

Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate General Information, 2024-25

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 public 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, 2026, amended to be effective June 14, 2021). 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, 2024-25* (Texas Education Agency [TEA], 2026a) and *Advanced Placement Examination Results in Texas and the United States, 2024-25* (TEA, 2026c). 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 effect of COVID-19, the governor of Texas used his statutory authority under Texas Government Code §418.016 (2026, amended to be effective September 1, 2013) 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. During the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years, under Senate Bill (SB) 15, which expired on September 1, 2023, qualifying Texas public school districts could offer remote instruction for up to 10 percent of enrolled students (TEA, 2021). In 2021-22, 95.3 percent of enrolled Texas public school students attended full-time in person during the school year, compared to 98.5 percent for 2022-23. This

section details the impact the COVID-19 pandemic had on AP and IB examinations for the 2019-20 through 2022-23 school years.

AP. In the 2019-20 school year, the College Board administered 2020 AP examinations online (College Board, n.d.-p). The College Board tailored examination content to include only topics and skills that were scheduled to be covered by early March. Examinations were scored on the same 1 to 5 scale used in previous years, and the College Board set the expectation that colleges and universities would award credit and placement in the same manner as in previous years (College Board, n.d.-i).

In the 2020-21 school year, the College Board offered three test administration windows for AP examinations and three testing modes: in-person paper, in-person digital, and at-home digital (College Board, n.d.-k). To increase testing opportunities for students, the College Board allowed schools to mix and match test administration windows and testing modes. Examinations covered the full course content and were scored on the same 1 to 5 scale used in previous years.

In the 2021-22 school year, the College Board offered in-school examinations during the first two weeks of May, as well as during a late-testing window in mid-May (College Board, n.d.-m). Examinations were administered on paper, except for AP Chinese and AP Japanese, which were digital.

In the 2022-23 school year, the College Board offered in-school examinations during the first two weeks of May, as well as during a late-testing window in mid-May (College Board, n.d.-n). Schools could administer the examinations on paper, digitally, or a combination of both, except for AP Chinese and AP Japanese, which were digital.

IB. In the 2019-20 school year, IB canceled the 2020 IB examinations (IB, 2020). IB assigned examination scores to students through an awarding model consisting of three components: student coursework, school grades, and school context (IB, 2026b). 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, 2020).

In the 2020-21 school year, IB developed two assessment routes for examinations: an examination route and a non-examination route (IB, n.d.). 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.

In the 2021-22 school year, IB strongly encouraged all schools to return to regular examination administration for student assessment but continued to offer a non-examination route for assessment as a contingency measure (IB, 2026d).

In the 2022-23 school year, IB awarded grades using all of the components, coursework, and examinations that they used pre-pandemic (IB, 2026e). Additionally, IB planned to set the grade distribution close to the pre-pandemic levels from May 2019.

Courses

AP Program. The College Board's AP Program offers over 40 courses in six academic areas, including arts, English, history and social sciences, mathematics and computer science, sciences, and world languages and cultures (College Board, n.d.-e). 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 college and university academic faculty and experienced high school AP teachers from across the country (College Board, n.d.-d). 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 each course's sequence and scope, as well as sample syllabi and practice examinations (College Board, n.d.-a). Course descriptions for new courses are typically developed over a two- to six-year period (College Board, n.d.-d). 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, n.d.-c). 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 (College Board, n.d.-l). 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, n.d.-c).

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, 2026c).

Schools may develop a course that IB does not otherwise offer in individuals and societies, sciences, or the arts by using a school-based syllabus (SBS) (IB, 2026f). 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 an SBS.

Diploma candidates are required to select a course from each subject group (IB, 2026c). The single exception is the arts, for which students may substitute a second course from the sciences, individuals

and societies, or language acquisition subject groups. 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 the teacher 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—essay, problem solving, or spoken response—and a section of multiple-choice questions (College Board, n.d.-j). There are exceptions to this format. For example, AP Art and Design has a portfolio assessment, rather than an examination (College Board, n.d.-b). AP examination scores range from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest) (College Board, n.d.-o).

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, n.d.-f). Multiple-choice questions are created by college faculty members who teach college courses that correspond to a particular AP course and by experienced AP teachers. Free-response questions are created by content experts and go through several rounds of review and revision by the development committees, a process that takes up to two years. Some multiple-choice questions from prior examinations are reused.

