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**ALABAMA PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS CONTINUE TO SHOW GAINS IN PARTICIPATION AND SUCCESS ON ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMS**

**Montgomery, Ala.** – An annual report released by the [College Board](#), shows Alabama students continuing to demonstrate constant progress in Advanced Placement (AP) participation and progress. In fact, Alabama’s growth in qualifying scores in AP math, science and English has risen to the highest percent growth of any state in America.

Alabama’s continued commitment to expand access to challenging course work for students across the state has once again resulted in an increase in the number of Alabama public school students who have taken and excel on AP exams. In spring 2017, Alabama public high school students took 49,860 AP exams and earned 19,460 qualifying scores, earning the equivalent of more than \$47 million in college tuition, according to A+ College Ready.

“This is consistent. We are beginning to see a trend of students, teachers, and parents all working hard and contributing to the rise in the number of Alabama students who achieve high marks on AP exams,” shared Dr. Barbara Cooper, [Alabama State Department of Education](#) Deputy State Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Improvement Division.

“The quality and rigor of the coursework offered to Alabama students who take AP classes continues to help them navigate through high school, and prepare them for the demands of continued education after high school,” said Cooper.

The number of participating students earning qualifying scores on the AP exam from 2013 until 2017 has grown each year; from 19,927 in 2013; 22,560 in 2014; 23,834 in 2015; 25,024 in 2016; and 26,679 in 2017. In addition, we continue to see improvement in participation across most student subgroups (race/ethnicity) rose in participation. Participation by black students increased more than six percent from last year and Alabama’s Hispanic students increasing their participation by a notable 22 percent. White students increased their participation by 5.3 percent as well.

[A+ College Ready](#) Vice-President of Operations, Teri Thompson said she is pleased with the progress Alabama has made in Advanced Placement courses. “We are thrilled to see Alabama ranked #1 in the nation again. This is proof that Alabama students are willing and more than able to meet higher expectations.”

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Thompson said. “However, our aspirations are to see even greater numbers of students participate and progress. We know that more improvement is needed, and A+ College Ready and the Alabama State department of Education will work to ensure that Alabama achieves greater results on AP in the future.”

AP is a rigorous academic program that offers high school students the chance for college-level study in more than 30 courses in a wide variety of subject areas. Success on an AP exam is defined as a score of 3, 4 or 5— a score research shows is indicative of college success and graduation.

The typical student who receives a score of 3 or higher on two AP exams has the potential to save, on average, more than \$1,800 at a public four-year college in Alabama and \$3,900 at a private institution. In Alabama 49,860 AP tests were taken last year. In an overall increase 8 percent from last year. Of those, 19,460 exams scored a three or higher – a 13.5 percent increase from last year.

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