Expanding Advanced Placement Programs in Illinois High Schools

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Presentation Focus

- AP participation and performance levels in the District 214, the Chicago suburbs, Illinois, and the nation – what is normal, what is possible?
- How do school characteristics and student demographics related to AP performance?
- How do non-honors students perform?
Measuring AP Performance

1. Pass rates (or mean scores)
2. Participation levels
3. Number of passing tests per 100 students in a given year
4. % of seniors passing at least one test prior to graduation
5. Improvement from prior years for all measures
6. Performance relative to demographics
AP Expansion: What Are the options?

- Offer more courses
- Encourage students to take multiple AP courses within a year
- Focus courses on lower grades
- Encourage non-honors students to take AP
National Perspective

- AP participation has increased substantially in the past ten years
- Far more students are succeeding at AP.
More High Schools Offer AP, Far More Students Take AP Tests, and Far More Tests Are Taken
(Contrasting 2001 to 2011 Test Year)
The Number of Tests Taken by Each Test-Taking Student Has Increased Only Slightly (from a Mean of 1.69 tests to 1.76).
Overall Performance Levels Have Decreased Only Slightly
(Mean Score Change: 2.97 to 2.86; Pass Rate Change: 61.7% to 58.0%)
Illinois Perspective

- AP participation also has increased substantially in the past ten years, with relatively little effect on performance.
- However, AP remains a largely suburban phenomenon, with much lower participation and performance levels outside of the suburbs.
Illinois Changes Are Similar to National Ones

Examinations Taken (up 144.4%)

- 2001: 56,503
- 2011: 138,091

% Passing (down 7.6%)

- 2001: 70.7%
- 2011: 65.3%
Illinois Performance Is Above the National Average
(15th highest out of 50 states in 2011)

% of Class of 2011 with One or More Passing AP Tests

Nation: 18.1
Illinois: 18.5
But Most of the State’s Districts Have Minimal AP Participation.

% of Graduating Seniors Taking at Least One AP Test by Illinois School District
Graduating Seniors Taking at Least One AP Test - Illinois Map Summary

- Red < 1%
- Orange 1-9%
- Yellow 10-19%
- Light Green 20-29%
- Dark Green 30+%
% of Graduating Seniors Passing at Least One AP Test by Illinois School District

And Even Fewer Districts’ Students Succeed at AP.
Graduating Seniors **Passing at Least One AP Test** - Illinois Map Summary

% Graduating Seniors Scoring a 3+

- **Red < 1%**
- **Orange 1-9%** (47.7%)
- **Yellow 10-19%** (30.2%)
- **Light Green 20-29%** (12.7%)
- **Dark Green 30+%** (5.5%)
Why Is there So Little AP Outside of the Suburbs?

- Half of the high schools in Illinois had total enrollments of 519 or less, and
- 65.3% were under 1000.
Most AP Participation and Success in Illinois Is Concentrated in the Suburbs

CADCA School Representation in Illinois AP Testing

- % of State's HS Population: 35.7
- % of State's AP Tests: 54.8
- % of State's Passing AP Tests: 65.6
Most AP Participation and Success in Illinois Is Concentrated in the Suburbs (2)

# of Passing Tests per 100 Students for CADCA Schools, Illinois, and the Nation

- CADCA: 25.5
- Non-CADCA Illinois: 7.4
- Non-CADCA Nation: 13.3
But Suburban Districts Also Vary Greatly

Chicagoland School Districts
(Graduating Seniors Passing at Least One AP Test)
Suburban Schools Demonstrate Huge Performance Differences

Number of Passing Tests per 100 Students by School
School and District Characteristics Explain Only Some of the Differences
But There Are Major Differences between Schools with Similar Levels of At-Risk Students

Actual Passing AP Tests per 100 Student Levels by Expected (At-Risk) Levels
How Do Non-Honors Students Perform?
Graduating Seniors **Passing at Least One AP Test - Illinois Map Summary**

Pass Rate by Entering EXPLORE Score Level – 2011 AP Taking District 214 Students
How Have District 214 Changes Affected AP Performance?
District Wide AP Course Completions Have Increased 67.8% from Four Years Ago
The Number of Students Taking 1+ Tests Has Increased by **126.1%** in the Past 8 Years...
...and the Number of Tests Taken Has Increased by **195.7%** in the Past 10 Years.
Yet AP Pass Rates Have Dropped Only 4.8% (3.9 Percentage Points) in the Past 10 Years...
... and Mean Scores Dropped Only 2.4% (.06) in the Past 10 Years.
So the Number of Passing Tests per 100 Students Has Increased by 167.5%.
AP Expansion Is Only One Route to School Improvement…

- But it has been integral to our school improvement efforts, and...
- Almost all Illinois schools have room for AP growth.