The College Board uses evidence-based standard setting to establish grading standards and ensure AP scores are valid measures of college-level performance (College Board, n.d.-o, 2024). Through surveys conducted by the College Board, college faculty members who teach comparable college courses review AP examinations and provide information about examination difficulty in relation to their grade-level expectations. Faculty members also administer portions of examinations to their students in corresponding 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. To develop standards for setting AP scores and to ensure that the scores predict students' college performance, psychometricians gather and analyze data from the college faculty surveys, college student AP examinations, and high school student AP examinations.

Between 2022 and 2025, the College Board used evidence-based standard setting processes to evaluate student performance for most AP examinations (College Board, 2024, 2025). During this process, 14 examinations were identified as having percentages of scores of 3 or higher below the 60 to 80 percent range expected for each examination. Therefore, the College Board updated performance standards for these 14 examinations, resulting in increased percentages of scores of 3 or higher. Because of the changes to the performance standards, caution should be used when comparing AP performance results for 2021-22 through 2024-25 to one another or to earlier years. For additional information about AP scoring standards and how these changes affected AP examinations taken by Texas public school students, see the section, Reporting of Scores, on page 11.

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, 2026g). 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, 2026a). Non-examination components, which include extended essays and theory of knowledge essays, are assessed externally by an IB examiner (IB, 2026g). Standardized examinations, which include essays, structured problems, short-response, data-response, text-response, case-study, and multiple-choice questions, are administered locally and scored externally (IB, 2026a). 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 factors such as course content coverage and potential 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 2024-25 school year, the fee for each AP examination was \$99, except for the AP Seminar and AP Research examinations, which had fees of \$147 each (College Board, n.d.-h). Qualifying low-income students received a \$37 fee reduction from the College Board in 2024-25. For students who qualified for this fee reduction, testing centers waived the \$9 administration fee (College Board, n.d.-g). Students with demonstrated financial need received additional reductions. TEA assumed \$27 of the cost of every AP examination taken by an eligible Texas public school student (TEA, 2024). 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, n.d.-g; TEC §28.053, 2026, amended to be effective September 28, 2011; Title 19 of the Texas Administrative Code [TAC] §74.29, 2026, 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.-a). With the fee reductions, participating districts reduced the cost for low-income students in 2024-25 to \$10 for each AP examination except for AP Seminar and AP Research examinations, which were reduced to \$9.

IB Diploma Programme. The fee for each IB examination was \$123 in 2024-25 (IB, 2025). TEA assumed \$27 of the cost of every IB examination taken by an eligible Texas high school student (TEA, 2024). 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, n.d.-g; TEC §28.053, 2026, amended to be effective September 28, 2011; 19 TAC §74.29, 2026, 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.-a). With the fee reductions, participating districts reduced the cost for low-income students in 2024-25 to \$31 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 for individual components of the AP Incentive Program during each fiscal biennium is subject to legislative appropriations. For the 2024-25 school year, seven awards could have been funded under the AP Incentive Program (TEC §28.053, 2026, amended to be effective September 28, 2011; 19 TAC §74.29, 2026, amended to be effective August 24, 2010). Six of the seven awards were not funded in 2024-25. 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. A teacher training reimbursement of up to \$450 was awarded for each eligible teacher who attended a TEA-approved training targeted for: Pre-AP, AP, IB Diploma Programme, IB Middle Years Programme, or other equivalent advanced courses (TEA, n.d.-b). 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, 2026, amended to be effective September 28, 2011; §28.055, 2026, added to be effective May 30, 1995).

The AP Incentive Program also included subsidies for AP and IB examinations for the 2024-25 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, 2024; TEC §28.053, 2026, amended to be effective September 28, 2011; §28.055, 2026, added to be effective May 30, 1995). TEA allocated \$27 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 (TEA, 2024). Moreover, a student who qualified under the College Board criteria for financial need was eligible for an additional \$46 in fee reductions from the College Board and testing centers (College Board, n.d.-g). 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.-a).

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 a 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, 2026, amended to be effective August 1, 2022; §§74.12-74.13, 2026, amended to be effective August 1, 2025; §101.4002, 2026, amended to be effective July 7, 2025).

