



Texas recognized for strong performance on AP exams

AUSTIN – Texas was recognized today by the College Board as one of 20 states with the greatest percentage of students earning scores of three or higher on Advanced Placement (AP) exams.

Tests are scored on a range of one to five. Colleges and universities typically give college course credit to those who earn scores of three, four or five.

Among students in Texas' high school graduating Class of 2009, 76,875 or 28.7 percent took at least one AP exam during high school, compared to 26.5 percent for the nation. That represents a substantial increase from five years ago when 53,339 or 21.8 percent of the state's graduating seniors took an AP test sometime during their high school career.

In Texas, 14.9 percent of the graduating Class of 2009 earned a score of three or higher on an AP test, compared to 12.5 percent of the Class of 2004 who did so.

Social sciences tests, which include history, government, economics and psychology, were the most popular tests taken by Texas students. They experienced their greatest success on English AP exams.

In the *AP Report to the Nation: 2010* released today, three Texas high schools were recognized for the strong performance of their minority students.

Valley View High School in Hidalgo County's Valley View Independent School District was highlighted as a "public school with the largest number of Latino students from the Class of 2009 scoring a three or higher" on the AP Spanish Literature exam.

The School of Science and Engineering at Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Magnet Center in Dallas ISD was again recognized as a "public school with the largest number of Latino students from the Class of 2009 scoring a three or higher" on the AP Calculus AB exam.

For the second year in a row, the Michael E. DeBakey High School for Health Professions in Houston ISD was spotlighted nationally as a "public school with the largest number of African-American students from the Class of 2009 scoring a three or higher" on the AP Calculus AB test.