



THE 10TH ANNUAL

# AP<sup>®</sup> Report to the Nation

STATE SUPPLEMENT  
FEBRUARY 11, 2014


Colorado



## Table of Contents

---

- 3** State Strategies
- 6** Fostering AP® Participation and Success
- 8** A Closer Look at Equity Gaps in AP Participation and Success



## About This Report

---

This report provides educators and policymakers with information they can use to celebrate their successes, understand their unique challenges, and set meaningful goals to increase opportunity for all students. It's important to note that while AP® Exams are valid measures of students' content mastery of college-level studies in specific academic disciplines, AP results should never be used as the sole measure for gauging educational excellence and equity.

Because reliable demographic data for nonpublic schools are not available for all states, this report represents public school students only. Additionally, this report looks at students' entire experience with AP—tracking exams taken by graduates throughout their high school careers—as opposed to reporting exam results from a particular calendar year.

Additional data are available at [apreport.collegeboard.org](http://apreport.collegeboard.org).

Note: Throughout this report, public high school graduates represent projections supplied in *Knocking at the College Door* (Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, 2012).

The redesigned courses, Biology, Latin, and Spanish Literature and Culture, began in fall 2012, and the first AP Exam based on those redesigned courses was administered in May 2013. As a result, the data in this report reflect a blend of the old and redesigned exam results.

Colorado has made progress in recent years in improving student access and supporting student performance in AP®. Just as we do in the national report, we wanted to take an opportunity to applaud your efforts and offer additional strategies for your consideration.

## Current Picture

---

Congratulations. You are already using these strategies to build a robust AP Program. You:

- ✓ Celebrate the 4 districts that have earned a spot on the AP Honor Roll through their hard work and dedication to increasing participation and success in AP, particularly for underrepresented students. *See page 5 for more details.*
- ✓ Encourage your educators to participate in the development of the AP Program, such as by becoming AP Exam Readers or participating in course and exam development committees. *See page 5 for more details.*
- ✓ Are, with the Colorado Legacy Foundation, dramatically increasing enrollment in Advanced Placement® math, science, and English courses throughout the state in 14 partner high schools represented in 9 Colorado School Districts.

## Opportunities

---

The following strategies have been proven effective. To build an even stronger AP program, you could:

- Include AP in the state accountability system.
  - Establish AP participation and performance indicators.
  - Set clear, measurable statewide goals toward improvement.
- Ensure that public colleges and universities develop AP Exam credit and placement policies based on institutional goals, alignment with corresponding courses, and objective outcomes research.
- Create opportunities for other schools and districts to learn from your AP Honor Roll winners.
- Provide funding for teachers in underserved areas of the state to participate in professional development.
- Provide targeted assistance and resources to schools serving traditionally underserved populations. For example, funding for materials, supplies, outreach efforts, and tutoring programs.
- Communicate how AP fits into state graduation requirements, and share information about funding opportunities that enable students to participate and succeed in AP.
- Develop policies that allow AP course work and exam scores for sophomores and juniors to substitute for statewide graduation requirements and/or end-of-course assessments.
- Provide resources to schools and districts to support research-based programs that build content knowledge and skills—particularly in literacy and math—to prepare students for success in AP course work, and in college and careers.
- Participate in the Expedited AP data program, which provides states with their AP student data on an earlier time frame, free of charge, by using a standardized data agreement and file format.
- Provide resources and/or develop partnerships that expand AP opportunities for students in underserved districts where schools provide limited AP course opportunities for students.
- Provide resources and/or develop partnerships that expand AP STEM opportunities for female and minority students.

## Highlights

The following information dives a little deeper into the details of your efforts.

### Participation in the Development of AP

2013 Reading participants— Total: **286**  
Colorado represents **2.5% of all Readers**

- AP High School Teachers: **194**
- College and University Faculty: **92**

2013 AP Professional Development Leaders— Total: **24**

2013 AP Development Committee Members— Total: **8**

Human Geography	Cherry Creek High School
U.S. Government and Politics	Cherry Creek High School
Music Theory	Fossil Ridge High School
Computer Science	Metropolitan State College of Denver
Art History	University of Colorado, Boulder
Biology	University of Colorado
Art History	University of Denver
English Literature and Composition	U.S. Air Force Academy

