

# Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate General Information, 2020-21

## Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Programs

### *Introduction*

The Advanced Placement (AP) Program and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme are advanced academic programs that make rigorous, college-level academic content available to secondary school students. All Texas colleges and universities must adopt and implement a policy to grant undergraduate course credit for incoming freshmen who have completed the IB Diploma Programme or who have achieved required scores on one or more AP examinations (Texas Education Code [TEC] §51.968, 2022). The AP Program is a cooperative educational partnership between secondary schools and colleges and universities, overseen by the College Board. The IB Diploma Programme is an academic program offered in secondary schools throughout the world and is overseen by IB, a nonprofit educational foundation.

This document supplements the following reports: *Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Examination Results in Texas Public Schools, 2020-21* (Texas Education Agency [TEA], 2022a) and *Advanced Placement Examination Results in Texas and the United States, 2020-21* (TEA, 2022c). It provides background information on the AP and IB programs, including associated courses, examinations, and examination fees. In addition, the document discusses the Texas AP Incentive Program, Texas policy related to uses of AP and IB examination results, data sources, and methodological considerations.

### **COVID-19 Pandemic**

**Overview.** In spring 2020, given the impact of COVID-19, the governor of Texas used his statutory authority under Texas Government Code §418.016 to suspend in-school instruction across the state. All students statewide were learning remotely at the end of the 2019-20 school year. During the 2020-21 school year, as the COVID-19 pandemic continued to affect schooling, Texas public school districts could offer full-time in-person, full-time remote, and hybrid learning. This section details the impact the COVID-19 pandemic had on AP and IB examinations for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years.

**AP.** In the 2019-20 school year, the College Board administered 2020 AP examinations online, with all students taking each of the tests at the same scheduled times (College Board, 2020b). The College Board tailored examination content to include only topics and skills that were scheduled to be covered by early March. In addition to the typical May test dates, the College Board offered August 2020 test dates for students with incomplete May examinations (College Board, 2021j). Results reported by TEA for the 2019-20 school year include results from both May and August testing dates. Examinations were scored on the same 1 to 5 scale used in previous years, and the College Board expressed the expectation that colleges and universities would award credit and placement in the same manner as in previous years (College Board, 2020a).

In the 2020-21 school year, the College Board offered three test administration windows for AP examinations (two in May and one in June) and three testing modes: in-person paper, in-person digital, and at-home digital (College Board, 2021k). To increase testing opportunities for students, the College Board allowed schools to mix and match test administration windows and testing modes. The College board provided at-home digital examinations for 25 AP courses when in-school testing was not feasible. Digital examinations were full-length and tested the same knowledge as in-person examinations. Digital examinations were not offered for the following subjects, with the expectation that the examinations be administered in an in-school environment: AP French Language and Culture, AP German Language and Culture, AP Italian Language and Culture, AP Latin, AP Music Theory, AP Spanish Language and Culture, and AP Spanish Literature and Culture. Additionally, the AP Chinese Language and Culture and AP Japanese Language and Culture examinations could only be administered in an in-school, computer-based environment. Unlike in 2020, when students could take AP tests using computers, smartphones, and tablets, students could only take the 2021 AP online examinations using computers. Additional security measures for the 2021 digital examinations included synchronized start times; security features to prevent students from collaborating, accessing unauthorized aids, or attempting to have someone else test for them; disallowing students from returning to answered questions or toggling between unanswered questions; acceptance of only typed responses; and the use of plagiarism detection software and other post-examination analyses.

AP results reported by TEA for the 2020-21 school year include results from the May and June testing dates. Examinations covered the full course content and were scored on the same 1 to 5 scale used in previous years (College Board, 2021k). The College Board waived all fees for unused and canceled examinations, but all other fees remained the same (College Board, 2021h).

