



NEWS RELEASE

Utah State Board of Education

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More Utah Students Participate in AP Exams; Passing Rates Top National Average *SAT College Entrance Exam Participation also Increases*

SALT LAKE CITY – In 2019 a total of 28,325 Utah public school students took at least one Advanced Placement (AP) exam, an increase of 5.2 percent over 2018. Those students took a total of 42,967 AP exams with a score good enough to earn college credit 67.4 percent of the time compared to 57.9 percent of the time for their peers nationally in public schools, according to data released today by College Board.

Much of Utah’s increase is fueled by increasing numbers of Hispanic students taking AP exams, College Board noted. Hispanic participation has risen from 1,775 students taking at least one AP course in 2015 to 3,356 students in 2019, an 89 percent increase. White student participation grew just shy of 14 percent over the same time period.

College Board also noted [963 Utah public school students – and 1,506 Utah students altogether – took the SAT college entrance exam in 2019](#). This is up from 895 in 2018 for public school students and up from 1,425 for all Utah students. Scores in the Evidence-based Reading and Writing (EWR) portion declined from 640 in 2018 to 632 in 2019 for public school students and from 618 to 614 for all students.

Mathematics scores declined from 635 to 633 for Utah public school students and but rose from 612 to 615 for all Utah students over the same time period. Utah's public school student average total score of 1,264 still exceeds the national public school average total of 1,039. The mean total score for all Utah students was 1,230 compared to the national mean of 1,059. All Utah public school students are offered the ACT college entrance exam. Few take the SAT and many of them plan to attend colleges or universities on either the east or west coast.

"It is great to see more of our students challenge themselves with AP courses and exams," said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Sydnee Dickson. "It is greater still to see more of them succeeding in those classes and earning college credit while still in high school."

AP exam taking patterns appear to show some success both for Utah's Dual Language Immersion Initiative and increased emphasis on computer science in the classroom. The Dual Language Immersion Initiative began offering funding for foreign language immersion programs for Utah elementary schools in 2009. The program continues to expand and is now available in 203 schools and includes Chinese, French, German, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish programs. The youngest students from dual immersion classes are now in high school and have begun taking AP exams in some of those languages. College Board data shows:

- 521 students taking the AP Chinese Language and Culture exam up from 194 in 2018, a 169 percent increase.
- 304 students taking the AP French Language and Culture exam up from 232 in 2018, a 122 percent increase.
- 1,575 students taking the AP Spanish Language and Culture exam, up from 1,300 in 2018, a 21 percent increase.

Utah is also encouraging more students to study information technology and computer programming. In 2019 a total of 366 students took the AP exam in Computer Science Principles. This is an increase of 247 students over 2018 or a 48 percent increase.

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Here more results released by College Board:

2019 Advanced Placement (AP) Exams for Utah Public School Students

	# Exam Takers	# Exams Taken	Scores of 3, 4, 5	% of 3, 4, 5
Utah Public Schools	28,325	42,967	28,944	67.4
National Public Schools	2,463,893	4,396,503	2,543,788	57.9

2019 Utah Public School Advanced Placement (AP) Results

	# Exam Takers	# Exams Taken	Scores of 3, 4, 5	% of 3, 4, 5
Female	15,356	22,731	14,738	64.8
Male	12,969	20,236	14,206	70.2
American Indian	103	137	57	41.6
Asian	1,044	1,860	1,281	68.9
Black	176	263	114	43.3
Hispanic/Latino	3,356	4,737	2,705	57.1
Pacific Islander	115	145	58	40.0
White	21,939	33,506	23,223	69.3
Multiracial	962	1,505	1,016	67.5
No Response	630	814	490	60.2

Utah Public School Most Popularly Taken Advanced Placement Exams in 2019

	# Exam Takers	Scores of 3, 4, 5	% of 3, 4, 5
English Language/Composition	5,151	3,355	65.1
Human Geography	4,882	2,738	56.1
United States History	4,094	2,535	61.9
Calculus AB	3,118	2,214	71.0
English Literature/Composition	3,101	2,124	68.5

2019 SAT Scores

	# Exam Takers	Total Score	English	Math
Utah Public Schools	963	1,264	632	633
National Public Schools	1,859,215	1,039	524	515
All Utah Schools	1,506	1,230	614	615
All National Schools	2,220,087	1,059	531	528