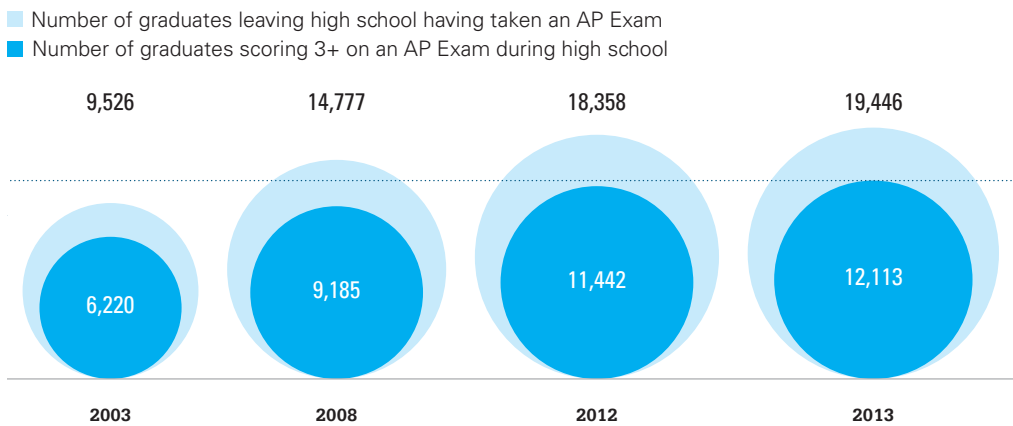
### The AP Honor Roll

The AP Honor Roll recognizes and honors those outstanding school districts that simultaneously increase access to Advanced Placement course work while increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP Exams. Achieving both of these goals is the ideal scenario for a district's AP program because it indicates that the district is successfully identifying motivated, academically prepared students who are likely to benefit most from rigorous AP course work.

4th Annual Honor Roll Districts in Colorado: **4**

Denver Public Schools  
Gunnison Watershed School District RE1J  
Lewis-Palmer School District #38\*  
Telluride School District R-1

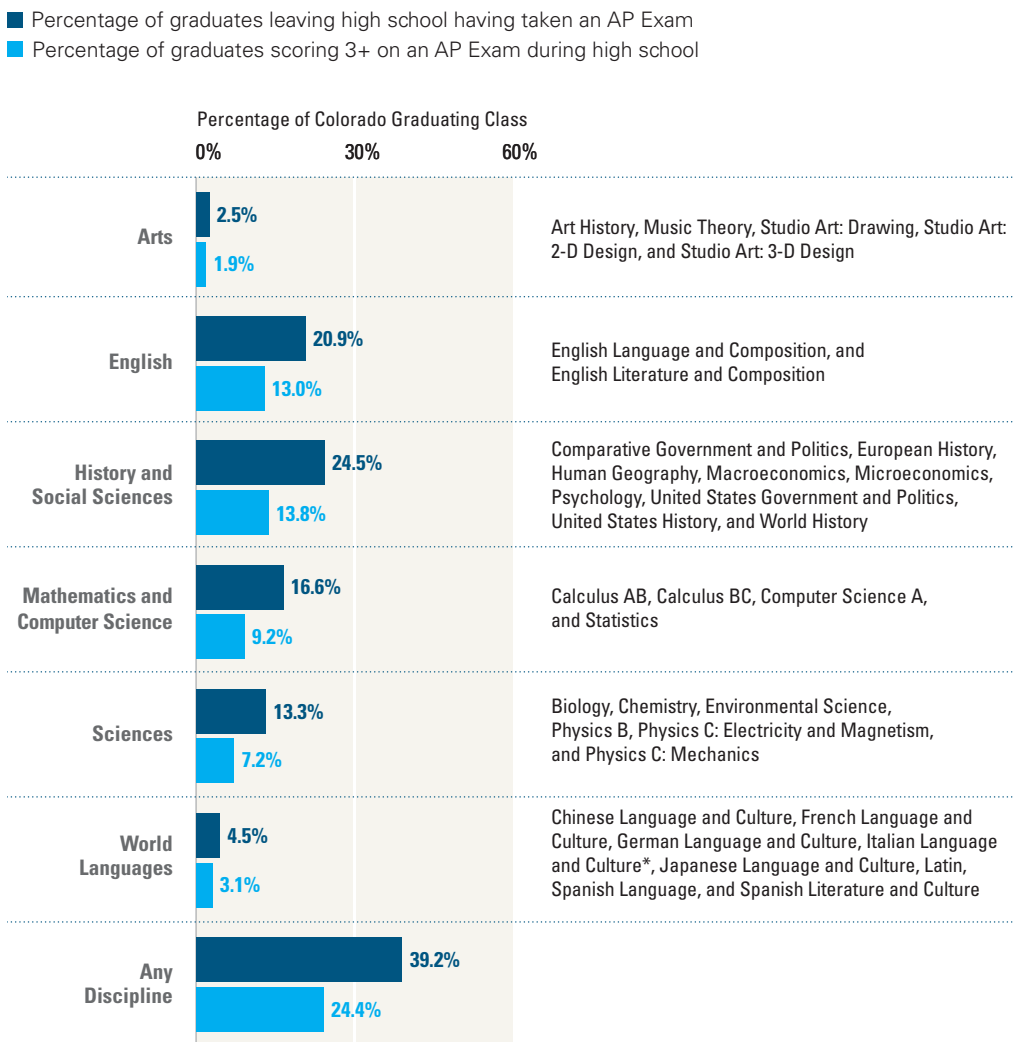
**FIGURE 1** Growth in AP® Participation and Success



