

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Advanced Placement Examination Results: 2007

ORIGINATOR: J. Bidulock, Assistant Superintendent

RESOURCE

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INFORMATION

Introduction

This report provides information related to the Advanced Placement (AP) examination results. A synthesis of the data is provided first, along with some implications for next steps for district schools offering the AP program. The report then provides a detailed analysis of the 2007 data. Finally, background information about the AP program is provided to assist in making connections between the AP examination results and the students choosing to participate in this program.

Highlights

Results from the AP examinations have been analyzed and the following highlights have been identified. Comparisons to previous years are been made to the 2005 data because in 2006, Educational Testing Services lost a substantial number of test booklets from Edmonton Public Schools. Therefore the data was incomplete for that year and was not reported.

- The average mark for students in the district was higher than the world average for six of seven courses in 2007 for which there is sufficient data to report on results.
- The size of the program at grade 12 varies at the six schools that offer AP from 2 exams written at J. Percy Page to 570 exams written at Strathcona High School. This is an increase of 278 examinations compared to 2005.

Implications for Next Steps

- School principals report that many students enrol in AP programs as an opportunity for enrichment of the Alberta curriculum which assists them in preparation for the diploma examinations. Additionally, for a limited number of courses in selected faculties, students can receive advance credit or placement in university courses at most major Canadian universities. This provides students with an opportunity to complete post-secondary in a shorter time frame. School staff teaching AP courses need to ensure that students are aware of their post-secondary options related to AP programming.

- As a program of choice, students have the opportunity to experience enriched programming in one or more subjects. This flexibility allows the AP program to meet the diverse needs of students and should continue to be encouraged.

Detailed Results

In May 2007, district students from six high schools (Eastglen, J. Percy Page, Jasper Place, Queen Elizabeth, Strathcona and W. P. Wagner) wrote 930 AP examinations. This is an increase of 278 examinations compared to 2005. Tables 1 and 2 provide district information for the May 2007 test administration.

**TABLE 1
NUMBER OF STUDENTS WRITING
ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMINATIONS: MAY 2007**

Subject	EPS
Biology	100
Calculus AB	93
Calculus BC	14
Chemistry	114
Computer Science A	11
Computer Science AB	4
English Lang & Composition	123
English Lit & Composition	150
European History	179
French Language	31
French Literature	1
German Language	24
Physics B	73
Studio Art: Drawing	8
Studio Art: 2-D Design	5
Total	930

Table 2 provides district, Alberta, Canada and world averages for the seven AP courses in which at least fifty district students participated.

**TABLE 2
AVERAGE SCORE (OUT OF 5) ON
ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMINATIONS: MAY 2007**

Subject	EPS	Alberta	Canada	World
Biology	3.85	3.85	3.73	3.04
Calculus AB	3.68	3.78	3.51	2.94
Chemistry	2.55	3.28	3.35	2.79
English Lang & Composition	3.24	3.24	3.18	2.85
English Lit & Composition	3.23	3.24	3.14	2.87
European History	2.88	2.95	2.88	2.84
Physics B	3.40	3.79	3.86	2.88

District averages were equal to or marginally lower than Alberta averages in three of the seven courses for which there is sufficient data to report on results, and lower than Alberta averages in four courses.

District averages were higher than Canadian averages for four of the seven courses, and lower than the Canadian average for two of the seven courses. District averages were higher than world averages for all courses except Chemistry.

District students also wrote examinations in the following courses: Calculus BC, Computer Science A, Computer Science AB, French Language, German Language, Studio Art:Drawing, and Studio Art: 2-D Design. The number of students participating in any of these examinations ranged from a high of thirty-one students to a low of four students.

Appendix I provides a longitudinal graphic representation of district averages on Advanced Placement examinations for courses that have consistently had registrations of fifty students or more. The district averages for 2007 were higher than the averages for 2005 for Calculus AB and English Language and Composition but lower than 2005 for the other courses graphically displayed.

Description of Advanced Placement Program

The AP program is a challenging enriched academic program designed to provide high achieving students with exposure to post-secondary level material in a high school setting. Students who complete AP courses are very well prepared for their first year of university. AP students demonstrate their mastery of the subject material by writing internationally recognized examinations prepared and graded by the College Board, Princeton, New Jersey. A distinct feature of the AP program is flexibility. A student may enroll in one, some or all AP courses.

Successful completion of AP examinations allows students limited opportunities to receive credit for some courses in some faculties. At the University of Alberta, additional assessments are often required for students to take advantage of this opportunity.

The objectives of the program, as stated on the College Board AP website, are as follows:

- to prepare as many students as possible for optimum success at university;
- to provide students with an enriched and challenging academic program in the company of like-minded students;
- to develop and extend students' skills of acquiring, organizing and evaluating ideas and information;
- to stimulate students' critical and creative thinking skills as well as divergent and abstract thinking abilities;
- to nurture students' independence and autonomy in learning; and
- to broaden students' experiences through structured interactions with resource persons in the community.

JB:fm

APPENDIX I - District Advanced Placement Examination Mark Averages: 2003-2007

**DISTRICT ADVANCED PLACEMENT
EXAMINATION MARK AVERAGES : 2003 - 2007**