**IB.** In the 2019-20 school year, IB canceled the 2020 IB examinations (IB, 2020b). IB attributed examination scores to students through an awarding model consisting of three components: student coursework, school grades, and school context (IB, 2020a). All student coursework was assessed by trained outside examiners, after initial assessment by students' IB course teachers. School grades consisted of teachers' predicted grades for each student. School context, a factor based on historical prediction data, was applied for each subject in each school to model grade-prediction accuracy. Students were assigned their schools' context factors for the subjects and levels of their IB courses. Examination scores were awarded on the same 1 to 7 scale as in previous years, and IB assured colleges and universities of the validity and reliability of their assessment methods (IB, 2020b).

In the 2020-21 school year, IB developed two assessment routes for examinations: an examination route and a non-examination route (IB, 2022). For both routes, IB examiners assessed student coursework to award examination scores. For the examination route, students' examination scores were calculated as in prior years, using examination results and coursework. For the non-examination route, students' examination scores were calculated as in 2020, using coursework and teacher-submitted predicted grades, and the scores were calculated using the same weights as in the examination route. To ensure predicted grade accuracy, IB provided each school with a school-specific distribution of predicted grades based on three prior years of performance data. Examination scores were awarded on the same 1 to 7 scale as in previous years.

## **Courses**

**AP Program.** The College Board's AP Program offers more than 30 courses in six academic areas, including arts, English, history and social sciences, mathematics and computer science, sciences, and world languages and cultures (College Board, 2021b). Although most participants in the program are 11th and 12th graders approaching the transition to college, students in lower grades also take AP courses and examinations.

Each AP course is developed by an AP development committee composed of an equal number of college and university academic faculty and experienced high school AP teachers from across the country (College Board, 2021a). Although high school AP teachers have discretion to present the material in the way they deem most appropriate, the College Board provides course descriptions that outline the course content, describe the curricular goals of the subject, and provide sample examination questions (College Board, 2021c). Course descriptions for new courses are typically developed over a two- to three-year period (College Board, 2021a). The College Board evaluates and revises AP courses and examinations regularly.

The College Board requires high schools to submit AP course audit materials to request authorization to assign the "AP" designation to advanced courses (College Board, 2021c). AP course audit materials include a subject-specific audit form and a course syllabus from each teacher who is planning to teach a proposed AP course. For courses to receive the AP designation from the College Board, curricula must meet or exceed expectations established by an external college faculty reviewer for corresponding college-level courses. After receiving initial authorization from the College Board to offer a specific AP-designated course, schools do not need to resubmit course audit materials in subsequent years unless the teacher of the course changes, requirements for the course are revised, or a new AP course is added (College Board, 2021g).

**IB Diploma Programme.** The IB Diploma Programme is a high school curriculum for students ages 16-19 that is anchored by three core components: a theory of knowledge course; creativity, activity, and service; and an extended essay project based on original independent research (IB, 2016). Typically taught over two years, the Diploma Programme offers courses across six subject groups: studies in language and literature, language acquisition, individuals and societies, sciences, mathematics, and the arts (IB, 2016, 2021c).

Schools may develop a course that IB does not otherwise offer by using a School Based Syllabus (IB, 2017). The syllabus is developed in close collaboration with IB and must be approved by IB prior to the course being offered by the school. Astronomy is an example of a course offered using a School Based Syllabus.

Diploma candidates are required to select a course from each subject group (IB, 2016). The single exception is the arts, for which students may substitute a second course from the sciences, individuals and societies, or languages subject groups (IB, 2021c). The six subject group courses are taken at either standard level, which consists of 150 teaching hours, or higher level, which consists of 240 teaching hours. Students must take at least three, but not more than four, subject-group courses at higher level. Higher-level courses differ from standard-level courses in that students are "expected to demonstrate a greater body of knowledge, understanding, and skills at higher level."

Each IB course is reviewed over a seven-year period by IB staff, teachers, examiners, and consultants to ensure that course materials are relevant and up-to-date (IB, 2014). IB schools worldwide contribute to the review process by completing surveys, attending curriculum review meetings, and commenting on draft subject guides.