## More graduates

are succeeding on AP Exams today than took them in 2003

**FIGURE 2** Participation in and Success on AP Exams in the Class of 2013



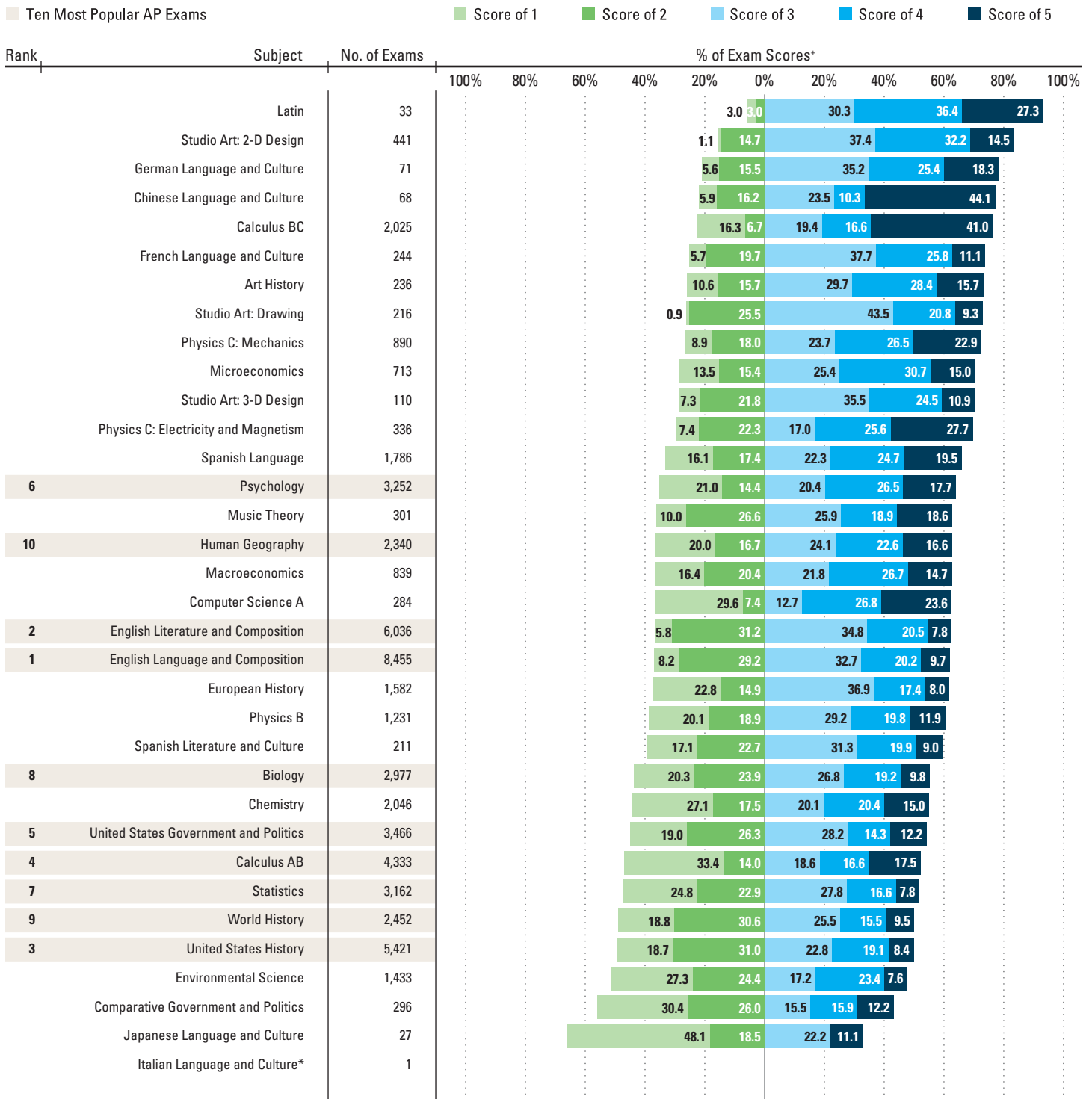
## History and Social Sciences

had the greatest number of students achieving a score of 3 or higher

Total Number of Graduates: 49,641

\* AP Italian Language and Culture was discontinued after the 2008-09 school year, and was reinstated in 2011-12.

**FIGURE 3** Score Distributions of AP Exams Taken by the Class of 2013 During High School



+ Due to rounding, percentages do not always add up to 100.0.

\* AP Italian Language and Culture was discontinued after the 2008-09 school year, and was reinstated in 2011-12.

Subjects with fewer than five AP Exam takers were omitted from this figure.

