

Advanced Placement Examination Results in Texas and the United States, 2017-18

This report presents Advanced Placement (AP) examination participation and performance data for students in Texas and the United States in public and nonpublic schools combined. AP examination results are used by colleges and universities to make class placement decisions and to award college credit to incoming students who meet qualifying standards on the examinations.

Results presented in this report were obtained from summary reports released annually by the College Board. For additional information about AP examinations and results

reported by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) Division of Research and Analysis, including definitions of terms and explanations of calculations, please see *Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate General Information, 2017-18* (TEA, forthcoming-b), and *Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Glossary of Terms, 2017-18* (TEA, forthcoming-c). AP and International Baccalaureate results for Texas public schools are presented in the report *Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Examination Results in Texas Public Schools, 2017-18* (TEA, forthcoming-a).

Advanced Placement Results for Texas and the United States

- In the 2017-18 school year, a total of 318,150 students in all grades in Texas public and nonpublic schools took 594,643 Advanced Placement (AP) examinations (Table 1). Texas ranked second in the nation in both number of AP examinees and number of AP examinations taken (Table 3 on page 5).
- Between 2016-17 and 2017-18, the number of AP examinations taken increased by 1.8 percent in Texas, compared to 2.5 percent in the United States as a whole (Table 1). The number of AP examinations with scores in the 3-5 range increased by 5.9 percent in Texas, compared to 4.2 percent in the United States. The percentage of examinations with scores in the 3-5 range increased by 1.8 percentage points in Texas and by 1.0 percentage point in the United States.
- In 2017-18, the percentage of AP examinees who reported their race/ethnicity to the College Board as African American, American Indian, Asian, Hispanic, Pacific Islander, or multiracial was considerably higher in Texas (67.7%) than the United States as a whole (48.0%) (Table 2 on page 4). In large part, the difference reflects the higher percentage of Hispanic AP examinees in Texas (46.3%), compared to the United States (23.7%).
- Of the four most populous states in the country in 2017-18, New York had the highest AP examination participation rate (31.1%) among public school students in Grades 11 and 12, followed by California (29.0%), Florida (27.3%), and Texas (26.5%) (Table 4 on page 7). All four states had higher participation rates than the United States as a whole (23.9%).
- For public and nonpublic schools combined in the four most populous states, New York had the highest percentage of examinations with scores in the 3-5 range (61.0%), followed by California (58.7%), Florida (52.3%), and Texas (47.4%). New York and California had higher percentages of examinations with scores in the 3-5 range than the United States as a whole (58.4%), while Florida and Texas had lower percentages.
- Among students in all grades in 2017-18, the three AP examinations with the largest numbers of test takers in Texas, in rank order, were English Language and Composition, World History, and United States History (Table 5 on page 8). The three AP examinations with the largest numbers of test takers in the United States, in rank order, were English Language and Composition, United States History, and English Literature and Composition.
- Compared to the United States, Texas had higher percentages of examinees with scores in the 3-5 range on 4 out of 38 examinations: European History, Computer Science Principles, Chinese Language and Culture, and Italian Language and Culture.

Table 1
Advanced Placement (AP) Examination Trends, Texas and the United States, 2007-08
Through 2017-18

Year	Examinees		Examinations		Examinations with scores of 3-5		Scores in 3-5 range (%)	
	Texas	U.S.	Texas	U.S.	Texas	U.S.	Texas	U.S.
2007-08	147,241	1,546,020	270,466	2,674,296	125,779	1,534,686	46.5	57.4
2008-09	158,993	1,653,962	287,756	2,860,912	138,276	1,672,594	48.1	58.5
2009-10	179,320	1,802,144	325,571	3,134,686	153,539	1,802,472	47.2	57.5
2010-11	198,272	1,926,204	360,735	3,365,617	163,705	1,936,054	45.4	57.5
2011-12	207,321	2,046,377	374,091	3,594,696	179,021	2,114,995	47.9	58.8
2012-13	218,325	2,160,331	398,130	3,824,691	190,042	2,239,916	47.7	58.6
2013-14	238,161	2,281,499	434,001	4,056,283	211,192	2,380,263	48.7	58.7
2014-15	268,918	2,416,329	505,790	4,343,547	231,124	2,495,907	45.7	57.5
2015-16	289,550	2,538,998	542,178	4,559,273	250,081	2,620,390	46.1	57.5
2016-17	310,793	2,665,203	584,179	4,803,422	270,805	2,762,298	46.4	57.5
2017-18	318,150	2,727,480	594,643	4,923,072	286,847	2,877,811	48.2	58.5

