



## **NJ Students Most Prepared for College, Yet Achievement Gap Remains for Minorities 7th Annual AP Report to the Nation Shows**

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Wealthier New Jersey students are among the best prepared in the nation to succeed in college, according to the College Board's 7th Annual Report to the Nation released today. But low-income and minority students don't take as many advanced-level courses and are not as ready for higher education, further demonstrating the need to implement Governor Christie's education reform agenda.

"The AP exam results tell us that our best high school students are among the best in the nation, and they're well-prepared to perform college-level work," said acting Commissioner Chris Cerf. "However, the report shows there remains a huge gap in achievement levels between wealthy and lower-income students that we must address."

Fewer lower-income and minority students took advanced courses. Approximately 58.5 percent of white graduates took at least one Advanced Placement exam, compared to 5.7 percent of African Americans, 11.3 percent of Hispanics and 10.7 percent for low-income students.

"We need to transform our educational system into one that provides greater opportunities for all students," acting Commissioner Cerf said.

The College Board's AP program provides students with an opportunity to take college-level courses in over 30 academic disciplines while still in high school, including Chinese Language and Culture, Statistics, U.S. History, Calculus, Psychology, Chemistry, and Biology. These are rigorous courses that prepare students for college academic experiences. In addition, a score of three or higher on an AP exam allows students to earn college credit, advanced placement or both, to many four year colleges and universities.

For more information visit: <http://www.collegeboard.com/apreport>.