



PRESS RELEASE

September 25, 2013

State Department of Education Announces Significant Improvements in State AP Results ***Alabama ranks number one in math, science and English AP increases***

Mobile, Ala. –Today, Superintendent of Education, Dr. Tommy Bice announced results that show major increases over the last five years, in the number of Alabama public school students passing math, science and English Advanced Placement* (AP) exams, ranking Alabama number one among all fifty states in percent increases. Additionally, the results show even higher percentage increases in math, science and English qualifying scores for minority students, ranking Alabama as number two among all fifty states in percent increases for minorities.

Governor Bentley, who was unable to attend the event sent a video-taped message to AP students and teachers attending the celebration saying, “I’m proud that Alabama students are enrolling and succeeding in AP classes at unprecedented rates.”

The Alabama State Department of Education and A+ College Ready have partnered in implementing the Advanced Placement Training and Incentive Program (APTIP) which has driven increased enrollment and qualifying score results for 76 high schools across the state participating in the program in the 2012-13 school year. The results show that program schools achieved a 101% average increase in passing Advanced Placement* (AP) scores, 14 times the national average, their first year of participation and continue to improve each year.

The State Department of Education has invested heavily in AP in the state by providing significant funds for the APTIP program which has expanded to 97 high schools across the state this year. In the class of 2012, 1000 more graduates succeeded on AP exams than even took the exam in the class of 2002. “Our investment in increasing rigor in our high schools through AP is paying off, said Dr. Bice, “Alabama is making significant gains toward closing the achievement gap among traditionally under-represented students, and better preparing all students for college, work and adulthood in the 21st century.”

Senator Trip Pittman, who helped secure additional funding for AP in the last legislative session, announced the 21 new high schools that will participate in the initiative for the next three years. The 21 new high schools selected through a competitive application process to participate in the Advanced Placement Training and Incentive Program include:

- Foley HS – Baldwin County Schools
- Demopolis HS – Demopolis County Schools
- Holtville HS – Elmore County Schools

- Enterprise HS – Enterprise City Schools
- Gaston HS, Sardis HS – Etowah County Schools
- Guntersville HS – Guntersville City Schools
- JO Johnson HS, SR Butler HS – Huntsville City Schools
- Walker HS – Jasper City Schools
- Hatton HS, Lawrence County HS, East Lawrence HS, RA Hubbard HS – Lawrence County Schools
- Bob Jones HS, James Clemons HS – Madison City Schools
- Excel HS – Monroe County Schools
- Opp HS – Opp City Schools
- Piedmont HS – Piedmont City Schools
- St. Clair County HS – St. Clair City Schools
- Sylacauga HS – Sylacauga City Schools

The APTIP program is the result of a public-private partnership that includes funds from the Alabama legislature and the State Board of Education, the National Math and Science Initiative, and additional matching funds from Alabama donors including Alabama Power Foundation, Regions Inc., Boeing and ExxonMobil along with other corporations, foundations and individual donors across the state.

In 2013-14, The ALSDE/A+ College Ready AP Initiative supports 97 schools in 43 Districts and expands access in AP math, science and English classes for all students, provides increased time on task for students through special study sessions and includes intensive teacher training, support from master teachers and stipends for teachers and students

A link to Governor Bentley's complete video remarks can be found at: <https://vimeo.com/75223383>

*Advanced Placement and AP are registered trademarks of the College Board.

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