To be eligible to apply for authorization to participate in the IB Diploma Programme, a high school must first submit a successful application for candidacy (IB, 2018b). To be considered for candidacy, each school must conduct a feasibility study, and appropriate school faculty must attend IB professional development workshops, among several other requirements. Each prospective IB teacher must attend an IB workshop in the subject he or she plans to teach. The workshops provide course material that aids each teacher in creating a course outline, which must be submitted with the authorization request. After a school submits an authorization request, IB visits the school to verify the details of the application before the IB director general decides whether to authorize the school's request.

## **Examinations**

**AP Program.** Although most students who take AP examinations do so after having completed the corresponding AP courses, a student is not required to complete the course before taking the examination, nor is a student required to take the examination after having completed the course. Each AP examination is administered annually in May and includes a free-response section, either essay or problem solving, and a section of multiple-choice questions (College Board, 2021i). There are exceptions to this format. For example, AP Art and Design has a portfolio assessment, rather than an examination (College Board, 2021f). AP examination scores range from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest) (College Board, 2021e).

Annual AP examinations are developed by the same development committees that produce AP course specifications, with contributions from content experts and assessment specialists (College Board, 2021a). Multiple-choice questions are created by college faculty members who teach college courses that correspond to a particular AP course, and most free-response questions are created by the development committees and reviewed by content experts. A portion of multiple-choice questions from prior examinations are reused, while free-response questions are used only once.

The AP development committees establish grading standards to ensure AP scores are valid measures of college-level performance (College Board, 2021e). College faculty members who teach comparable college courses develop the criteria for earning each score, from 1 to 5, on the AP examinations. The development committee then reviews the criteria and determines the number of questions a student must answer correctly to earn each score. These raw scores become the cut points for the examination scores on the five-point scale. Additionally, the development committees administer portions of the examinations to college students in corresponding college courses, and the results are compared with final course grades. For example, an AP Psychology examination would be administered to college students in an introductory-level college psychology course. The students' raw scores on the examinations are then compared with their grades in the course. The results of the college comparability studies are used to calibrate the cut scores established by the development committees.

**IB Diploma Programme.** Although it is very uncommon, students may take IB examinations without having completed the corresponding IB courses. A student is not required to complete the course before taking the examination, nor is a student required to take the examination after having completed the course. It is important to note that IB refers to final course grades as examination scores, and TEA adheres to this terminology when reporting IB performance data. The IB Diploma Programme uses three types of assessments to award final course grades, which range from 1 (lowest) to 7 (highest): internal assessments, non-examination components, and standardized examinations (IB, 2018a, 2021d). Internal assessments, which include oral examinations, project work, fieldwork in geography, laboratory work, mathematical investigations, and artistic performances, are overseen by the local teacher of a course and can be assessed either by the teacher or by an external IB examiner (IB, 2018a, 2021a). Non-examination components, which include extended essays and theory of knowledge essays, are assessed externally by an IB examiner (IB, 2021d). Standardized examinations, which include short-response, essay, case-study, and multiple-choice questions, are administered locally and scored externally (IB, 2021a). Because standardized examinations are assumed to be the most objective and reliable of the three types of assessments, their results form the basis of the assessment for most courses.

Examination questions are developed by a team of senior examiners, IB staff, and external consultants (IB, 2018a). After questions are reviewed for attributes such as course content coverage and lack of bias, they are sent to external advisors for independent review. The examinations are then translated into French and Spanish, reviewed for translation accuracy, and delivered to schools. For open-ended and non-multiple-choice items, detailed scoring criteria are provided to examiners so the items can be scored as objectively as possible.

Most diploma candidates complete all six subject-group assessments in May at the end of the two-year program, but some choose to take one or two examinations at the end of their first year. Candidates complete the standardized examinations over a period of approximately three weeks and are tested for no more than six and a half hours each day (IB, 2018a).