Source. Primary data from College Board. See, for example College Board (2018c, 2018e).

Note. Data are based on public and nonpublic school examinees.

Table 2
Advanced Placement (AP) Examinees, by Grade Level, Race/Ethnicity, and Gender, Texas and the United States, 2017-18

Examinee group	Number		Percent		Change from previous year (percentage-point)	
	Texas	U.S.	Texas	U.S.	Texas	U.S.
9th/10th grade	114,333	752,566	35.9	27.6	2.0	1.2
11th grade	103,648	978,507	32.6	35.9	-0.9	-0.6
12th grade	87,163	933,960	27.4	34.2	-0.3	-0.4
11th/12th grade	190,811	1,912,467	60.0	70.1	-1.1	-1.0
African American	21,744	195,838	6.8	7.2	-0.3	-0.1
American Indian	808	8,237	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0
Asian	35,216	332,549	11.1	12.2	0.6	0.3
Hispanic	147,433	646,220	46.3	23.7	0.3	0.5
Pacific Islander	299	4,412	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0
White	96,167	1,357,537	30.2	49.8	-1.3	-1.4
Multiracial	9,729	122,143	3.1	4.5	0.1	0.1
Other	4	48	<0.1	<0.1	0.0	0.0
Not stated	6,750	60,496	2.1	2.2	0.6	0.7
Female	178,987	1,542,798	56.3	56.6	0.3	0.1
Male	139,163	1,184,682	43.7	43.4	-0.3	-0.1
Total	318,150	2,727,480	100	100	n/a ^a	n/a

Source. Primary data from College Board (2017c, 2017e, 2018c, 2018e).

Note. Data are based on public and nonpublic school examinees. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Numbers of examinees by grade level may not sum to the totals because the totals include students who took examinations outside of Grades 9-12, or because of missing data or data errors.

^aNot applicable.

Table 3
Advanced Placement (AP) Examination Results, by State and the
United States, 2017-18

State	Examinees		Examinations	
	Number	Change from previous year (%)	Number	Scoring 3-5 (%)
Alabama	30,363	3.2	57,245	39.8
Alaska	3,423	-1.0	5,606	59.0
Arizona	40,793	2.5	72,143	57.3
Arkansas	27,794	-0.7	48,193	35.7
California	421,141	2.3	794,126	59.0
Colorado	53,220	3.7	89,675	61.2
Connecticut	37,105	4.2	69,640	69.4
Delaware	7,416	3.7	13,307	59.7
District of Columbia	6,574	-1.7	12,302	54.8
Florida	219,770	2.0	398,873	52.6
Georgia	99,169	0.1	178,201	60.3
Hawaii	9,903	2.5	15,829	53.6
Idaho	8,158	4.3	14,038	58.9
Illinois	125,609	4.8	231,728	64.4
Indiana	51,814	3.3	88,225	52.1
Iowa	13,591	4.7	20,986	62.0
Kansas	10,112	-4.7	16,314	65.3
Kentucky	35,094	-1.8	57,408	52.2
Louisiana	24,230	2.1	35,675	44.1
Maine	8,472	-2.0	15,021	56.7
Maryland	67,535	-0.3	127,155	65.7
Massachusetts	66,467	2.5	124,064	67.6
Michigan	66,130	1.6	110,345	64.1
Minnesota	45,958	1.3	75,185	66.4
Mississippi	10,712	1.2	16,087	35.2
Missouri	27,630	3.5	45,896	63.1
Montana	3,500	-2.0	5,599	63.1
Nebraska	8,888	4.9	15,240	56.3
Nevada	21,780	-0.5	39,112	50.1
New Hampshire	7,681	1.4	12,800	68.5

Source. Primary data from College Board (2018c).