# Low Income

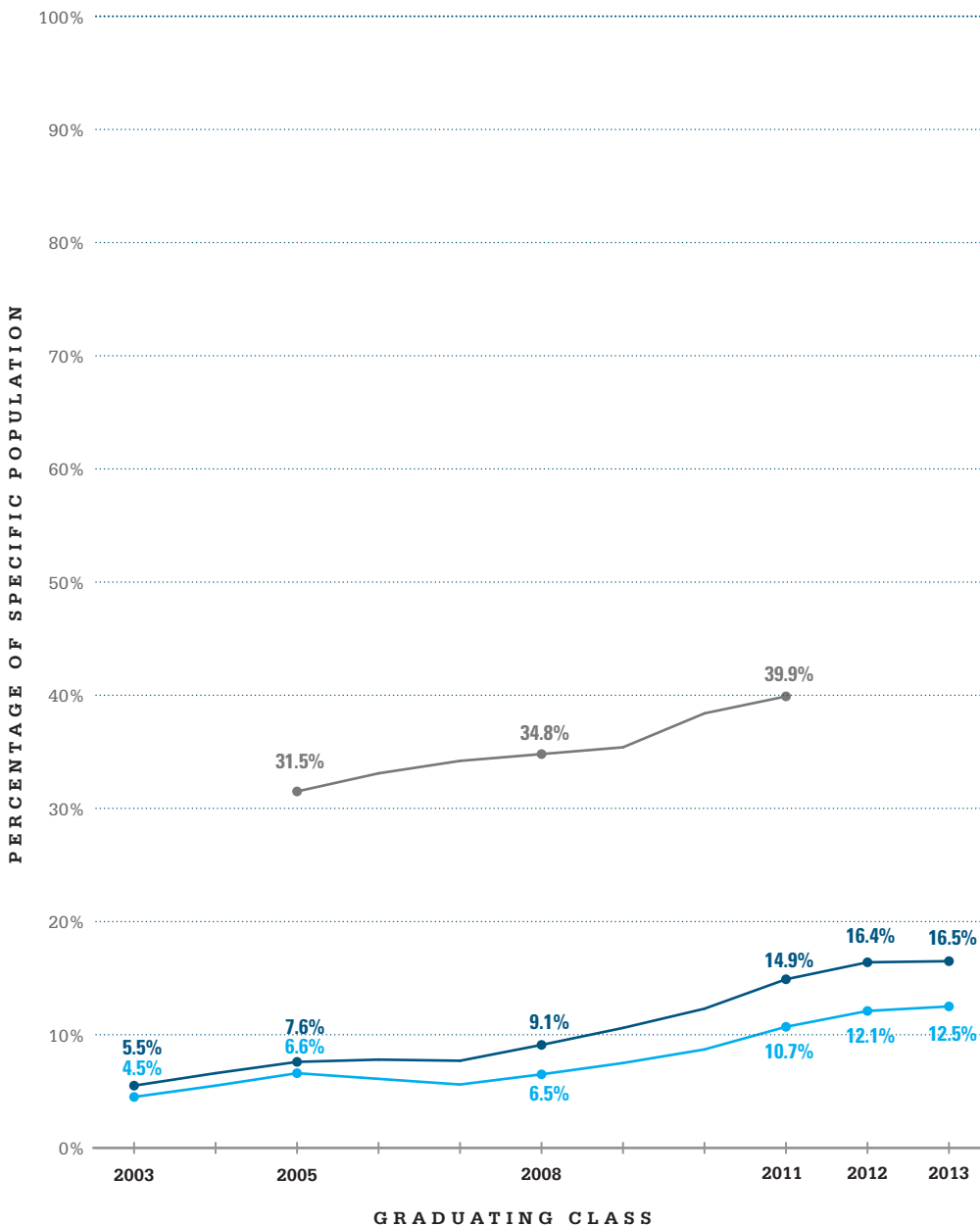
**FIGURE 4** Trends in AP Exam Participation and Success

The percentage or number of ...

- K-12 students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch\*
- graduates leaving high school having taken an AP Exam who are from low-income backgrounds
- graduates scoring 3+ on an AP Exam during high school who are from low-income backgrounds

**8,238**

AP Exams were taken by low-income graduates in the class of 2013



	2003	2008	2012	2013
●	**	**	**	**
●	524	1,348	3,002	3,210
●	278	597	1,387	1,515

\*Estimates reflect the percentage of K-12 public school students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics: 2008* (Table 42), *2009* (Table 42), *2010* (Table 44), *2011* (Table 45), and *2012* (Table 46).

\*\*The numbers of students in the graduating classes who are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch are not available.