## **Examination Fees**

**AP Program.** For the 2020-21 school year, the fee for each AP examination was \$95, except for the AP Seminar and AP Research examinations, which had fees of \$143 each (College Board, 2021h). Qualifying low-income students received a \$33 fee reduction from the College Board in 2020-21. For students who qualified for this fee reduction, testing centers waived the \$9 administration fee (College Board, 2021d). Students in financial need received additional reductions. TEA assumed \$32 of the cost of every AP examination taken by an eligible Texas public school student (TEA, 2020a). To be eligible for this TEA program, a student must have (a) taken an AP course at a Texas public school or been recommended by his or her principal or teacher to take the examination and (b) demonstrated financial need consistent with the definition adopted by the College Board (College Board, 2021d; TEC §28.053, 2022; Title 19 of the Texas Administrative Code [TAC] §74.29, 2022, amended to be effective August 24, 2010). In addition to state funding, federal funds have been available. For 2016-17 and earlier school years, through funds provided by the United States Department of Education (ED), TEA paid \$16 for each examination taken by a student who qualified for the TEA fee reduction (TEA, 2017). This subsidy was discontinued in 2017-18 with the passage of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). TEA recommends that districts allocate funds provided by ED, as was intended by ESSA, to provide \$65 fee reductions for AP Seminar and AP Research examinations and to continue the \$16 fee reductions for other AP examinations for low-income students (TEA, n.d.). Participating districts reduced the cost for low-income students in 2020-21 to \$5 for each AP examination except the AP Seminar and AP Research examinations, which were reduced to \$4.

**IB Diploma Programme.** The fee for each IB examination was \$119 in 2020-21 (IB, 2021b). TEA assumed \$32 of the cost of every IB examination taken by an eligible Texas high school student (TEA, 2020a). To be eligible for this TEA program, a student must have (a) taken an IB course at a Texas public school or been recommended by his or her principal or teacher to take the examination and (b) demonstrated financial need consistent with the definition adopted by the College Board (College Board, 2021d; TEC §28.053, 2022; 19 TAC §74.29, 2022, amended to be effective August 24, 2010). In addition to state funding, federal funds have been available. For 2016-17 and earlier school years, with funds provided by ED, TEA paid \$65 for each examination taken by a student who qualified for the TEA fee reduction (TEA, 2017). This subsidy was discontinued in 2017-18 with the passage of ESSA. TEA recommends that districts allocate funds provided by ED, as was intended by ESSA, to continue the \$65 fee reductions for low-income students (TEA, n.d.). Participating districts reduced the cost for low-income students in 2020-21 to \$22 for each IB examination.

## **Texas AP Incentive Program**

**Purpose.** The Texas AP Incentive Program was created in 1993 by the 73rd Texas Legislature to recognize and reward students, teachers, and schools that demonstrate success in achieving the educational goals of the state (19 TAC §74.29, 1996; TEC §§35.001-35.008, 1994). The IB Diploma Programme was added to the AP Incentive Program by the 74th Texas Legislature in 1995 (TEC §§28.051-28.058, 1996). In 2001, State Board of Education (SBOE) rules implementing the AP Incentive Program were amended to include IB (19 TAC §74.29, 2002).

**Awards and subsidies.** Funding of individual components of the AP Incentive Program during each fiscal biennium is subject to legislative appropriations. Seven awards had the potential to be funded under the AP Incentive Program for the 2020-21 school year (TEC §28.053, 2022; 19 TAC §74.29, 2022, amended to be effective August 24, 2010). Districts received reimbursements of up to \$450 in 2020-21 for each eligible teacher who attended a TEA-approved training targeted for: Pre-AP, AP, Middle Years Programme, IB, or other equivalent advanced courses (TEA, 2020b). Sufficient funds were not available to fund the six remaining awards in 2020-21. These awards were: (a) a one-time award of \$250 for first-time teachers of an AP or IB course; (b) a share of the teacher bonus pool proportional to the number of classes taught at a school; (c) \$50 deposited in the teacher bonus pool for each student receiving a score of at least 3 on an AP examination or 4 on an IB examination at a school; (d) a testing fee reimbursement, not to exceed \$65, for each student receiving a score of at least 3 on an AP examination or 4 on an IB examination; (e) a one-time \$3,000 equipment grant for participating schools for providing an AP or IB course, based on need as determined by the commissioner of education; and (f) \$100 for participating schools for each student who received a score of at least 3 on an AP examination or 4 on an IB examination. School principals were required to establish campus teams to determine the uses of funds awarded, with priority given to academic enhancement purposes (TEC §§28.053 and 28.055, 2022).

