

MEMORANDUM

July 14, 2022

Information - ANNUAL



Office of Shared Accountability
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

TO: High School Principals
FROM: Kecia L. Addison, Director of Shared Accountability *(Kecia)*
SUBJECT: ***2021 Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Course Enrollment and Exam Participation and Performance for High School Students in Montgomery County Public Schools***

Summary

- This memorandum provides information related to Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) course enrollment, exam participation, and exam performance during the 2020–2021 school year. In this memo, the results of 2021 students were compared with those of 2019 students. It is important to note that 2019 students had in-person schooling but 2021 students experienced virtual learning. Additionally, 2021 students were allowed to reduce their course load due to challenges of learning during the pandemic. It is prudent to recognize the differences of 2019 and 2021 student cohorts when a comparison of the data is made.
- The College Board shifted their testing procedures in the 2019–2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and they continued in the 2020–2021 school year. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the format of virtual learning and access to technology may have had unintended consequences on students' enrollment in AP and IB courses and participation in exams. The reduction of course load for some students could decrease the enrollment in AP/IB courses. The decrease of AP/IB course offerings and course enrollment impacted AP/IB exam participation.
- In 2021, all 25 comprehensive high schools offered AP courses and 8 high schools provided IB programs. Of the 25 high schools, 15 high schools offered 30 or more AP/IB courses. Richard Montgomery (74), Bethesda-Chevy Chase (63), and John F. Kennedy (56) high schools offered the most AP/IB courses. Districtwide, nearly 53.0 percent of high school students enrolled in at least one AP or IB course in 2021. Over the past three school years, the AP/IB course enrollment rate decreased 3.3 percentage points.
- The number of AP exams taken by high school students was 31,750 in 2021, a decrease of 9,298 tests from 2019. The percent of AP exams taken by students with a score of 3 or higher was 68.1 in 2021, a 3.4 percentage-point decrease from 2019.
- In 2021, the 20 AP exams most frequently taken by students included: U.S. Government and Politics, English Language and Composition, World History, Psychology, U.S. History, Computer Science Principles, English Literature and Composition, Calculus BC, Calculus AB, Biology, Spanish Language and Culture, Statistics, Physics 1, Environmental Science, Computer Science A, Chemistry, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Human Geography, and Physics C: Mechanics.
- MCPS students decreased participation in the number of IB exams from 3,587 in 2019 to 3,084 in 2021. The percentage of IB exams taken by students with a score of 4 or higher increased 15.0 percentage points from 72.0 percent in 2019 to 87.0 percent in 2021. In 2021, the 10 IB exams most frequently taken by students included: English A: Language and Literature, History, Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches, Spanish B, Biology, Environmental Systems and Societies, Mathematics: Application and Interpretation, English A: Literature, Social and Cultural Anthropology, and Physics.

Links/Additional Information

More detailed information on AP/IB course and exam participation and performance can be accessed on the MCPS Data Dashboards via the following links.

- [AP/IB Course Enrollment](#)
- [AP/IB Exams Taken by High School Students](#)
- [AP Exam Participation and Performance for Test Takers](#)
- [AP Exam by Subject](#)
- [IB Exam Participation and Performance for Test Takers](#)
- [IB Exam by Subject](#)

Questions may be directed to Dr. Kecia L. Addison, director of shared accountability, via email.

Attachment

Approved by:

Stephanie S Sheron

Stephanie Sheron, Chief of Strategic Initiatives

Table A1. Number of Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Courses Offered from 2019 to 2021 by High School

High School	Number of AP Courses Offered			Number of IB Courses Offered			Number of AP/IB Courses Offered		
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
MCPS	58	60	53	65	70	74	122	129	127
Bethesda-Chevy Chase	28	28	25	41	43	38	68	70	63
Montgomery Blair	34	36	32	n/a	n/a	n/a	34	36	32
James Hubert Blake	30	30	30	n/a	n/a	n/a	30	30	30
Winston Churchill	34	36	33	n/a	n/a	n/a	34	36	33
Clarksburg	29	30	27	n/a	n/a	n/a	29	30	27
Damascus	31	29	21	n/a	n/a	n/a	31	29	21
Albert Einstein	30	27	23	34	34	31	64	61	54
Gaithersburg	29	28	25	n/a	n/a	n/a	29	28	25
Walter Johnson	40	40	38	n/a	n/a	n/a	40	40	38
John F. Kennedy	14	14	10	43	47	46	56	60	56
Col. Zadok Magruder	28	28	22	n/a	n/a	n/a	28	28	22
Richard Montgomery	28	31	27	43	46	47	71	77	74
Northwest	28	30	29	n/a	n/a	n/a	28	30	29
Northwood	23	26	22	n/a	n/a	n/a	23	26	22
Paint Branch	19	19	21	n/a	n/a	n/a	19	19	21
Poolesville	33	31	29	n/a	n/a	n/a	33	31	29
Quince Orchard	34	34	31	n/a	n/a	n/a	34	34	31
Rockville	23	24	20	27	28	27	50	52	47
Seneca Valley	9	10	10	33	33	39	42	43	49
Sherwood	29	30	28	n/a	n/a	n/a	29	30	28
Springbrook	24	23	21	31	35	31	54	57	52
Watkins Mill	9	10	10	32	33	31	41	43	41
Wheaton	23	24	21	n/a	n/a	n/a	23	24	21
Walt Whitman	37	38	35	n/a	n/a	n/a	37	38	35
Thomas S. Wootton	35	39	34	n/a	n/a	n/a	35	39	34

Note. AP = Advanced Placement; IB = International Baccalaureate.