# Black/African American

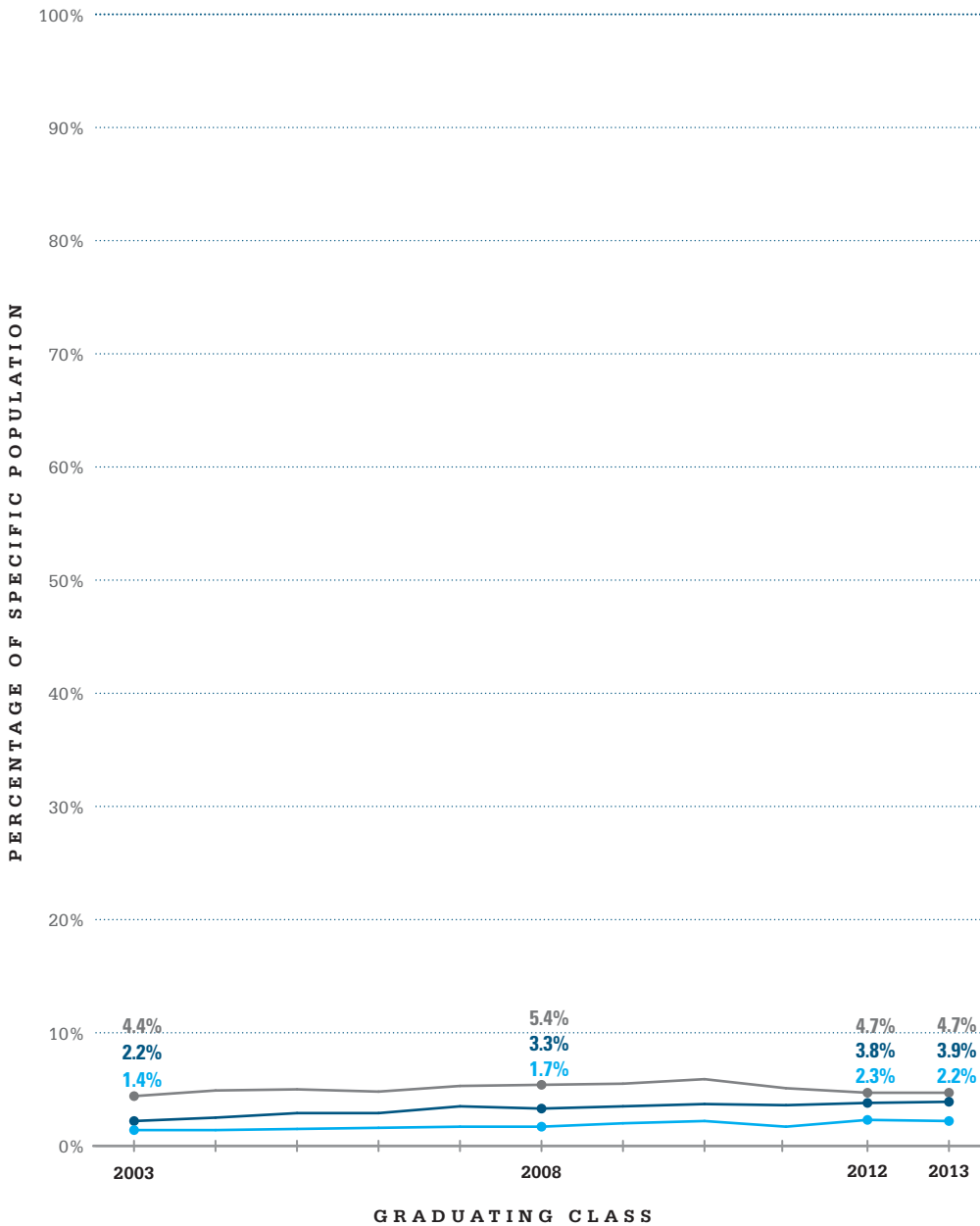
**FIGURE 5** Trends in AP Exam Participation and Success

The percentage or number of ...

- students in the graduating class
  - graduates leaving high school having taken an AP Exam
  - graduates scoring 3+ on an AP Exam during high school
- ... who are black/African American

**757**

black/African American graduates in the class of 2013 took an AP Exam during high school



	2003	2008	2012	2013
●	1,849	2,498	2,372	2,348
●	212	486	706	757
●	84	153	261	270

# Hispanic/Latino

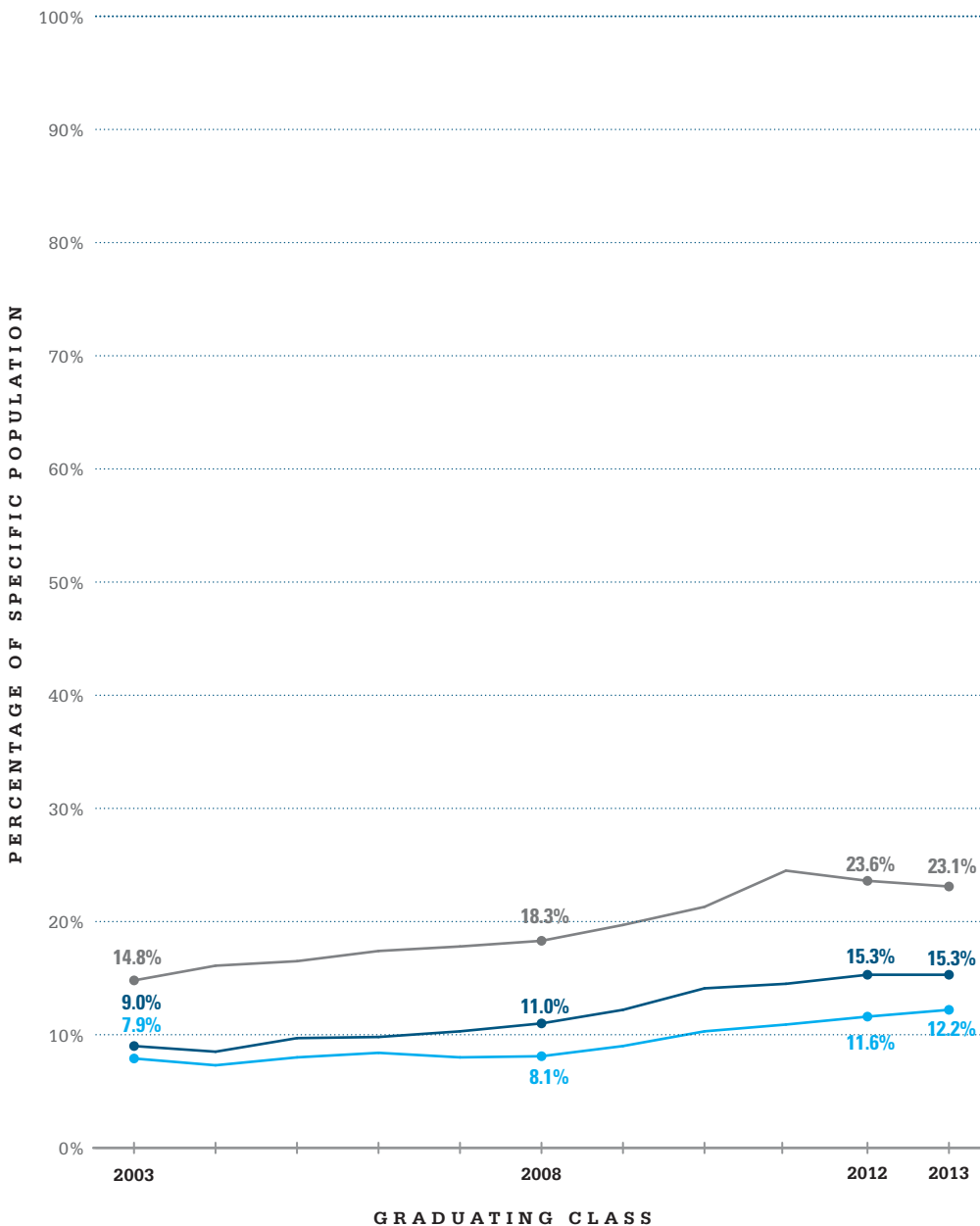
**FIGURE 6** Trends in AP Exam Participation and Success