The AP Incentive Program also included subsidies for AP and IB examinations for the 2020-21 school year. Subsidies were available to examinees in Texas public schools who demonstrated financial need in accordance with guidelines adopted by the SBOE that are consistent with those developed by the College Board or IB (TEA, 2020a; TEC §§28.053 and 28.054, 2022). TEA allocated \$32 for each AP and IB examination taken by Texas public school students who participated in AP or IB courses or whose principals recommended they take the examinations. Moreover, a student who qualified under the College Board criteria for financial need was eligible for an additional \$42 in fee reductions from the College Board and testing centers (College Board, 2021d). TEA recommends that districts allocate funds provided by ED, as was intended by ESSA, to provide low-income students \$65 fee reductions for AP Seminar and AP Research examinations, \$16 fee reductions for other AP examinations, and \$65 fee reductions for IB examinations (TEA, n.d.).

## **Policy Related to Uses of Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Examination Results**

### ***Texas College Admissions Policy***

In 2005, the 79th Legislature required all public institutions of higher education in Texas that provide freshman-level courses to develop and implement policy granting college credit to entering students who have successfully completed the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme or have achieved qualifying scores on one or more Advanced Placement (AP) examinations (Texas Education Code [TEC] §51.968, 2005). Additionally, the legislation required colleges and universities to grant at least 24 hours of credit to entering students who have obtained an IB Diploma and received scores of at least 4 on all examinations taken to achieve the diploma. The State Board of Education encourages high schools to participate in AP and IB programs by allowing AP and IB courses to satisfy high school graduation

requirements (Title 19 of the Texas Administrative Code [TAC] §74.11, 2022, amended to be effective August 1, 2021; §§74.12-74.13, 2022, amended to be effective August 1, 2020; §101.4002, 2022, amended to be effective March 30, 2021).

## **Texas Public School Accountability System**

The Texas public school accountability system evaluates the performance of districts and campuses in three domains: Student Achievement, School Progress, and Closing the Gaps (Texas Education Agency [TEA], 2022d; TEC, Chapter 39, Subchapter G, 2022). For the 2022 accountability ratings cycle, all districts and campuses received a label of *A*, *B*, *C*, or *Not Rated: Senate Bill 1365*. Districts and campuses received overall ratings based on results across a number of indicators in the three domains. Districts and campuses receiving overall or domain scaled scores of at least 70 received *A-C* ratings, while scores below 70 received the label *Not Rated: SB 1365*. Performance on AP and IB was a component of the college, career, and military readiness (CCMR) indicators, which were included in all three domains.

## **College, Career, and Military Readiness Indicators**

The CCMR indicators in the Texas public school accountability system use performance data from the ACT, AP, IB, SAT, and Texas Success Initiative assessments, among other data, to measure students' preparedness for college, the workforce, or the military (TEA, 2022d). There are two CCMR indicators in the accountability system: one for the Student Achievement and School Progress domains and one for the Closing the Gaps domain. Performance on AP and IB is included in both CCMR indicators. For the 2022 accountability ratings cycle, the CCMR indicator for the Student Achievement and School Progress domains measured the percentage of 2021 annual graduates who scored at or above a criterion score on at least one AP or IB examination in any subject and the CCMR indicator for the Closing the Gaps domain measured the percentage of 2021 annual graduates plus students in Grade 12 in the 2020-21 school year who scored at or above a criterion score on at least one AP or IB examination in any subject. The AP/IB components of the CCMR indicators were evaluated based on data for the 2017-18 through 2020-21 school years.

