

Ms. Gilmore:

On behalf of the College Board, I am pleased to congratulate D C Everest Area School District as one of 388 school districts in the nation recognized by the College Board with a place on its AP[®] Achievement List for opening AP classroom doors to a significantly broader pool of students, while maintaining or improving the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher. This letter serves as authorization for your district to include the credential of being named a 2010-2011 AP Achievement District in your web and print district profiles and other materials that highlight recognitions, honors, and distinctions earned by your district. You can do this starting as early as March 16, when the official announcement will be made.

Improvement in AP results typically takes sustained effort; the District Honor Roll is based on examination of three years of AP data: 2008, 2009, and 2010 data from all students who took AP Examinations in May of those years. Within the three year analysis, inclusion on the list is based on the following criteria:

1. Increase in participation in/access to AP by at least 4 percent in large districts, at least 7 percent in medium districts and at least 11 percent in small districts;
2. A steady or increasing percentage of exams taken by African American, Hispanic/Latino and American Indian/Alaska Native students; and
3. Performance levels maintained or improved when comparing the percentage of exams in 2010 scoring a 3 or higher to those in 2008, 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.

From 2008 to 2010, your district has increased the number of students participating in AP from 233 to 316 while improving the percentage of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher, the score typically needed to earn college credit, from 76% in 2008 to 78% in 2010.

These nation-wide measurable achievements in AP classes are noteworthy and newsworthy. From the overall Achievement List, four school districts in the nation will be honored with 2011 AP District of the Year awards. Three represent large, medium and small districts that have achieved the most significant improvements in the nation in access to college-level AP courses and student performance on the end-of-course AP Exam. One district will receive The Beacon Award for its profound achievement in using AP to create a culture focused on college readiness.

Please note:

The College Board will announce its four AP Districts of the Year and the AP Achievement List on Wednesday, March 16. This news is embargoed until then. At that time, we will distribute the press release to national media, and we will include links to the complete Achievement List on www.collegeboard.org.

Because it's impossible to mention all 388 school districts on the AP Achievement List in our national press release, we've drafted a sample press release [attached] so that you can announce this honor to your local media.

With minor edits you can print the release on your district letterhead and send it to local media outlets. If your district has a communications office, they can send this out for you. If you need assistance identifying appropriate local media outlets, the release also includes contact information for the College Board's office of communications, which is glad to help you.

Again, this news is embargoed until Wednesday, March 16, so if you reach out to your local media before then, please inform them of the embargo. Please let me know if you have any questions.

This is an inspirational benchmark for your district. As your regional College Board representative, I look forward to supporting your district's work around college readiness and Advanced Placement in the future.

Best Regards,

JR Treto

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