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], 2026d; TEC, Chapter 39, Subchapter G, 2026, as of April 24, 2026). For the 2026 accountability ratings cycle, districts and campuses were evaluated for overall accountability ratings of *A-F* based on results across a number of indicators in the three domains. 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, 2026d). 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 2026 accountability ratings cycle, the CCMR indicator for the Student Achievement and School Progress domains measured the percentage of 2025 annual graduates who scored at or above a criterion score on at least one AP or IB examination in any subject. The CCMR indicator for the Closing the Gaps domain measured the percentage of 2025 annual graduates plus students in Grade 12 in the 2024-25 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 2021-22 through 2024-25 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, 2026d; TEC, Chapter 39, Subchapter G, 2026, as of April 24, 2026). 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 receive an accountability rating of *A*, *B*, or *C*.

Academic achievement distinction designations. For the 2026 accountability ratings cycle, academic achievement distinction designations (AADDs) were available at the campus level in four subject areas: reading language arts (RLA), mathematics, science, and social studies (TEA, 2026d). 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 2024-25 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, 2024-25* (TEA, 2026b).

In 2024-25, Texas public school students completed one or more of the following AP examinations that were included in calculations of AADD AP/IB indicators in the subject areas of RLA, mathematics, science, and social studies: two examinations in RLA (English Language and Composition, and English Literature and Composition); six examinations in mathematics (Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Computer Science A, Computer Science Principles, Precalculus, and Statistics); seven examinations in science (Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics 1: Algebra-Based, Physics 2: Algebra-Based, Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, and Physics C: Mechanics); and ten examinations in social studies (African American 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 completed one or more of the following IB examinations in the subject areas of RLA, mathematics, science, and social studies: two examinations in RLA (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, and Health Science); and twelve examinations in social studies (Business Management, Digital Society, Economics, Geography, Global Politics, History, History of the Americas, History of Europe, Philosophy, Psychology, Social and Cultural Anthropology, and World Religions).

Closing the gaps distinction designations. For the 2026 accountability ratings cycle, one closing the gaps distinction designation (CGDD) was available at the campus level (TEA, 2026d). 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 2025 annual graduates plus students in Grade 12 in the 2024-25 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 2021-22 through 2024-25 school years. For additional information about CGDDs, see *Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Glossary of Terms, 2024-25* (TEA, 2026b).

Postsecondary readiness distinction designations. For the 2026 accountability ratings cycle, one postsecondary readiness distinction designation (PRDD) was available at the campus level, and one was available at the district level (TEA, 2026d). 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 2024-25 school year. The college, career, and military ready graduates indicator measured the percentage of 2025 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 2021-22 through 2024-25 school years. For additional information about AP/IB calculations for PRDDs, see *Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Glossary of Terms, 2024-25* (TEA, 2026b).

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 State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) end-of-course (EOC) assessments to meet graduation requirements (19 TAC §101.4002, 2026, amended to be effective July 7, 2025). An approved assessment may be used to substitute only one specific EOC assessment graduation requirement. A student who scores 3 or higher on the AP Biology examination or 4 or higher on the IB Biology examination may substitute either assessment for the Biology EOC assessment graduation requirement. A student who scores 3 or higher on the AP English Language and Composition examination or 4 or higher on the IB English A: Language and Literature examination may substitute either assessment for the English I or English II EOC assessment graduation requirement. A student who scores 3 or higher on the AP United States History examination or 4 or higher on the IB History of the Americas examination may substitute either assessment for the United States History EOC assessment graduation requirement.

Texas First Early High School Completion Program

In 2021, the 87th Texas Legislature created the Texas First Early High School Completion Program to allow public high school students who demonstrate early readiness for college to graduate early from high school (TEC §28.0253, 2022). To demonstrate this readiness, a student must meet several criteria, including demonstrating mastery in the subject areas of English/language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and a language other than English (19 TAC §4.402, 2026, amended to be effective

February 11, 2026). A student can meet the criteria by scoring 3 or higher on AP examinations in the subject areas of English, mathematics, science, social studies, and a language other than English, and/or scoring 4 or higher on IB examinations in the subject areas of language and literature, mathematics, science, individuals and societies, and language acquisition.

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 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 2019-20 school year, AP and IB examinees were able to select a third, nonbinary gender option. In the 2024-25 school year, there were four AP/IB examinees in Grades 11 or 12 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 were matched to PEIMS records, plus examinees who could not be matched to PEIMS records but for whom the specified demographic data were available from the testing companies. Examinees reported by the testing companies may not have matched to PEIMS records 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 were matched to PEIMS records. 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 over 40 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. One examination, AP African American Studies, which was first offered in 2023-24, does not have an official corresponding AP course in Texas. Therefore, all AP African American Studies examinees are reported as having taken the examination without taking the corresponding AP course.

