FAQ-s – 7th AP District Honor Roll

What is the significance of being on the AP Honor Roll?

Districts on the AP Honor Roll have simultaneously increased access to Advanced Placement® coursework while maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP Exams. Honor Roll Districts defy the expectation that expanding access automatically results in a decline in the percentage of exams earning scores of 3 or better.

What are the technical criteria for being included on the AP Honor Roll?

Improvement in AP results typically takes sustained effort, so the District Honor Roll is based on examination of three years of AP data

- Increase in access to AP by at least 4% per year in large districts, at least 6% per year in medium districts, and at least 11% per year in small districts;
    - Large districts = more than 50,000 students
    - Medium districts = between 8000 – 49,000 students
    - Small districts = less than 8000 students
- Increased or maintained the percentage of exams taken by African American, Hispanic/Latino, and American Indian/Alaska Native students who scored 3+ on at least one AP Exam; and
- Improved performance levels when comparing the percentage of students in 2016 scoring a 3 or higher than those in 2014, unless the district has already attained a performance level at which more than 70% of its AP students are scoring a 3 or higher.

Please note:

- However, no district with less than 10% of AP Exams scoring 3 or better is included, since that minimal threshold of performance is important to achieve before a district is recognized for expanding participation and performance. Also, if a district has less than 30% of AP Exams scoring 3 or better, than they are required to have increased by 5% from 2014 to 2016.
- If the percentage of exams scoring 3+ is greater than or equal to 70%, this criterion does not apply, since we have no concerns about declines in percentages of exams scoring 3+ when the rate is already so high.

- While performance levels must be maintained or improved among traditionally underserved minority students in order to qualify for the District Honor Roll, this criterion is waived for districts with less than 5% minority students in large and medium districts; and less than 10% in small districts, so as to avoid penalizing small, rural districts that do not have significant racial/ethnic diversity within their high school populations.

- The work of expanding access to AP, while maintaining or improving performance rates is especially challenging and rewarding among the nation's traditionally underserved student populations: African-American, Hispanic/Latino, and low-income households. Accordingly, districts that have 30% or more African-American, Hispanic/Latino, or low-income students and have achieved these AP participation and performance results are highlighted in the Honor Roll.

Spanish Language course participation and performance is included in the calculation for the honor roll and as a part of winner selection.

- Rationale:
    - Multiple data models were developed to look at all options and determine which would be the most equitable and accurate reflection of the work districts do to provide college level courses in a range of academic subjects.
    - After doing the analysis for the AP District Awards using two methodologies suggested (All Exams included vs. All World Languages Excluded), we determined that we will now include Spanish Language course participation and performance in our calculations for the Honor Roll and as part of the winner selection
- Background:
    - Prior to the 2014 District honor roll, criteria excluded Spanish Language to ensure that we would not recognize districts that are only providing their heritage speakers with success in language proficiency exams, and not across a range of exams.
    - We heard concerns from SDP and leaders in top districts that if we were to exclude participation and performance for one world language course where heritage speakers could impact a districts overall ranking, we

needed to exclude all such world language courses and not only suppress Spanish Language.