more than doubled (Over 90 percent of colleges and universities give credit for qualifying scores).
- Five times more low-income students are taking AP exams and three times more are scoring 3 or higher on an AP exam.

Joseph B. Morton  
 Secretary and  
 Executive Officer

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<b>AP PARTICIPATION &amp; SCORES</b>			
	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Test-Takers</b>	16.3%	13.5%	8.8%
<b>3-5 Exam Scores</b>	7.5%	6.8%	5%

<b>ALABAMA'S AP GAINS</b>			
	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Test-Takers</b>	6,466	5,327	3,217
<b>3-5 Exam Scores</b>	2,972	2,691	1,833

<b>AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENTS' PROGRESS</b>			
	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Test-Takers</b>	1278	852	313
<b>3-5 Exam Scores</b>	227	191	99

<b>LOW-INCOME* STUDENTS' PROGRESS</b> (* based on free and reduced lunch)			
	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Test-Takers</b>	758	482	153
<b>3-5 Exam Scores</b>	160	107	54

“AP can prepare the next generation of scientists, mathematicians and engineers,” said Bill Heron, Senior Educational Manager, College Board. “In Alabama and across the nation, a wider and more ethnically diverse proportion of students continue to achieve success in AP.”

Alabama will present at the College Board [Regional Forum 2010 Atlanta](#), Feb. 18-19. In summer 2010, AP Summer Institutes at The University of Alabama and Auburn University will offer professional development opportunities for teachers, counselors and administrators:

- Auburn University, June 21-25, 2010, [www.auburn.edu/outreach/apsi/](http://www.auburn.edu/outreach/apsi/)
- The University of Alabama, July 12-16 and July 19-23

Additional professional development opportunities and the complete AP report are available online at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). Find AP course information at [www.collegeboard.com/ap/coursechanges](http://www.collegeboard.com/ap/coursechanges). For more information, contact College Board Public Affairs at 212-713-8052.

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