Note. Data are based on public and nonpublic school examinees.

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Table 3 (continued)
Advanced Placement (AP) Examination Results, by State and the
United States, 2017-18

State	Examinees		Examinations	
	Number	Change from previous year (%)	Number	Scoring 3-5 (%)
New Jersey	79,033	3.7	154,215	69.3
New Mexico	10,612	-5.6	17,292	39.4
New York	173,644	4.8	309,055	61.9
North Carolina	83,378	1.7	157,532	55.3
North Dakota	2,937	19.2	4,595	56.1
Ohio	73,282	1.3	129,177	64.8
Oklahoma	19,224	4.6	33,222	45.2
Oregon	21,121	0.3	34,989	59.8
Pennsylvania	77,232	1.7	139,358	66.9
Rhode Island	7,878	10.3	14,342	55.5
South Carolina	35,286	5.9	57,332	59.3
South Dakota	2,861	-0.8	4,771	67.3
Tennessee	38,742	9.0	66,389	56.5
Texas	318,150	2.4	594,643	48.2
Utah	28,304	1.6	43,569	68.4
Vermont	3,739	-6.2	6,431	65.9
Virginia	79,597	0.7	158,833	65.8
Washington	54,195	0.5	93,123	62.8
West Virginia	7,970	-0.1	13,110	46.0
Wisconsin	48,066	2.6	81,735	66.7
Wyoming	2,197	10.2	3,341	55.6
United States	2,727,480	2.3	4,923,072	58.5

Source. Primary data from College Board (2018c).

Note. Data are based on public and nonpublic school examinees.

Table 4
Advanced Placement (AP) Examination Results, Grades 11 and 12, Four Most Populous States and the United States, 2017-18

State	Enrollment		Examinees		Examinations	
	Number	Taking at least 1 AP exam (%)	Number	Change from previous year (%)	Number	Scoring 3-5 (%)
California	939,756	29.0	272,587	1.3	652,592	58.7
Florida	394,919	27.3	107,943	0.1	277,389	52.3
New York	371,941	31.1	115,730	4.4	258,619	61.0
Texas	675,976	26.5	178,808	0.5	439,582	47.4
United States	7,033,236	23.9	1,678,788	1.0	3,916,618	58.4

Source. Primary data from College Board (2017a, 2017b, 2017c, 2017d, 2017e, 2018a, 2018b, 2018c, 2018d, 2018e).

Note. Data for enrollment and examinees are based on public schools only. Data for examinations are based on public and nonpublic schools combined.

Table 5
Advanced Placement (AP) Examinations and Scores, by Subject, Texas and the United States, 2017-18