## **Distinction Designations**

**Overview.** Under the Texas public school accountability system, distinction designations are awarded to recognize school districts and campuses for outstanding achievement in specified academic areas (TEA, 2022d; TEC, Chapter 39, Subchapter G, 2022). The distinction designations are based on results across a number of indicators. Results for a campus are evaluated in relation to results for a comparison group of similar campuses. Results for a district are evaluated based on results for campus-level indicators aggregated across all campuses in the district. To be eligible to earn a distinction designation, a district or campus must demonstrate acceptable performance as defined by the *2022 Accountability Manual*.

**Academic achievement distinction designations.** For the 2022 accountability ratings cycle, academic achievement distinction designations (AADDs) were available at the campus level in four



subject areas: English language arts (ELA), mathematics, science, and social studies (TEA, 2022d). Each AADD included two AP/IB indicators: participation in, and performance on, AP/IB examinations in the specified subject area. Examinations are assigned to subject areas using the classifications provided by the testing companies. For purposes of awarding AADDs in a particular subject area, (a) AP/IB examination participation indicators measured the percentages of students in Grades 11 and 12 who took at least one AP or IB examination, and (b) AP/IB examination performance indicators measured the percentages of examinees in Grades 11 and 12 who scored at or above a criterion score on at least one examination. The criterion scores were defined as 3 or higher on an AP examination and 4 or higher on an IB examination. The AP/IB indicators for AADDs were evaluated based on data for the 2020-21 school year. AADDs were not available for districts. For additional information about AP/IB calculations for AADDs, see *Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Glossary of Terms, 2020-21* (TEA, 2022b).

In 2020-21, Texas public school students participated in one or more of the following AP examinations that were included in calculations of AADD AP/IB indicators in the subject areas of ELA, mathematics, science, and social studies: two examinations in ELA (English Language and Composition, and English Literature and Composition); five examinations in mathematics (Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Computer Science A, Computer Science Principles, and Statistics); seven examinations in science (Biology, Chemistry, Environment Science, Physics 1, Physics 2, Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, and Physics C: Mechanics); and nine examinations in social studies (Comparative Government and Politics, European History, Human Geography, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Psychology, United States Government and Politics, United States History, and World History: Modern).

During the same school year, Texas public school students participated in one or more of the following IB examinations in the subject areas of ELA, mathematics, science, and social studies: two examinations in ELA (English A: Language and Literature, and English A: Literature); two examinations in mathematics (Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches, and Mathematics: Applications and Interpretation); eight examinations in science (Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Design Technology, Environmental Systems and Societies, Physics, and Sports: Exercise Science); and eleven examinations in social studies (Business Management, Economics, Geography, Global Politics, History, History of the Americas, European History, Information Technology in a Global Society, Philosophy, Psychology, and World Religions).

**Closing the gaps distinction designations.** For the 2022 accountability ratings cycle, one closing the gaps distinction designation (CGDD) was available at the campus level (TEA, 2022d). The CGDD included one AP/IB indicator as a component of the CCMR indicator for the Closing the Gaps domain in the accountability system: performance on AP/IB examinations in any subject. For purposes of awarding CGDDs, the AP/IB CCMR indicator measured the percentage of 2021 annual graduates plus students in Grade 12 in the 2020-21 school year who scored at or above a criterion score on at least one AP or IB examination in any subject, among other CCMR criteria. The criterion scores were defined as 3 or higher on an AP examination and 4 or higher on an IB examination. The AP/IB indicator for CGDDs was evaluated based on data for the 2017-18 through 2020-21 school years. For additional information about CGDDs, see *Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Glossary of Terms, 2020-21* (TEA, 2022b).

