



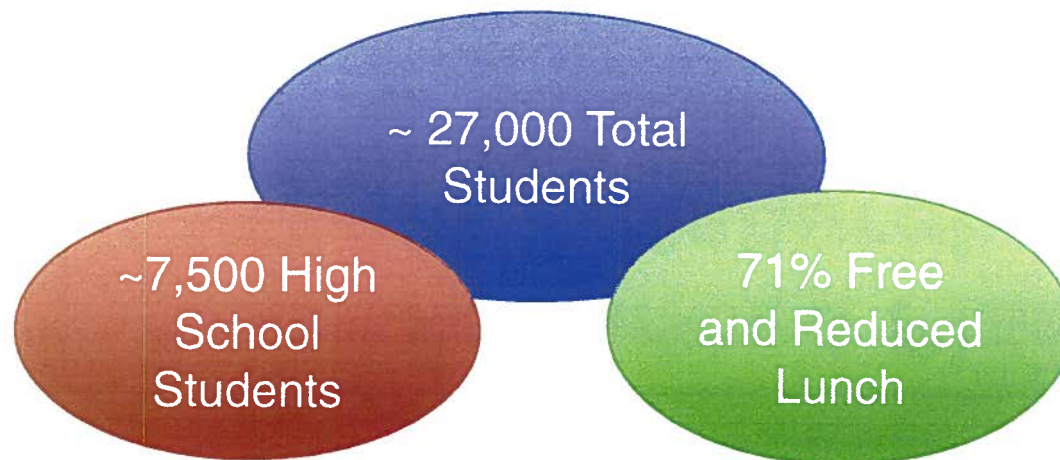
The Pathway to the Promise.™

Advanced Placement at Pittsburgh Public Schools

AP. Get Yours.

COPY

Pittsburgh Public Schools Profile



12 Comprehensive High Schools

- 8 9-12 Schools
- 4 6-12 Schools (1 International Baccalaureate School)

- Of the 12 high schools that serve 11th and 12th graders, 11 offer AP classes.
- 6 schools offer 5 or more AP classes

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Disparity exists between African American and White students enrolled in AP classes

Racial Composition of **PPS** Students:

White: 34.2%
Black: 56.9%
Other: 8.9%

Racial Composition of **AP** Students:

White: 71%
Black: 22%
Other: 7%

**Percent of PPS High
School students enrolled
in AP:
24%**

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Disparity also exists between African American and White students passing exams

In the **08-09** school year, **524** students took **868** total AP exams.
 In the **09-10** school year, **549** students took **973** total AP exams.
 Of the exams taken, **45%** (`08), and **49%** (`09) received passing scores of **3, 4 or 5**.

	African American 08-09	White 08-09	Other 08-09	African American 09-10	White 09-10	Other 09-10	Total 08-09	Total 09-10
Total Exams Taken	185 (21%)	610 (70%)	73 (9%)	170 (17%)	680 (70%)	123 (13%)	871 (+5.4)	973 (+2%)
Exams Passed	20 (10.8%)	339 (55.6%)	24 (46.6%)	21 (12.3%)	380 (56%)	81 (17%)	393 (45.3%)	482 (49%)
Exams Failed	165 (89.2%)	251 (44.4%)	39 (53.4%)	149 (87%)	300 (44%)	42 (9%)	475 (54.7%)	491 (50%)

The passing rate for all of our students needs to significantly improve.

AP and Excellence For All

The goals outlined in the Superintendent's Excellence for All Agenda (2005) regarding increased participation and performance in AP and IB courses are:

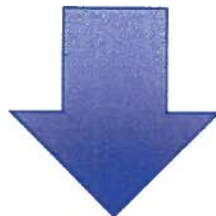
	<i>Status</i>
Number of students that take AP exams (318 in 2004-2005) and IB diploma exams (24 in 2004-2005) will double	✓
Number of African American students that take AP courses (37 in 2004-2005) will quadruple and IB courses (78 in 2004-2005) will double	✓
Number of AP exam scores of 3-5 (336 in 2004-2005) will increase 50%	Approaching

The Gifted and Talented Office has applied for and received partial funding to work towards increasing these scores, particularly among low-income students.

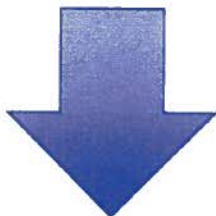
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AP and the Pittsburgh Promise

The Promise serves to inspire and motivate Pittsburgh Public Schools students to **“Dream Big”** and **“Work Hard”** by providing scholarships to **more than 100** qualifying colleges and trade/technical schools across Pennsylvania.



