



# NEWS

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## **14 Texas school districts earn place on College Board AP<sup>®</sup> District Honor Roll**

AUSTIN – Commissioner of Education Michael Williams today noted that 14 Texas school districts are among 477 in the U.S. and Canada being honored by the College Board with placement on its 4th Annual AP<sup>®</sup> District Honor Roll. The Honor Roll recognizes districts for increasing access to AP course work while simultaneously maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP Exams.

The 13 districts and one charter school in Texas that have earned this national distinction are:

- Carroll Independent School District (Southlake, TX)
- Coppell Independent School District
- Eagle Pass Independent School District
- Frisco Independent School District
- IDEA Public Schools
- Irving Independent School District
- Katy Independent School District
- Lake Travis Independent School District
- Mesquite Independent School District
- Pasadena Independent School District
- Plano Independent School District
- Point Isabel Independent School District
- Sharyland Independent School District (Mission, TX)
- Southwest Independent School District (San Antonio, TX)

“Students in school districts across Texas are tackling rigorous Advanced Placement courses and succeeding,” said Commissioner Williams. “This opportunity to prepare for postsecondary success in high school pays great dividends in our education system today and for our state’s economic future.”

In 2013, more than 3,300 colleges and universities around the world received AP scores for college credit, advanced placement and/or consideration in the admission process, with many colleges and universities in the United States offering credit in one or more subjects for qualifying AP scores.

Data from 2013 show that among African-American, Hispanic and Native American students with a high degree of readiness for AP, only about half of students are participating because their schools do not always offer the AP course for which they have potential. Trevor Packer, the College Board's senior vice president of AP and Instruction, notes that these 14 Texas districts are committed to expanding the availability of AP courses among prepared and motivated students of all backgrounds.

“We applaud the extraordinary efforts of the devoted teachers and administrators in these districts who are offering more students the opportunity to engage in rigorous college-level course work,” said Packer. “These outcomes are a powerful testament to educators’ belief that a more diverse population of students is ready for the sort of rigor that will prepare them for success in college.”

Inclusion on the 4th Annual AP District Honor Roll is based on the examination of three years of AP data, from 2011 to 2013, for the following criteria. Districts must:

- Increase participation/access to AP by at least 4 percent in large districts, at least 6 percent in medium districts, and at least 11 percent in small districts;
- Increase or maintain the percentage of exams taken by African American, Hispanic/Latino, and American Indian/Alaska Native students, and;
- Improve performance levels when comparing the percentage of students in 2013 scoring a 3 or higher to those in 2011, *unless* the district has already attained a performance level at which more than 70 percent of its AP students are scoring a 3 or higher.

Overall, Texas ranked 13th in nation in the percentage of 2012 graduates participating in AP. Over the last decade, AP participation and success in Texas have increased steadily.

To view the complete listing of school districts named to the College Board's 4th Annual AP<sup>®</sup> District Honor Roll, visit [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org).

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