**Postsecondary readiness distinction designations.** For the 2022 accountability ratings cycle, one postsecondary readiness distinction designation (PRDD) was available at the campus level, and one was available at the district level (TEA, 2022d). In each case, the PRDD included two AP/IB indicators: participation in AP/IB examinations in any subject and college, career, and military ready graduates. For purposes of awarding PRDDs, the AP/IB examination participation indicator measured the percentage of students in Grades 11 and 12 who took at least one AP or IB examination in any subject. This AP/IB indicator was evaluated based on data for the 2020-21 school year. The college, career, and military ready graduates indicator measured the percentage of 2021 annual graduates who scored at or above a criterion score on at least one AP or IB examination in any subject, among other CCMR criteria. The criterion scores were defined as 3 or higher on an AP examination and 4 or higher on an IB examination. This AP/IB indicator was evaluated based on data for the 2017-18 through 2020-21 school years. For additional information about AP/IB calculations for PRDDs, see *Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Glossary of Terms, 2020-21* (TEA, 2022b).

### **End-of-Course Substitute Assessments for Graduation**

Beginning in the 2011-12 school year, in accordance with TEC §39.025 (2010), the commissioner of education approved a list of assessments, including several AP and IB examinations, that a student may substitute for end-of-course (EOC) assessments to meet graduation requirements (19 TAC §101.4002, 2022, amended to be effective March 30, 2021). An approved assessment may be used to substitute only one specific EOC assessment graduation requirement. A student who passes the AP Biology examination or the IB Biology examination may substitute either assessment for the Biology EOC assessment graduation requirement. A student who passes the AP English Language and Composition examination or the IB Language A: Language and Literature examination may substitute either assessment for the English I or English II EOC assessment graduation requirement. A student who passes the AP United States History examination or the IB History of the Americas examination may substitute either assessment for the United States History EOC assessment graduation requirement. Passing scores are defined as 3 or higher for an AP examination and 4 or higher on an IB examination.

## **Data Sources and Methodological Considerations**

### **Data Sources**

The College Board provides the Texas Education Agency (TEA) with annual examination results and demographic information for Texas public school Advanced Placement (AP) examinees. International Baccalaureate (IB) provides TEA with annual examination results, and in the 2020-21 school year, provided data on gender for Texas public school IB examinees. Data on public school student grade level, race/ethnicity, economic status, gender, and advanced course completion, as well as other relevant district, campus, and student information, are obtained from the TEA Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS). College Board data on grade level, race/ethnicity, and gender for AP examinees and IB data on gender for IB examinees are used when the equivalent PEIMS data are not available. Beginning in the 2018-19 school year, AP and IB examinees were able to select a third,

nonbinary gender option. In the 2020-21 school year, there were six AP/IB examinees who selected the nonbinary gender option and did not match to student records in PEIMS.

Sums of examinees or examinations by student characteristic and by program participation may differ from one another or from the total of all examinees or examinations. Whereas counts of all examinees reflect all examinees reported by the testing companies, counts of examinees by race/ethnicity and by gender reflect examinees who could be found in PEIMS plus examinees who could not be found in PEIMS but for whom the specified demographic data were available from the testing companies. Examinees reported by the testing companies may not be found in PEIMS because of data reporting errors. Because data on other student characteristics and program participation are not available from the testing companies, counts of examinees by these data reflect only those examinees who could be found in PEIMS. Additionally, counts of AP and IB course completers or courses completed may differ from counts of AP and IB examinees or examinations, respectively, because (a) not all course completers take examinations, (b) not all examinees complete and receive credit for advanced courses, and (c) it may not have been possible to match some College Board or IB records to student records in PEIMS.