Students must attend a PPS High School grades 9-12, have 90% attendance and maintain a 2.5 GPA, and can receive \$10,000 dollars a year to apply towards the cost of college.



We encourage students to take AP classes to make them more Promise Ready, and because it makes them more attractive candidates to competitive colleges.

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Our Goals

District-wide Participation in PSAT: 100% of PPS 10th graders will take the PSAT each year, an overall increase of 18% over baseline levels

School-by-school Growth Goals in AP enrollment number, students taking AP exams, and scores of 3 or higher on exams:

Subgroup	AP Course Enrollment Growth Target	# of AP Exams Taken Growth Target
African American	11%	33% overall, with scores of 3 or higher growing by 37%
White	11%	27%, with scores of 3 or higher growing by 16%
Other (Asian, Hispanic, Multi-racial)	12%	30%, with scores of 3 or higher growing by 19%.

Significant Increase in Numbers of PPS Graduates Enrolling in Competitive Colleges

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How we plan to accomplish our goals

Teacher Training and Support

- Full day College Board Training
- 3 subsequent ½ day trainings
- Online teacher sharing mechanism (NING)

Student Support

- PSAT at no cost for all 10th and 11th graders
- 8 Saturday AP exam prep sessions
- Free 3 week AP summer “bridge” program
- Free access to Shmoop online PSAT, SAT and AP prep site
- AP “Champions” at each school, student cohorts

Parent/Family Outreach and Awareness

- AP “toolkit” developed
- College readiness handbook/Pittsburgh Promise
- AP Potential Tool
- Communications campaign around PSAT, AP, College Readiness

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Challenges

- **General awareness of AP courses and its connection to college**
- **Student readiness for AP classes**
- **Teacher training**
- **Access to AP classes**
- **The cost of AP exams**
- **Student incentives to participate in support services**
- **Materials**

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Questions and Feedback

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WHAT IS ADVANCED PLACEMENT? **COPY**

ADVANCED PLACEMENT AT PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Advanced Placement (AP) Program is a nationally recognized set of rigorous classes, where students study advanced material, more in-depth and at an accelerated pace. The classes are designed for students who want to experience challenging, college-level material and give students a head start on college. AP classes are weighted, so they can help students to improve their high school GPA. Students that take AP courses are encouraged to take the corresponding AP exam in May, which sends a powerful message to colleges and universities and can enable students to gain admission, college credit, and placement into advanced college courses.

DISTRICT ADVANCED PLACEMENT GOALS

Because of the nationally recognized value of Advanced Placement course work, and its proven benefits of student success in college, Pittsburgh Public Schools has committed to improve our Advanced Placement program. Our goal is to increase the number of students taking AP courses, increase the number of students taking AP exams, and increase the number of students scoring a three or higher on AP exams, especially students in underrepresented groups. We will accomplish this through teacher training, student support, and community awareness.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF ADVANCED PLACEMENT?

ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

Students that take AP classes and do well on exams are more attractive candidates for competitive colleges, because students that take AP classes demonstrate maturity and readiness for college, the willingness to take the most rigorous courses available, and emphasize a commitment to academic excellence. A 1999 U.S. Department of Education study found that the strongest predictor of college graduation is something students do before they ever go to college: Participate in rigorous, college-level courses in high school — and AP courses in particular. These courses are college-level classes and prepare students for success in college by providing them with the skills, content-knowledge, habits, and determination of a college student.