The percentage or number of ...

- students in the graduating class
  - graduates leaving high school having taken an AP Exam
  - graduates scoring 3+ on an AP Exam during high school
- ... who are Hispanic/Latino

**2,968**

Hispanic/Latino graduates in the class of 2013 took an AP Exam during high school



	2003	2008	2012	2013
●	6,270	8,454	11,862	11,487
●	854	1,622	2,804	2,968
●	492	748	1,331	1,474

# American Indian/ Alaska Native

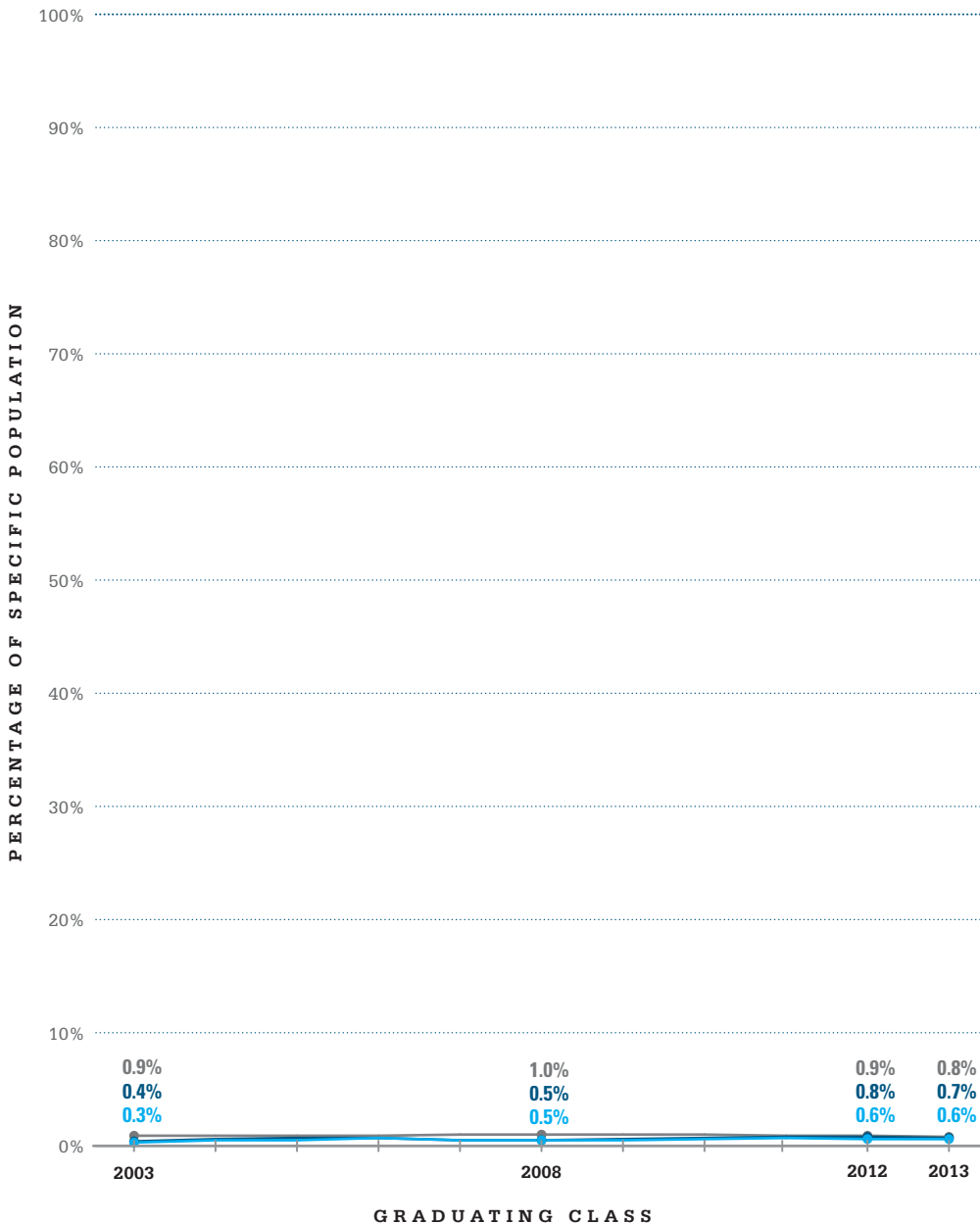
**FIGURE 7** Trends in AP Exam Participation and Success

The percentage or number of ...