### ***Reporting of Scores***

The College Board AP Program offers more than 30 subject examinations across six academic areas. The IB Diploma Programme offers subject examinations across six subject groups. Students may take AP and IB subject examinations only once per school year. Students who have valid AP scores in the range of 1 to 5 or valid IB scores in the range of 1 to 7 for at least one examination taken in the current school year are counted as examinees for that year. Counts of examinations are based on the number of examinations taken in the current school year that received valid scores. Examination counts are higher than examinee counts because some examinees take more than one subject examination. Although most students participate in AP or IB courses before taking the corresponding examinations, they may take AP or IB examinations without having taken the courses. It is far more common for students to take AP examinations than IB examinations without having completed corresponding courses.

There are two AP Physics C examinations: the Mechanics examination and the Electricity and Magnetism examination, each of which has a corresponding course. Unless otherwise noted, counts of examinations in AP/IB reports published by the TEA Division of Research and Analysis include both Physics C examinations when students have scores for both. Prior to the 2016-17 school year, students who took one or both courses were counted as having completed one Physics C course by TEA, because there was only one Physics C course reported in PEIMS. In 2016-17, two additional Physics C courses, the Mechanics course and the Electricity and Magnetism course, were reported in PEIMS, along with the previously reported Physics C course. Students reported as completing the Physics C course were counted as completing both the Mechanics and the Electricity and Magnetism Physics C courses. Because of this change, counts of course completions from before the 2016-17 school year are different from the 2016-17 counts. Beginning in 2017-18, only two Physics C courses were reported in PEIMS, the Mechanics course and the Electricity and Magnetism course. Because of this change, counts of course completions from before the 2017-18 school year are different from the counts for 2017-18 and later school years.

AP and IB courses can be one or more semesters in length. For a course that extends over more than one semester, completion of the course is defined as successful completion of all semesters of the course. For example, a student is counted as having completed AP United States History, a two-semester course, only after completing both the first and second semesters of the course. In addition, successful completion of a course requires a student to meet "the standard requirements of the course, including demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter ..." (Title 19 of the Texas Administrative Code §74.26, 2022, amended to be effective March 15, 2020). Moreover, some AP courses (e.g., AP Human Geography) may be taught as either single-semester courses or yearlong courses. For such courses, counts of course completers include students who completed either version, and counts of courses completed include either version a student completed.

It may be informative to compare a group's performance results over time, but the reliability of such comparisons depends on the sizes of all groups. When a group is small, compared to other groups, reliability is reduced, and caution should be used when interpreting change over time. In general, changes in the performance of a large group, such as White AP examinees in Texas, are less likely to have occurred by chance than changes in the performance of a small group, such as American Indian or Pacific Islander AP examinees in Texas. The reliability of between-group comparisons also depends on the sizes of the groups. When groups differ substantially in size, comparisons of performance results between them can be misleading and, generally, are not appropriate. For example, the American Indian and Pacific Islander examinee populations are small in number, compared to other racial/ethnic examinee populations. Therefore, performance results for these groups should not be compared from year to year or to other racial/ethnic groups.

## References

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**Abstract.** This report presents information about the Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) programs, including information about courses, examinations, and examination fees. The report also discusses the Texas AP Incentive Program, Texas policy related to uses of AP and IB examination results, and data sources and methodological considerations related to reporting examination participation and performance results in the following reports published by the Texas Education Agency Division of Research and Analysis: *Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Examination Results in Texas Public Schools, 2020-21* (Texas Education Agency [TEA], 2022a) and *Advanced Placement Examination Results in Texas and the United States, 2020-21* (TEA, 2022c).

The report is available in PDF format on the agency website at <https://tea.texas.gov/reports-and-data/school-performance/accountability-research/advanced-placement-and-international-baccalaureate>. Additional information about this report may be obtained by contacting the Texas Education Agency Division of Research and Analysis by phone at (512) 475-3523 or by e-mail at [Research@tea.texas.gov](mailto:Research@tea.texas.gov).

For additional information about AP examinations, contact the College Board Southwestern Regional Office at (866) 392-3017 or <http://www.collegeboard.org/>. For additional information about IB examinations, contact the IB Americas Office in Bethesda, Maryland, at (301) 202-3000 or <http://www.ibo.org/>.



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