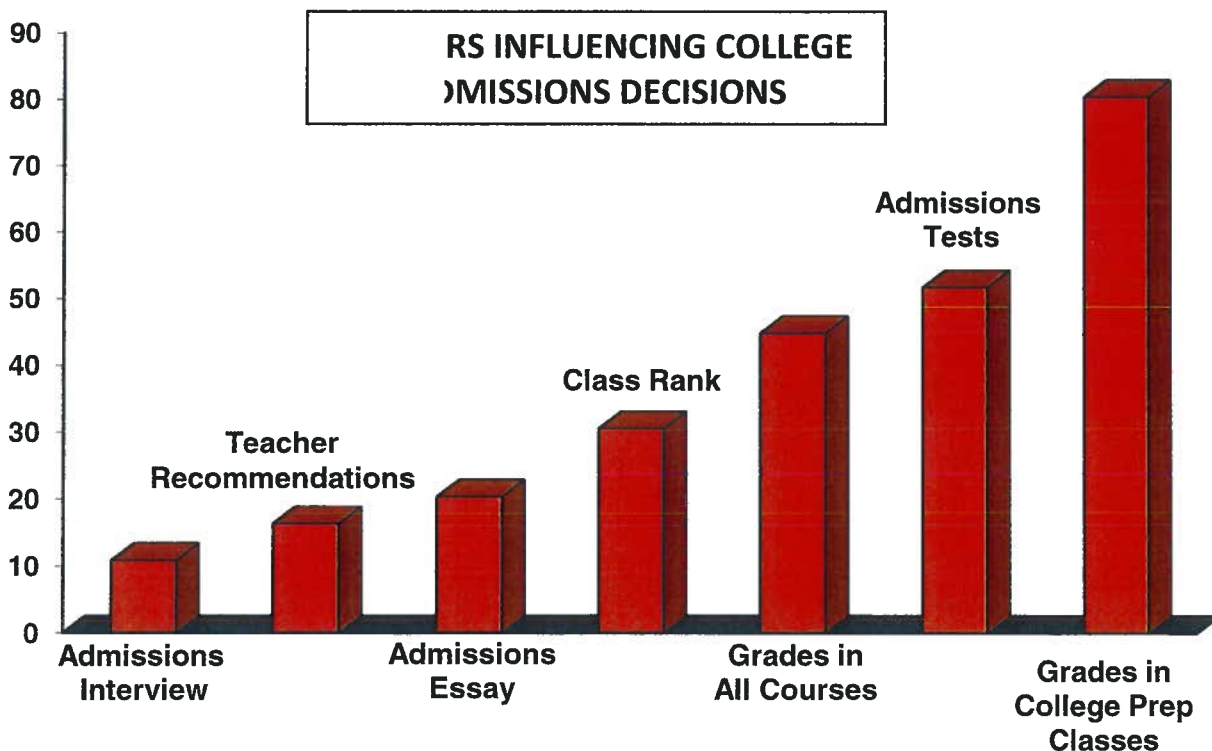
There are three major benefits of taking AP courses in high school. These include:

1. Benefit #1: A more attractive candidate to colleges
2. Benefit #2: Better prepared for college, more academic options
3. Benefit #3: The opportunity to earn college credit and save money

ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMS

More than 3,600 colleges and universities annually receive AP Exam scores, and over 90% of 4-year colleges in the U.S. provide credit and/or advanced placement for qualifying scores. Students that score a 3, 4, or 5 (on a 5 point scale) on the AP Exam can receive college credit for that class. This not only gets you a head start on college, it also saves you money. Research also shows that students who pass Advanced Placement Exams are 3 times more likely to earn a college degree than those who do not pass and significantly more likely to earn a degree than those who do not enroll in AP or IB classes at all.

{INCLUDE} Information from college admissions interviews



WHO CAN TAKE ADVANCED PLACEMENT AT PPS?

THE SHORT ANSWER IS YOU!!!

THE RECOMMENDED STUDENT PROFILE

While Advanced Placement classes are available to students at Pittsburgh Public Schools, it is recommended that students, parents, teachers, and counselors work together to determine if Advanced Placement is a good fit. You should consider enrolling in AP classes if you can answer 'YES' to two or more of the following things:

- You scored well on the PSAT during 10th grade and show AP potential
- You had A's or B's during 10th grade in the subjects you are interested in taking
- You are interested in the subject and preparing for college
- You are willing to try new things
- Your teachers think you would succeed in AP
- You have a determination to do well and are disciplined

THE AP/PSAT CONNECTION

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) is a program cosponsored by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). It is a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT. It also gives students a chance to enter the National Merit Scholarship Program. The PSAT/NMSQT measures critical reading skills, math problem-solving skills and writing skills. Taking the test in 10th grade is a great way to start getting ready for AP classes, as the PSAT/NMSQT is predictive of success in AP classes and helps the district identify students who should be enrolled in AP during their junior and senior years. During the 2010-2011 school year, all 10th and 11th grade students will have the opportunity to take this pre-college test, at NO COST to students and their families. The PSAT/NMSQT will be administered on site, at each high school on October 13, 2010.

HOW CAN I ENROLL IN ADVANCED PLACEMENT AND WHAT COURSES ARE AVAILABLE?

ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Ultimately, counselors are responsible for enrolling students in Advanced Placement classes. If you are interested in enrolling in AP courses, please following the steps below:

- Talk to your counselor
- Have conversations with your parents and teachers about your strengths and future goals
- The decision to enroll in AP should be a joint decision between YOU, your parents, your teachers and your counselors

COURSE OFFERINGS BY SCHOOL

- **Allderdice:** American History AP, AP Environmental Science, AP US Government/Politics, Art History AP, Biology 2 AP, Biology 2 CAS/AP Prep, Calculus (AB) AP, Calculus BC CAS/AP Prep, Chemistry 2 AP, English 3 CAS/AP Prep, English 3 AP, English 4 AP, English 4 CAS/AP Prep, European History AP, French 5 CAS/AP Prep, Music Theory AP, Physics 2B AP, Physics 2C AP, Psychology AP, Spanish 5 CAS/AP Prep, Spanish 6 CAS/AP Prep, Statistics AP, US History CAS/AP Prep
- **Brashear:** US History CAS/AP Prep, American History AP, Biology 2 AP, Calculus (AB) AP, Chemistry 2 AP, Eng 3 CAS/AP Prep, English 3 AP, English 4 AP, English 4 CAS/AP Prep, Physics 2 CAS/AP Prep
- **Carrick:** Calculus (AB) AP, Chemistry 2 CAS/AP Prep, English 3 CAS/AP Prep, English 3 AP, English 4 AP, English 4 CAS/AP Prep, Psychology AP, Statistics AP, US History CAS/AP Prep
- **Langley:** AP US Government/Politics, English 4 CAS/AP Prep, English 3 AP, Physics 2C AP, Statistics AP, US History CAS/AP Prep
- **Oliver:** Calculus (AB) AP, Chemistry 2 AP, English 4 CAS/AP Prep, English 3 CAS/AP Prep, US History CAS/AP Prep
- **Peabody:** English 3 AP, English 4 AP, Statistics AP, Psychology AP
- **Perry:** Calculus (AB) AP, English 3 CAS/AP Prep, English 4 AP, English 4 CAS/AP Prep, Statistics AP, US History CAS/AP Prep, Spanish 5 CAS/AP Prep, Calculus (BC) CAS/AP Prep, Biology 2 CAS/AP Prep
- **CAPA:** American History AP, AP Environmental Science, AP US Government/Politics, Calculus (AB) AP, English 3 CAS/AP Prep, English 3 AP, English 4 AP, English 4 CAS/AP Prep, French 5 CAS/AP Prep, Music Theory AP, Psychology AP, Spanish 5 CAS/AP Prep, Spanish 6 AP/AP Prep, Statistics AP, US History CAS/AP Prep
- **Westinghouse:** American History AP, Psychology AP, English 4 CAS/AP Prep
- **Obama IB:** Spanish 9 IB, Japanese 9 IB, French 9 IB, German 9 IB, Visual Arts 9 IB, Music 9 IB, English 1 IB, Geometry IB, Algebra 1 IB, Biology IB,
- **U Prep:** AP Calc AB
- **Schenley:** French 10 IB, French 11 IB, French 12 IB, German 10 IB, German 11 IB, German 12 IB, Fundamentals of Russian 1 IB, Fundamentals of Japanese 1 IB, Fundamentals Japanese 2 IB, Japanese 2 IB, Japanese 9 IB, Japanese 10 IB, Japanese 11 IB, Japanese 12 IB, Spanish 10 IB, Spanish 11 IB, Spanish 12 IB, English 2 IB, English 3 IB, English 4 IB, Calculus AB AP, Math Studies 11 IB, Math Studies 12 IB, Mathematics 11 IB, Mathematics 12 IB, Geometry IB, Algebra 2 IB, Statistics AP, Information Technology 11 IB, Information Technology 12 IB, Biology 2 IB, Chemistry IB, Chemistry 2 IB, Physics 2 IB, Theory of Knowledge 11 IB, Theory of Knowledge 12 IB, History of Americas 11 IB, 20th Century History 12 IB, European History 11 IB, Psychology 11 IB, Psychology 12 IB, US History IB, Visual Arts 11 IB, Visual Arts 12 IB, Theater 11 IB, Theater 12 IB, Music 11 IB, Music 12 IB, Film 11 IB, US History CAS/AP Prep

NOTE: These course offerings will be verified before communications are made public**

HOW CAN PARENTS HELP STUDENTS BE SUCCESSFUL IN ADVANCED PLACEMENT?

