



# NEWS RELEASE

## Utah State Board of Education

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### Minority Students Drive Increased AP Participation in Utah as Scores Rise in 2018

*Dual Immersion Showing Up in AP Exams; Utah Public School Scores on 2018 SAT Also Up*

SALT LAKE CITY – In 2018 a total of 26,912 Utah public school students took at least one Advanced Placement (AP) exam, an increase of 1.4 percent from 2017. At the same time the percentage of Utah public school students who scored a 3, 4, or 5 on AP exams increased from 67 percent to 68.6 percent, according to data [released](#) today by College Board. The increase in student participation was fueled by large percentage increases among students who identify as Hispanic or Latino (up 9.2 percent or 259 students from 2017), Asian (up 2.6 percent or 24 students) and black (up 14.6 percent or 23 students). Participation decreased among students who identify as American Indian (down 1.3 percent or 1 student), white (down 0.1 percent or 16 students), and Pacific Islander (down 18.1 percent or 26 students).

College Board also noted 895 Utah public school students took the [SAT college entrance exam](#) in 2018. This is up from 836 in 2017. Scores in the Evidence-based Reading and Writing portion rose to 640 from 630 the previous year while mathematics scores dropped to 635 from 640 the previous year. Total scores were 1,275 this year compared to 1,269 in 2017. 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.

“I am pleased to see Utah’s AP participation more closely match the demographics of the students in our schools,” said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Sydnee Dickson. “Those of us in public education are working as a team with parents to prepare each student for success in the future. These AP results show that we’re doing better at meeting that goal.”

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 195 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:

- 194 students taking the AP Chinese Language and Culture exam up from 43 in 2017, a 351 percent increase.
- 232 students taking the AP French Language and Culture exam up from 98 in 2017, a 137 percent increase.
- 1,300 students taking the AP Spanish Language and Culture exam, up from 929 in 2017, a 40 percent increase.

Utah is also encouraging more students to study information technology and computer programming. In 2018 a total of 247 students took the AP exam in Computer Science Principles. This is an increase of 87 students over 2017 or a 54 percent increase.

Here more results released by College Board:

**2018 Advanced Placement (AP) Exams**

	# Exam Takers	# Exams Taken	Scores of 3, 4, 5	% of 3, 4, 5
<b>Utah Public Schools</b>	26,912	40,905	28,048	68.6
<b>National Public Schools</b>	2,446,696	4,385,283	2,506,265	57.2
<b>All Utah Schools</b>	28,304	43,569	29,781	66.1
<b>All National Schools</b>	2,808,990	5,090,324	3,002,628	60

**2018 Utah Public School Advanced Placement (AP) Results**

	# Exam Takers	# Exams Taken	Scores of 3, 4, 5	% of 3, 4, 5
<b>Female</b>	14,536	21,614	14,275	66
<b>Male</b>	12,376	19,291	13,773	71.4
<b>American Indian</b>	74	107	46	43
<b>Asian</b>	960	1,756	1,225	69.8
<b>Black</b>	180	258	111	43
<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	3,088	4,300	2,469	57.4
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	118	155	60	38.7
<b>White</b>	21,038	32,182	22,756	70.7
<b>Multiracial</b>	942	1,463	992	67.8
<b>No Response</b>	512	684	389	56.9

**Utah Public School Most Popularly Taken Advanced Placement Exams in 2018**

	# Exam Takers	Scores of 3, 4, 5	% of 3, 4, 5
<b>English Language/Composition</b>	4,949	3,495	70.6
<b>Human Geography</b>	4,589	2,953	64.3
<b>United States History</b>	4,078	2,403	58.9
<b>English Literature/Composition</b>	3,214	2,143	66.7
<b>Calculus AB</b>	3,069	2,127	69.3

**2018 SAT Scores**

	# Exam Takers	Total Score	English	Math
<b>Utah Public Schools</b>	895	1275	640	635
<b>National Public Schools</b>	1,793,522	1049	529	520
<b>All Utah Schools</b>	1,425	1230	618	612
<b>All National Schools</b>	2,136,539	1068	536	531