Between 2022 and 2025, the College Board used evidence-based standard setting processes to evaluate student performance for most AP examinations (College Board, 2024, 2025). During this process, 14 examinations were identified as having percentages of scores of 3 or higher below the 60 to 80 percent range expected for each examination. Therefore, the College Board updated performance standards for these 14 examinations, resulting in increased percentages of scores of 3 or higher. Year-over-year change in percentages of scores of 3 or higher after performance standards were updated ranged from 8.6 percentage points (Biology in 2022 and Human Geography in 2025) to 34.0 percentage points (English Literature and Composition in 2022). Performance standards were updated for AP examinations in the science, reading language arts (RLA), and social studies subject areas (Table 1 on page 13). Because of the changes to the performance standards, caution should be used when comparing AP performance results for 2021-22 through 2024-25 to one another or to earlier years.

Results for Texas public schools are reported by grade level. Between the 2021-22 and 2024-25 school years, the percentages of Texas public school AP examinees in Grade 8 taking at least one AP examination with performance standards updated that year ranged from 0.0 percent in the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years to 0.4 percent in the 2024-25 school year (Table 2 on page 13). The percentages of AP examinees in Grades 9 and 10 taking at least one examination with performance standards updated that year ranged from 1.4 percent in 2022-23 to 47.1 percent in 2021-22. The percentages of AP examinees in Grades 11 and 12 taking at least one examination with performance standards updated that year ranged from 20.3 percent in 2022-23 to 51.5 percent in 2024-25.

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, 2026, 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 is affected by group size. 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

Table 1
Advanced Placement (AP) Examinations with Updated Performance Standards, Worldwide, by Year, 2022 Through 2025

Examination	Subject area	Year updated	Change in percentage of examinees scoring 3 or higher (percentage-point) ^a
Biology	Science	2022	8.6
English Literature and Composition	Reading language arts	2022	34.0
World History: Modern	Social studies	2022	9.9
Chemistry	Science	2023	21.1
Macroeconomics	Social studies	2023	12.9
Microeconomics	Social studies	2023	9.0
European History	Social studies	2024	12.2
United States Government and Politics	Social studies	2024	23.8
United States History	Social studies	2024	24.7
English Language and Composition	Reading language arts	2025	19.7
Environmental Science	Science	2025	15.1
Human Geography	Social studies	2025	8.6
Physics 1: Algebra-Based	Science	2025	20.0
Psychology	Social studies	2025	8.8

Source: College Board (n.d.-q, 2024, 2025).

Note: Data are based on public and nonpublic school examinees in the United States, United States territories, and other countries. From 2020-21 to 2024-25, the percentages of total examinations taken in the United States out of the total taken worldwide were: 96.2 percent, 96.5 percent, 95.6 percent, 95.4 percent, and 95.1 percent, respectively.

^aThe percentage-point change is calculated as the change in percentage of examinees scoring 3 or higher between the year the performance standard was updated and the previous year. For example, the percentage of examinees scoring 3 or higher on the Biology examination increased by 8.6 percentage points from 2020-21 to 2021-22.

Table 2
Advanced Placement (AP) Examinees (%) Taking Examinations with Performance Standards Updated That Year, by School Year and Grade Level, Texas Public Schools, 2021-22 Through 2024-25

Year	Grade 8	Grades 9-10	Grades 11-12
2021-22 Examinees (%)	0.0	47.1	31.7
2022-23 Examinees (%)	0.0	1.4	20.3
2023-24 Examinees (%)	<0.1	3.8	44.2
2024-25 Examinees (%)	0.4	46.4	51.5

Source: Primary data from College Board and Texas Education Agency (TEA).

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 is affected by group size. When groups differ substantially in size, comparisons of performance results between them can be misleading and, thus, should be avoided. For example, the American Indian and Pacific Islander examinee

populations are small in number, compared with 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.

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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, 2024-25* (Texas Education Agency [TEA], 2026a) and *Advanced Placement Examination Results in Texas and the United States, 2024-25* (TEA, 2026c).

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.

For additional information about AP examinations, contact the College Board at (866) 630-9305 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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