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News Release

Colorado's High School Class of 2007 Outpaces Nation in Advanced Placement Success

The College Board's fourth annual *Advanced Placement Report*, released today, reports that 19.2 percent of Colorado's public school students in the class of 2007 achieved a grade of 3 or better during high school, well above the national average of 15.2 percent. A score of 3 or better is considered a strong predictor of college success.

Colorado also led the nation with the greatest five-year increase in the number of students who achieved a score of 3 or better. Jumping almost 30 percent since 2002, the state experienced the fourth highest gain in this category than all other states in the country.

"These results demonstrate that Colorado students can and do perform at a very high level," said Commissioner Dwight Jones. "Additionally, the increase in the sheer numbers of students who tackle Advanced Placement exams is encouraging. It's our goal to continue to support school districts in their effort to prepare more students, no matter their background, for this rigorous level of work."

This year's *Report* also reflects Colorado's continued commitment to increasing participation in AP Exams. While AP Exam success (earning a 3 or higher on at least one AP Exam during high school) in Colorado has experienced a similar rate of growth among both black students and Hispanic students, overall participation in the AP Exam has increased by more than 10 percent in the last year and by almost 40 percent since 2002.

“Colorado’s educators, administrators and policymakers should be commended for their commitment to preparing their students for college success and for extending access to AP programs,” said College Board President Gaston Caperton. “But there is still work to be done in preparing underrepresented students to succeed on these challenging courses that open the door to college and opportunity.”

Jo O’Brien, assistant commissioner of standards and results for the Colorado Department of Education, credited the upbeat trend to the “increased mindset among school districts and principals to encourage students to tackle the rigors of Advanced Placement classes. We’ve also seen more districts and principals taking advantage of the available tutors and training to support students and teachers.”

O’Brien also noted the comprehensive, statewide efforts of the College in Colorado campaign, which has actively encouraged students to set high expectations and to aim for college.

Research shows that earning a 3 or higher on an AP Exam is a strong predictor of a student’s ability to earn a bachelor’s degree, according to recent reports from researchers at the University of California at Berkeley and the National Center for Educational Accountability.

Public high schools in Colorado have seen growth in AP Exam participation and success—13,765 students from the graduating public high school class of 2007 took at least one AP Exam during high school compared to 12,331 in the class of 2006 and 8,573 in the class of 2002.

In all, 8,574 students from the graduating public high school class of 2007 earned a 3 or higher on at least one AP Exam during high school compared to 7,762 in the class of 2006 and 5,574 in the class of 2002.

About the Advanced Placement Program®

The College Board’s Advanced Placement Program enables students to pursue college-level studies while still in high school. Thirty-seven courses in 22 subject areas are offered. Based on their performance on rigorous AP Exams, all of which require students to craft written responses to open-ended questions that are scored by current college faculty and AP consultants, students can earn credit, advanced placement, or both for college. More than 3,600 colleges and universities around the world recognize AP for credit, placement, and/or admissions decisions, including more than 90 percent of U.S. and Canadian colleges and universities.

The College Board: Connecting Students to College Success

The College Board is a not-for-profit membership association whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the association is composed of more than 5,200 schools, colleges, universities and other educational organizations. Each year, the College Board serves seven million students and their parents, 23,000 high schools, and 3,500 colleges through major programs and services in college admissions, guidance, assessment, financial aid, enrollment, and teaching and learning. Among its best-known programs are the SAT[®], the PSAT/NMSQT[®], and the Advanced Placement Program[®] (AP[®]). The College Board is committed to the principles of excellence and equity, and that commitment is embodied in all of its programs, services, activities, and concerns.

For additional information about Advanced Placement and The College Board, call 212-713-8052.

For more information, contact Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, in the CDE Office of Communications. To sign up for the CDE e-mail news service, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html>.

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