- students in the graduating class
  - graduates leaving high school having taken an AP Exam
  - graduates scoring 3+ on an AP Exam during high school
- ... who are American Indian/Alaska Native

**137**

American Indian/Alaska Native graduates in the class of 2013 took an AP Exam during high school



	2003	2008	2012	2013
●	368	438	465	418
●	41	80	143	137
●	21	44	70	69

# Asian/Asian American/ Pacific Islander

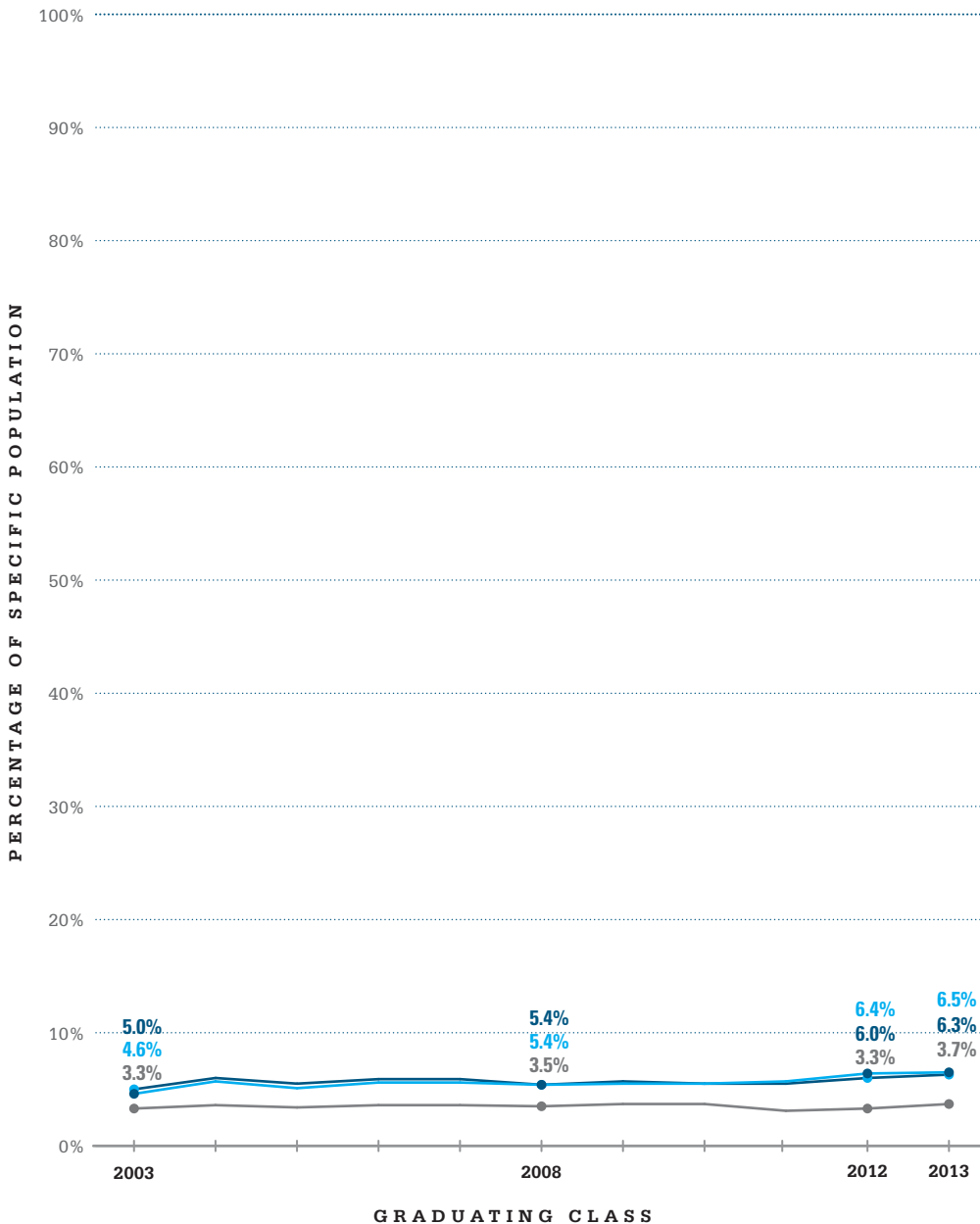
**FIGURE 8** Trends in AP Exam Participation and Success

The percentage or number of ...

