



Public Schools of North Carolina

Report to the NCGA: Advanced Courses

Broaden Access and Successful Participation

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Today's Presentation

- Overview of Report and NC Data
- Impact of COVID-19
- Next Steps and Ideas for Continued Improvement



Foundation of Our Work

- Legislation: Advanced Courses (NCGS §115C-174.26)
Based on Florida's Legislation
Advanced Courses= AP, IB, and CIE Courses
- To increase access and successful participation in advanced coursework in NC's public schools, esp. low-performing districts.
- Started May 2014; currently 6th full year



Major Goals of Legislation

- ***Builds capacity for success***
 - Establishes NC AP Partnership with College Board
- ***Ensures access***
 - Funds all test fees for AP, IB, CIE course exams
- ***Supports Equity and Excellence***



Builds Capacity

NC AP Partnership

- **Targeted District Support**
 - Focused on low-performing districts
 - Technical assistance on-site and intentional professional development
- **State-wide Support**
 - Professional development, including AP Summer Institute training, AP Annual Conference, and AP Mentoring programs
- **\$2,000,000 Annual Contract**



Ensures Access

Exam Fee Coverage for ALL

2019-20 Total: \$12,098,277.50

- AP Exams: \$10,951,770 (-\$1,233,411)
- IB Exams and Fees: \$1,089,748 (-\$420,380)
- AICE Exams and Fees: \$56,759.54 (+\$8,758.23)

Increase Course Availability

- Local courses
- NCVPS (19 courses) and NCSSM
- Collaboration with CTE



Supports Equity and Excellence: **SBE Statewide Strategic Plan**

- *Goal 1: Eliminate opportunity gaps by 2025.*
 - Objective 4- Component 2:
 - Number of students who participate in at least one AP, IB, CIE course
 - Percent participation, or number of students taking at least one AP/IB/AICE exam and number of exams taken
- *Goal 3: Increase educator preparedness to meet the needs of every student by 2025.*



AP Student Current Enrollment in At Least One AP Course Over Time

Academic Year	Number of Students	Impact/Change
2013-2014	71,655	n/a
2014-2015	74,758	4.0% increase
2015-2016	77,392	3.5% increase
2016-2017	77,920	1.0% increase
2017-2018	82,311	5.6% increase
2018-2019	81,520	.9% decrease
2019-2020	77,579	4.8% decrease
2020-2021	78,174	0.7% increase

Overall 9% for student growth.



Other Advanced Courses Highlights

International Baccalaureate Course Enrollment

30 Diploma Programme High Schools

Academic Year	Course Enrollment	Impact/Change
2018-2019	19,921	n/a
2019-2020	20,140	1.0% increase
2020-2021	19,305	4.1% decrease

Cambridge International Education Course Enrollment

2 High Schools

Academic Year	Course Enrollment	Impact/Change
2019-2020	500	n/a
2020-2021	737	47% increase



Cambridge International Highlights

Cambridge Enrollment*

Academic Year	Course Enrollment	Impact/Change
2019-2020	500	n/a
2020-2021	737	47% increase

Impact of COVID-19 Spring 2020 Exams

College Board support

- AP exams online, at home, personal devices
- Support with wifi and hardware
- Live AP review courses for students
- Tools to support remote teaching and learning

International Baccalaureate support

- Final exams changed to focus on internal assessments
- Extensions provided for those requested
- Tips to support remote teaching and learning

Cambridge support

- Final exams changed to focus on grading student portfolios
- Tools to support remote teaching and learning



Highlights in NC Public School AP Exam Data 2019-20

- 5.3% decrease of exam-takers from 2019 to 2020
 - ***Compared to 6.9% nationwide***
- 6.2% decrease of exams taken from 2019 to 2020
- 0.3% decrease of exams scoring 3+ from 2019 to 2020



Highlights of 2020 AP Exam Data

*NC Public Schools outpaced the nation
--even during COVID-19!*

- Black AP Exam-Takers decreased **6.2%** from 2019 to 2020; Nationwide decrease of **17.1%**
- Black students' exams with 3+ score increased **7.2%** over **6.1%** growth nationwide.
- Hispanic AP Exam-Takers decreased **4.4%** from 2019 to 2020; Nationwide decrease of **14.2%**.
- Hispanic students' exams with 3+ score increased **4%** over **0.1%** growth nationwide.



Highlights of 2020 AP Exam Data

21 NCAPP Targeted Districts

Asheboro City	Lincoln County
Avery County	Nash County
Columbus County	Person County
Duplin County	Randolph County
Edgecombe County	Richmond County
Franklin County	Robeson County
Greene County	Sampson County
Iredell-Statesville	Scotland County
Lenoir County	Wayne County
Lexington City	Wilson County
	Yancey County

- NCAPP target districts' exam-takers **increased 7.38%**
- Target districts' AP exams taken **increased 2.87%**
- Target districts' number of exams scoring 3+ **increased 20.23%**



Highlights of IB Exam Data

IB Exam Results*

Academic Year	Test Takers	Percent of Test Takers 4+ score	Tests Taken	Percent of Tests Taken 4+ score
2016	2521	75.53	8517	61.12
2017	2786	72.18	8884	62.84
2018	2928	71.99	9338	61.44
2019	2863	73.00	9177	60.04
2020	2884	80.62	9089	71.06



Possible Impacts of Changes in Enrollment and Exam Success

- Teacher Readiness and Support Materials
- Guarantee of UNC college credit for eligible AP and IB exams
- Other student opportunities, such as Career and College Promise
- Cost of IB/Cambridge Programming
- Issues of COVID-19



Next Steps

Ideas for Continued Improvement

- Continue to analyze systemic issues limiting access
- Continued work to broaden access and successful participation
 - Remove “low-hanging barriers”
 - Synergize efforts with other NCDPI divisions, programs, NC AP Partnership
 - Target professional development
 - Focus technical assistance on data and capacity building
 - Increase successful course implementation