Examination	Examinations				Scores			
	Number		Percent		Scoring in		Mean score	
	Texas	U.S.	Texas	U.S.	3-5 range (%)		Texas	U.S.
English Language and Composition	71,381	571,009	12.0	11.6	45.3	57.0	2.5	2.8
World History	59,344	299,194	10.0	6.1	45.3	55.9	2.5	2.8
United States History	58,936	497,290	9.9	10.1	42.5	51.7	2.4	2.7
English Literature and Composition	45,576	396,350	7.7	8.1	39.7	47.1	2.4	2.6
Human Geography	41,579	213,068	7.0	4.3	44.7	54.1	2.4	2.7
United States Government and Politics	35,027	325,190	5.9	6.6	40.0	52.9	2.3	2.7
Spanish Language and Culture	32,657	178,297	5.5	3.6	84.7	88.2	3.5	3.7
Physics 1	31,696	162,349	5.3	3.3	23.3	39.2	1.8	2.3
Macroeconomics	27,930	135,056	4.7	2.7	41.1	56.7	2.4	2.9
Biology	26,048	252,237	4.4	5.1	49.5	61.1	2.6	2.9
Calculus AB	25,855	293,777	4.3	6.0	45.3	56.9	2.5	2.9
Statistics	18,763	212,626	3.2	4.3	56.0	60.2	2.7	2.9
Psychology	18,283	301,826	3.1	6.1	55.2	65.4	2.8	3.1
Environmental Science	17,551	164,022	3.0	3.3	42.4	47.4	2.5	2.6
Chemistry	14,051	152,145	2.4	3.1	45.0	54.5	2.5	2.8
Calculus BC	10,696	125,245	1.8	2.5	74.8	80.2	3.6	3.7
Computer Science A	6,475	60,040	1.1	1.2	63.9	67.4	3.1	3.2
Spanish Literature and Culture	6,428	26,465	1.1	0.5	61.7	69.3	2.8	3.0
Physics C: Mechanics	5,058	51,086	0.9	1.0	72.7	76.9	3.4	3.5
European History	4,909	100,231	0.8	2.0	58.9	57.5	3.0	2.9
Computer Science Principles	4,831	70,864	0.8	1.4	72.1	71.0	3.2	3.1
Microeconomics	4,163	76,382	0.7	1.6	39.7	66.3	2.3	3.1
Studio Art: 2-D Design	3,996	34,981	0.7	0.7	80.1	84.4	3.3	3.5
Physics 2	3,920	22,740	0.7	0.5	50.4	60.8	2.6	2.9
Art History	3,482	24,258	0.6	0.5	61.9	64.7	3.0	3.0
Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism	3,110	21,576	0.5	0.4	65.6	72.6	3.3	3.6
Capstone Seminar	2,664	29,448	0.4	0.6	81.9	82.3	3.1	3.1
Studio Art: Drawing	2,412	19,993	0.4	0.4	83.5	89.3	3.5	3.6
Music Theory	2,232	18,654	0.4	0.4	63.9	65.6	3.1	3.2
French Language and Culture	1,330	20,760	0.2	0.4	64.1	75.5	3.0	3.3

Source. Primary data from College Board (2018c, 2018e).

Note. Data are based on public and nonpublic school examinees. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

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Table 5 (continued)
Advanced Placement (AP) Examinations and Scores, by Subject, Texas and the United States, 2017-18

Examination	Examinations				Scores			
	Number		Percent		Scoring in 3-5 range (%)		Mean score	
	Texas	U.S.	Texas	U.S.	Texas	U.S.	Texas	U.S.
Capstone Research	931	9,065	0.2	0.2	68.4	74.4	3.0	3.1
Studio Art: 3-D Design	780	5,607	0.1	0.1	58.6	68.5	2.8	3.1
Chinese Language and Culture	771	11,802	0.1	0.2	90.4	90.1	4.3	4.2
Comparative Government and Politics	679	23,441	0.1	0.5	39.5	62.6	2.4	3.1
Latin	541	6,388	0.1	0.1	60.1	66.4	2.8	3.0
German Language and Culture	369	4,666	0.1	0.1	57.5	68.9	3.0	3.2
Japanese Language and Culture	141	2,166	<0.1	<0.1	58.2	75.5	3.0	3.6
Italian Language and Culture	48	2,778	<0.1	0.1	89.6	67.2	4.0	3.1

Source. Primary data from College Board (2018c, 2018e).

Note. Data are based on public and nonpublic school examinees. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

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Abstract. This report presents Advanced Placement (AP) examination participation and performance results in Texas and the United States for the 2017-18 school year. The results are for public and nonpublic schools combined and are presented by race/ethnicity and gender.

The report is available in PDF format on the agency website at http://tea.texas.gov/acctres/ap_ib_index.html. Additional information about this report may be obtained by contacting the Texas Education Agency Division of Research and Analysis by phone at (512) 475-3523 or by e-mail at Research@tea.texas.gov.

For additional information about AP examinations, contact the College Board Southwestern Regional Office at (866) 392-3017 or <http://www.collegeboard.org/>.



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