



CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Clark County School District named College Board Advanced Placement District of the Year

*District recognized for increasing access and performance for traditionally underserved
minority students*

LAS VEGAS – The Clark County School District (CCSD) has been named a College Board Advanced Placement District of the Year for being the national leader among large school districts — defined as 50,000 or more students — in expanding access to Advanced Placement Program (AP) courses while simultaneously improving AP Exam performance. CCSD students, teachers, district and school administrators and College Board leadership celebrated these achievements with an award ceremony at Ed W. Clark High School.

"I'm extremely proud of this important distinction," said CCSD Superintendent Pat Skorkowsky. "This award reinforces that our district is headed in the right direction and aligns with our Pledge of Achievement goals to close achievement gaps, increase graduation rates and have students college and career ready by increasing the number of students taking AP courses. Our students and staff are setting goals and reaching them, which positively impacts our entire community and our economy."

CCSD was one of a record 547 school districts across the U.S. and Canada that achieved placement on the fifth-annual AP District Honor Roll. From this list, three AP Districts of the Year — one for each category of district population size: small, medium, and large — were selected based on an analysis of three academic years of AP data.

"The devoted teachers and administrators in CCSD are delivering an undeniable benefit to their students: opportunity," said Trevor Packer, senior vice president of AP and Instruction at the College Board. "When coupled with their hard work, the AP Program helps students build confidence, learn to craft effective arguments, earn credit for college and graduate from college on time. The College Board applauds the district's leadership to ensure that a more diverse population of students is ready for the sort of rigor that will prepare them for success in college."

From 2012 to 2014, CCSD:

- Simultaneously and continuously increased the number of students taking AP classes while improving successful outcomes (a score of 3 or higher) on AP Exams, with 55 percent of all AP students scoring a 3 or higher in 2014;

- Increased student participation in AP by 9 percent annually and the percentage of students scoring a 3 or higher on at least one AP Exam by 3 percent annually;
- Increased the percentage of traditionally underserved minority AP students earning a 3 or higher on at least one AP Exam by 9 percent annually — an increase of 424 students since 2012. (Thirty percent or more of the enrollment of the Clark County School District is American Indian, African American, or Hispanic/Latino. In addition, 30 percent or more of the district's enrollment qualifies for free or reduced-price lunch.)

Increasing access to AP course work while simultaneously increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher is the ideal scenario for a district's AP program, indicating that the district is successfully preparing a larger array of its students for the rigor of AP and college studies. Participating in AP course work can also lead to college savings for families because the typical student who scores a 3 or higher on two AP Exams can receive college credit and has the potential to save, on average, \$1,779 at a public four-year college and over \$6,000 at a private institution.

In addition to celebratory events at the district level, all three winning districts will be honored in Austin, Texas during the 2015 AP Annual Conference in July.

In 2014, more than 3,900 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 U.S. offering credit in one or more subjects for qualifying AP scores. To learn more about AP, please visit exploreap.org.

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