ENROLLING YOUR CHILD IN AP

There are many ways that parents can help support their child and encourage him/her to enroll in Advanced Placement courses.

- Get involved! Make sure you know what classes your student is enrolled in, stay in contact with the school, communicate with your child's teachers, and/or join the PCA. When parents are involved, students achieve more.
- Talk to your child's counselors about enrolling him/her in Advanced Placement.
- Make sure your 10th or 11th grade student takes the PSAT on October 11. This is a FREE test and helps schools determine students with AP potential.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD AT HOME

Additionally, parents can provide their child with assistance at home as they prepare for success in Advanced Placement courses. Some ideas:

- Talk to your child everyday about his/her school work, education, and life-long goals.
- Provide a quiet place at home for study.
- Insist that students accept responsibility for learning and behavior.
- Model the importance of life-long learning. Talk to your child about continuing his/her education and demonstrate that you value their education and your own.
- Establish high expectations. Do not accept minimum effort or indifference to quality work. Establish your expectations for your child's grades and communicate those with your child.
- Know what is expected. Communicate questions or concerns to teachers.
- Insist on good attendance. Students with record of at least 90% present attendance may be eligible to receive scholarship fund for college from the Pittsburgh Promise.
- Help foster your child's interests and life-long goals. You can do this by talking to your child about what they are interested in and persuading them to join activities, clubs, and organizations that will give them exposure to, and experience in, their potential career.

HOW CAN STUDENTS PREPARE FOR SUCCESS IN ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES?

Once you enroll in AP courses, the guidance doesn't end. The district is committed to supporting students and offering students a multitude of resources. There are many ways that students can prepare for AP courses and AP exams, both in school and on their own. Check out the information below for an outline of the district's support systems.

AP Champion and Student Representative

Each school has been assigned an AP Champion to assist students and promote the AP program. This person is a teacher with training in, and knowledge of, Advanced Placement. Additionally, each school has at least one Student Representative to serve as a leader for his/her peers and communicate important AP information to classmates. Make sure to reach out to these individuals often with any questions or concerns – that's what they're here for!

Join a Student Cohort

The Student Representative(s) at each school are responsible for leading a Student Cohort. This cohort is meant to be a discussion group and a valuable support system for students enrolled in AP classes. Cohorts will meet regularly to discuss AP materials, alleviate potential anxieties, study for AP courses, and offer encouragement. Each school has different meeting times, so be sure to reach out to your AP Champion or Student Representative for more information.

Attend AP Prep Sessions

During the two months leading up to the May AP exams, the district will offer eight Saturday Sessions. These sessions will be led by AP teachers and members of the Office of Gifted and Talented Education. Saturday Sessions are meant to motivate students, review AP material, promote scholarly behaviors and study habits, and boost students' confidence going into the AP exam. These sessions are FREE to any student enrolled in AP and planning on taking an AP exam.

AP Summer Bridge Academy

Like Saturday Sessions, the Summer Bridge Academy is meant to prepare students for the rigors of AP coursework. This is an intensive summer workshop in August 2011, aimed at equipping students with all the necessary prerequisite skills to enter AP classes in the fall of 2011. This summer program is FREE to all students enrolled in AP for the coming year.

Access AP study guides from www.schmoop.com

These guides are offered in nearly every AP subject and help students practice with sample AP materials and test questions. Through a district partnership, all Pittsburgh Public Schools AP students are able to access the site and its valuable materials for free!

1. Start here: <http://www.shmoop.com/ap-exams>
2. Pick your courses
3. Click the green "Start Now" button
4. Create a free Shmoop account
5. Enter this promotion code during checkout (in ALL CAPS): PPSAPFREE

ADVANCED PLACEMENT STUDENT SUCCESS STORY

{INCLUDE} Information from student interviews with CMU, Temple, UPenn, CCAC Promise kids who took AP

ADVANCED PLACEMENT AND THE PITTSBURGH PROMISE

According to a study of 2008-2009 Pittsburgh Promise graduates, 77.6% of these students attending a PA college ranked by US News and World Report took at least one AP class at PPS. For instance, three Promise students went to the University of Pennsylvania – the 4th best university in the country, according to 2010 rankings – and all three of these students took AP. The same holds true for the six Promise students who went to Carnegie Mellon, the 22nd best college in the country. This demonstrates the value of Advanced Placement courses and also AP correlation to the Pittsburgh Promise. AP gets you PROMISE READY!

