



## **Dedham School District Placed on the College Board's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual AP<sup>®</sup> District Honor Roll for Significant Gains in Advanced Placement<sup>®</sup> Access and Student Performance**

### **367 School Districts Across the Nation Are Honored**

Dedham, MA - Dedham School District is one of fewer than 400 public school districts in the nation being honored by the College Board with a place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual AP<sup>®</sup> Honor Roll, for simultaneously increasing access to Advanced Placement coursework while maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP exams. Achieving both of these goals is the ideal scenario for a district's Advanced Placement program, because it indicates that the district is successfully identifying motivated, academically-prepared students who are likely to benefit most from AP coursework. Since 2009, Dedham School District increased the number of students participating in AP from 85 to 137, while maintaining the percentage of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher from 78% in 2009 to 72% in 2011. The majority of U.S. colleges and universities grant college credit or advanced placement for a score of 3 or above on AP exams.

"It is an unprecedented honor for Dedham High School to be recognized by the College Board. The combination of the dedication of outstanding teachers, the achievement of our AP students, and the District's commitment to academic excellence for all students is the foundation for accomplishing advanced placement access and student performance," said Dedham Superintendent June M. Doe.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual AP Honor Roll is made up of only those public school districts that are simultaneously expanding opportunity and improving performance. The list includes 367 school districts across 43 states and Canada. Pennsylvania led all states with 34 public school districts named to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual AP Honor Roll, followed by Massachusetts and New York, both with 30.

"Participation in college-level AP courses can level the playing field for underserved students, give them the confidence needed to succeed in college, and raise standards and performance in key subjects like science and math," said College Board President Gaston Caperton. "The AP Honor Roll districts are defying expectations by expanding access while enabling their students to maintain or improve their AP Exam scores."

Many U.S. school districts have focused on expanding access to AP courses as part of a strategy to improve college readiness. These efforts have resulted in more students earning scores of 3 or better. They have also resulted in more students earning scores of 1 or 2. Accordingly, there has been a slight decline since 2001 in the overall percentage of AP students scoring a 3 or better, a decline that can be expected in any program attracting a much broader cross-section of students.

Helping more students learn at a higher level *and* earn higher AP scores is an objective of all members of the AP community, from AP teachers to district and school administrators to college professors. Many are experimenting with a variety of initiatives and strategies to determine how to expand access and improve student performance simultaneously.

"This school district has achieved something very remarkable. It managed to open the doors of its AP classrooms to many more students, while also increasing the percentage of students earning high enough AP Exam grades to stand out in the competitive college admission process and qualify for college credit and placement," said Trevor Packer, the College Board's senior vice president of Advanced Placement and college readiness.

Inclusion on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual AP District Honor Roll is based on the following criteria:

1. Examination of three years of AP data, from 2009 to 2011;
2. Increase in participation in/access to AP by at least 4 percent in large districts, at least 6 percent in medium districts and at least 11 percent in small districts;
3. A steady or increasing percentage of exams taken by African American, Hispanic/Latino and American Indian/Alaska Native students; and
4. Performance levels maintained or improved when comparing the percentage of students in 2011 scoring a 3 or higher to those in 2009, *or* the school has already attained a performance level in which more than 70 percent of the AP students are scoring a 3 or higher.

School districts in which low-income and/or underrepresented minority students (African American, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian/Alaska Native) comprise 30 percent or more of the AP student population have been highlighted on the Achievement List to recognize significant improvements in equity and quality among the nation's historically underserved student populations.

The complete 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual AP District Honor Roll can be found at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org).

### **About Dedham School District**

Dedham is a suburban town of approximately 23,000 residents and is located ten miles south of Boston proper. It was established in 1636 and is the site of the first public school in the United States as well as the Fairbanks House, the oldest wooden frame structure in North America. The local economy is supported by a variety of industries and businesses. Government is an integral part of the local economy as Dedham is the county seat for Norfolk County. The town is host to several courthouses, the Registry of Deeds, the Dedham House of Correction, and the Norfolk County Sheriff's Office.

Dedham High School is a four-year comprehensive, public high school enrolling approximately 800 students in 2011-2012 including 206 seniors. Accreditation is through the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc. and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Students at Dedham High School can enroll in two different levels of College Preparatory classes, as well as a variety of Honors and AP classes. The school is home to a Freshman Academy for academically accelerated 9th grade students and an in-house alternative program for at-risk students. The school also participates in the Massachusetts Math and Science Initiative to increase participation and success on AP exams.

### **About the Advanced Placement Program**

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program<sup>®</sup> (AP<sup>®</sup>) enables students to pursue college-level studies while still in high school. Through more than 30 college-level courses, each culminating in a rigorous exam, AP provides willing and academically prepared students with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement or both. Taking AP courses also demonstrates to college admission officers that students have sought the most rigorous curriculum available to them. Each AP teacher's syllabus is evaluated and approved by college faculty from some of the nation's leading institutions, and AP Exams are developed and scored by college faculty and experienced AP teachers. AP is accepted by more than 3,800 colleges and universities worldwide for college credit, advanced placement or both on the basis of successful AP Exam scores. This includes over 90 percent of four-year institutions in the United States. In 2010, 1.8 million students representing more than 17,000 schools around the world, both public and nonpublic, took 3.2 million AP Exams.

### **About the College Board**

The College Board is a mission-driven not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the College Board was created to expand access to higher education. Today, the membership association is made up of more than 5,900 of the world's leading educational institutions and is dedicated to promoting excellence and equity in education. Each year, the College Board helps more than seven million students prepare for a successful transition to college through programs and services in college readiness and college success — including the SAT<sup>®</sup> and the Advanced Placement Program<sup>®</sup>. The organization also serves the education community through research and advocacy on behalf of students, educators and schools. For further information, visit [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org).

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