- students in the graduating class
  - graduates leaving high school having taken an AP Exam
  - graduates scoring 3+ on an AP Exam during high school
- ... who are Asian/Asian American/Pacific Islander

**1,232**

Asian/Asian American/Pacific Islander graduates in the class of 2013 took an AP Exam during high school



	2003	2008	2012	2013
●	1,397	1,617	1,673	1,857
●	480	792	1,105	1,232
●	288	493	737	792

# White

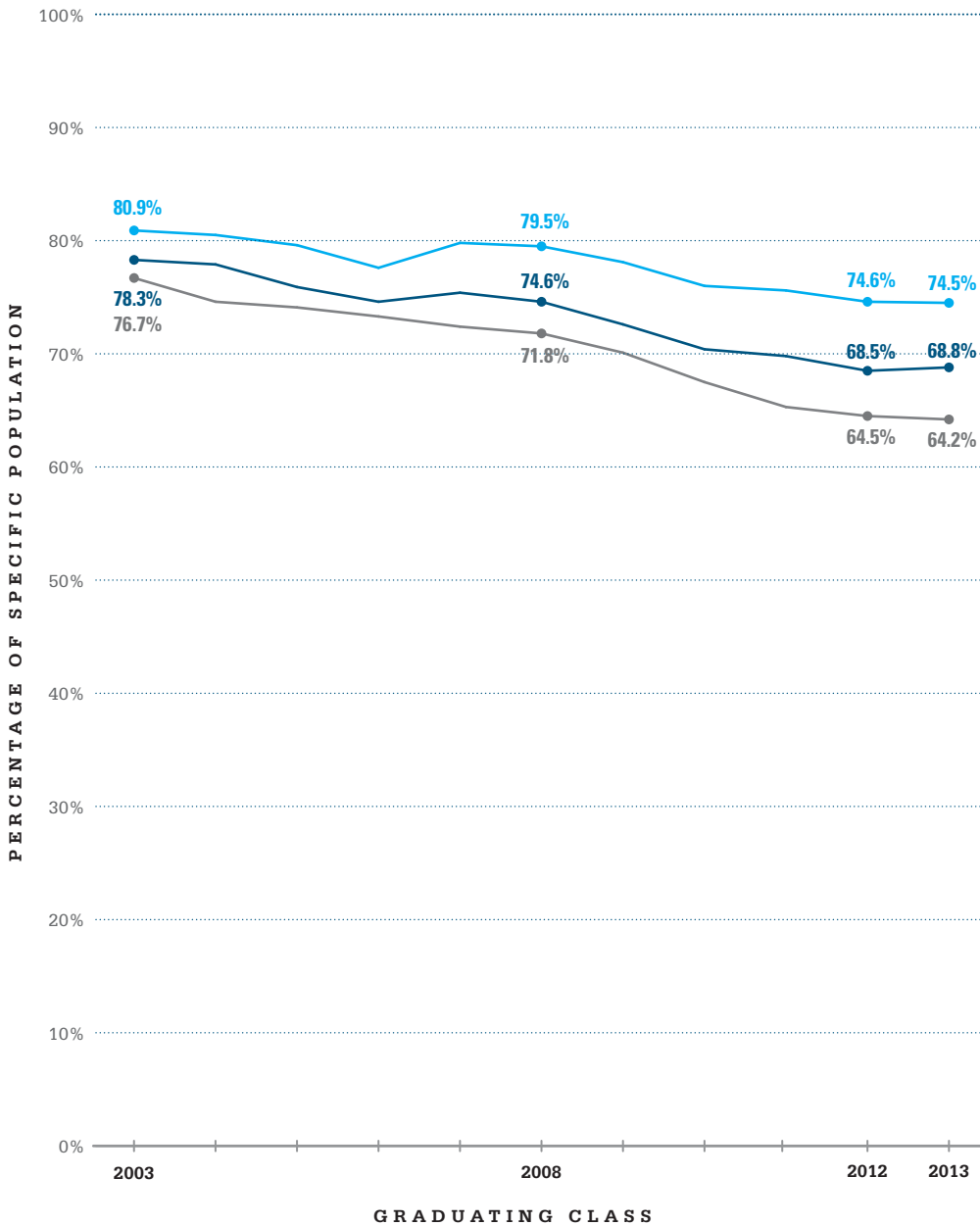
**FIGURE 9** Trends in AP Exam Participation and Success

The percentage or number of ...

- students in the graduating class
  - graduates leaving high school having taken an AP Exam
  - graduates scoring 3+ on an AP Exam during high school
- ... who are white

**13,381**

white graduates in the class of 2013 took an AP Exam during high school



	2003	2008	2012	2013
●	32,495	33,075	32,344	31,865
●	7,463	11,018	12,575	13,381
●	5,029	7,305	8,540	9,027



## ABOUT THE COLLEGE BOARD

The College Board is a mission-driven not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the College Board was created to expand access to higher education. Today, the membership association is made up of over 6,000 of the world's leading educational institutions and is dedicated to promoting excellence and equity in education. Each year, the College Board helps more than seven million students prepare for a successful transition to college through programs and services in college readiness and college success — including the SAT<sup>®</sup>, and the Advanced Placement Program<sup>®</sup>. The organization also serves the education community through research and advocacy on behalf of students, educators, and schools.

For further information, visit [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org).

© 2014 The College Board. College Board, Advanced Placement, Advanced Placement Program, AP, SAT and the acorn logo are registered trademarks of the College Board. All other products and services may be trademarks of their respective owners. Visit the College Board on the Web: [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org).  
[apreport.collegeboard.org](http://apreport.collegeboard.org)