{INCLUDE} Information from below chart will be re-formatted, verified with Promise members

2008-09 Pittsburgh Promise Students Attending Ranked Colleges by AP Enrollment

Post Secondary School	National University Ranking	Took AP?		Total
		No	Yes	
University of Pennsylvania	4	-	3	3
Carnegie Mellon University	22	-	6	6
Pennsylvania State University - University Park	47	3	26	29
University of Pittsburgh	57	6	31	37
Drexel University	88	-	2	2
Duquesne University	128	3	20	23
Temple University	Tier 3	7	15	22
Indiana University of Pennsylvania	Tier 4	13	9	22
Post Secondary School	Liberal Arts College Ranking	Took AP?		Total
		No	Yes	
Muhlenberg College	68	-	1	1
Allegheny College	85	-	1	1
Washington and Jefferson College	92	1	2	3
Westminster College	122	-	4	4
Seton Hill University	Tier 3	2	1	3
Total		35	121	156
Percentage of Promise Students		22.4%	77.6%	100.0%

Key Takeaway: 77.6% of Promise students who are attending a PA college ranked by US News and World Report took at least one AP class at PPS.

Pittsburgh Public Schools Advanced Placement Program Parent and Student Toolkit

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WHAT IS ADVANCED PLACEMENT?

The Advanced Placement (AP) Program is a nationally recognized set of rigorous classes, where students study advanced material, more in-depth and at an accelerated pace. The classes are designed for students who want to experience challenging, college-level material and give students a head start on college. Students that take AP courses are encouraged to take the corresponding AP exam in May, which sends a powerful message to colleges and universities and can enable students to gain admission, college credit, and placement into advanced college courses.

BENEFITS OF AP COURSES/AP EXAMS

Students that take AP classes and do well on exams are more attractive candidates for competitive colleges, because students that take AP classes demonstrate maturity and readiness for college, the willingness to take the most rigorous courses available, and emphasize a commitment to academic excellence. More than 3,600 colleges and universities annually receive AP Exam scores, and over 90% of 4-year colleges in the U.S. provide credit and/or advanced placement for qualifying scores. Students that score a 3, 4, or 5 (on a 5 point scale) on the AP Exam can receive college credit for that class. This not only gets you a head start on college, it also saves you money. Research also shows that students who pass Advanced Placement Exams are 3 times more likely to earn a college degree than those who do not pass and significantly more likely to earn a degree than those who do not enroll in AP or IB classes at all at all.

Benefit #1: A more attractive candidate to colleges

Benefit #2: Better prepared for college, more academic options

Benefit #3: The opportunity to earn college credit and save money

DISTRICT AP GOALS

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HOW TO ENROLL IN AP CLASSES

Students should discuss the decision to enroll in AP classes with parents, counselors and teachers. Already enrolled in CAS classes and worried about not meeting the requirements for your CAS diploma? Not a problem! In most cases AP classes can be applied toward the CAS diploma. Some things to think about when making the decision to enroll in AP include:

- You scored well on the PSAT during 10th grade and show AP potential
- You had A's or B's during 10th grade in the subjects you are interested in taking
- You are interested in the subject and preparing for college

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- You are willing to try new things
- Your teachers think you would succeed in AP
- You have a determination to do well and are disciplined
- You can answer YES to two or more of the above bullets

HOW TO PREPARE FOR AP

Once you enroll in AP courses, the guidance doesn't end. The district is committed to supporting students and offering students a multitude of resources. There are many ways that students can prepare for AP courses and AP exams, both in school and on their own. Check out the information below for an outline of the district's support systems.

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- **Participate in the AP Summer Bridge Academy.** Like study sessions, the AP Summer Bridge Academy is meant to prepare students for the rigors of AP coursework. This is an intensive summer workshop aimed at equipping students with all the necessary prerequisite skills to enter AP classes in the fall of 2011. This summer program is FREE to all students enrolled in AP for the coming year.

HOW PARENTS CAN GET INVOLVED

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- Insist on good attendance.
- Make sure your 10th or 11th grade student takes the PSAT on October 13.

QUESTIONS?

Have a question/idea about Advanced Placement? Please contact us! We welcome parent and student feedback – it is necessary in building a strong, successful AP program at PPS.

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