



STATE OF ALABAMA  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**



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**Alabama Students Celebrate Improved Participation  
 and Success in Advanced Placement (AP)**  
*The College Board places Alabama at the Top of List for AP Progress*

**Montgomery, Ala.** – Alabama is opening doors to college for many more students. Today, the College Board released results that show a major increase over the last five years, not only in the number Alabama public school students taking Advanced Placement (AP) exams, but in the level of scoring as well. With a 318% increase in minority participation and 102% increase in qualifying scores, the College Board ranks Alabama #1 in the nation for Advanced Placement improvement and growth, especially among minority groups.

Governor Bentley, the State Board of Education, business supporters, and A+ College Ready (the organization that implements Alabama’s advanced placement program), will celebrate these remarkable accomplishments along with AP students from around the state during a rally today beginning at 10:00am. Stanhope Elmore, just one of the 64 schools in four A+ College Ready cohorts, will host the celebration.

“We are so proud of the work of all the students and teachers for boosting their AP enrollment and achieving milestone jumps in qualifying scores,” said A+ College Ready President, Mary Boehm. “This is not easy work, and to have accomplished what our schools have accomplished in just a few short years is nothing short of extraordinary.” The number of minority students taking AP exams has particularly skyrocketed, increasing by more than 205 percent for black students in the state and more than 113 percent for Hispanic students.

State Board of Education Vice President Stephanie Bell said this year's report highlights Alabama's consistent progress over the last five years. "Alabama's growth has outpaced the nation for several years, and we look forward to continued success as we work with the College Board and A+ College Ready," Bell said. "Our number one goal in public education is to ensure every student graduates from high school well-prepared for college, the workforce and adulthood in the 21st Century. We want our students to have the tools to succeed."

Success on an AP exam is defined as a grade of 3 or higher. Most college and universities grant college credit for advanced placement for grades of 3 or higher with the highest grade possible being a 5. Earning college credit while still in high school results in college cost-savings for the student.

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State Superintendent Dr. Tommy Bice said the results the College Board released are encouraging as research indicates students who do well on an AP exam are prepared to successfully take on a corresponding introductory college course. Bice said the rise in AP test-taking by all groups of students in the state indicates an increased interest in making sure students graduate from high school ready for college. “The continued increase in participation and in successful scores earned in AP classes assists in making that goal a reality,” Bice said. The percentage of all test takers in Alabama public schools who score a three or higher on at least one AP exam has increased by more than 75% in the last five years.

College Board 2011-2012 Participation and Performance Overview shows Alabama public school students increasing in the numbers of AP test takers every year for both genders every ethnic group of students, in most cases outpacing their national counterparts by two and three times.

The report shows:

Alabama Public Schools		Nation	
<b># of Test Takers</b>	17,797	<b># of Test Takers</b>	1,814,533
Change from 2010-2011	+18%	Change from 2010-2011	+6.4%
Five Year Change	+102.7%	Five Year Change	+34.7%

Alabama		Nation	
<b>Female</b>	10,293	<b>Female</b>	1,022,951
Change from 2010-2011	+19.7%	Change from 2010-2011	+6.4%
Five Year Change	+105.7%	Five Year Change	+33.5%

Alabama		Nation	
<b>Male</b>	7,504	<b>Male</b>	1,022,951
Change from 2010-2011	+19.7%	Change from 2010-2011	+6.4%
Five Year Change	+105.7%	Five Year Change	+33.5%

Alabama		Nation	
<b>Black</b>	4,061	<b>Black</b>	147,029
Change from 2010-2011	+29.2%	Change from 2010-2011	+3.6%
Five Year Change	+205.1%	Five Year Change	+45.8%

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Alabama		Nation	
<b>Hispanic</b>	471	<b>Hispanic</b>	307,621
Change from 2010-2011	+31.9%	Change from 2010-2011	+8.1%
Five Year Change	+113.1%	Five Year Change	+59.9%

A+ College Ready is a division of A+ Education Partnership, which was founded in 1991 to help shape public education policy, and work through its divisions – A+ College Ready and the Alabama Best Practices Center – to support state educators in insuring all Alabama students are college and career-ready. The Alabama Department of Education partners with A+ College Ready to implement and manage the state’s Advanced Placement program.

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