



A+ COLLEGE READY

A Division of the A+ Education Partnership

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**The Governor and the State Department of Education Announced Thursday
Advanced Placement (AP) Results for the Most Students in Alabama’s History**

Alabama holds onto number-one ranking in math, science and English AP growth over 8 years

Montgomery, Ala. –Governor Robert Bentley announced Thursday a remarkable achievement for Alabama’s high school students; **Alabama is ranked number one again in the nation over the last eight years** in percent growth of students achieving qualifying scores on math, science, and English (MSE) Advanced Placement* (AP) exams.

More importantly, there are more Alabama students challenging themselves in ALL AP courses than ever – **from 5,327 test takers in 2008 to 27,817 test takers in 2016. This represents a 422% increase in 8 years: 6.5 times the increase in nation-wide test takers, which has risen 65% in the same time frame.** The access to challenging AP courses for Alabama’s traditionally underserved students has also dramatically risen as minority students represent 29% of the test takers and students qualifying for free or reduced lunch represent 15% of the test takers in 2016, compared to 18% and 9% respectively, in 2008.

"It's incredible what we can accomplish when we work together for the 743,893 Alabama students counting on us," said Governor Robert Bentley. "This strong partnership between the State Department of Education and A+ College Ready continues to demonstrate its success with more students than ever taking challenging AP courses, and becoming better prepared to be Alabama's leaders of tomorrow. I'm proud of how far we've come. But we have more work to do, and more students to reach."

The program elements of The ALSDE/A+ College Ready partnership include expanding enrollment in AP classes, increased time on task for students, intensive teacher training, support from master teachers, and incentives for teachers and students. And, to build a strong pipeline of students prepared for AP courses and college, teachers in 6-10th grade are provided with significant training, support and curricular materials in core subject areas.

State Superintendent Michael Sentance shared results showing that Alabama schools in this program have achieved an average 105% increase in passing Advanced Placement (AP) math, science and English scores **in their first year** of participation – 17 times greater than the national average for these same exams.

"A+ College ready has provided priceless resources and opportunities," said Cheryl Roberson, AP Calculus teacher from Albertville High School. "Not only for me and my students, but for all the teachers in the high school and our feeder middle schools."

Roberson and Amanda Umphrey, AP Coordinator from Springville High School, spoke during Thursday's event about how the program has impacted the culture of their school and increased the confidence of students and teachers.

"Without the A+ College Ready Program, it would have been almost impossible for Springville High School to establish an Advanced Placement Program," said Umphrey. "A very successful first year is under our belt, and we almost doubled our enrollment for the second year in the program. We are very excited at what the future holds for the Advanced Placement Program at Springville High School!"

In 2016-17, the ALSDE/A+ College Ready Initiative will support 161 schools in 76 districts and has expanded the work to include support for AP U.S. History and AP Government and Politics as well as the new AP Computer Science Principles course. Also, teachers in 6th - 10th grades will receive intensive training and support implementing *Laying The Foundation*-infused curriculum, which is developed with a strong focus on college readiness.

The Alabama Legislature and The State Department of Education provide significant funds for the program, building on initial investments from the private sector, including the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI), Alabama Power Foundation, Regions Inc., Boeing and ExxonMobil, along with many other corporations, foundations and individual donors across the state. The Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative (AMSTI) is a key partner in ensuring that all Alabama students meet the state's College and Career Ready Standards.

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

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