



NATIONAL EDUCATION GOALS PANEL

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50 STATES MAKE THE GRADE INADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMS

U.S. Increases Number of AP examinations receiving top grades

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) – The number of Advanced Placement examinations in the United States receiving a grade of three or higher increased significantly between 1991 and 1999, according to the National Education Goals Panel (NEGP). During that period, the number of U.S. 11th and 12th graders in public and private schools who scored a 3 or higher on AP exams increased from 55 to 97 per 1,000.

The number of Advanced Placement examinations that received a grade of 3 or higher is one of the key indicators in the third National Education Goal, student achievement and citizenship. In addition to the across-the-board improvement at the national level, 50 states and territories showed improvement in this indicator as well during the same time period.

“I am thrilled with such a significant increase on a major measure of student achievement,” said Emily Wurtz, acting executive director of the Goals Panel. “This shows the value of setting the bar high for our children, they will rise to the challenge.”

Of the 50 states and territories that showed increases, the five with the most dramatic improvements were in the **District of Columbia** (from 177 to 244 per 1,000), **Connecticut** (from 83 to 148 per 1,000), **Massachusetts** (from 82 to 142 per 1,000), **New Jersey** (from 81 to 139 per 1,000), and **New York** (from 97 to 155 per 1,000). Other high performing states in 1999 included **Virginia** (152 per 1,000) and **Utah** (144 per 1,000).

About the National Education Goals Panel

Created in July 1990, the National Education Goals Panel is a bipartisan body consisting of an equal number of Republicans and Democrats from the federal and state levels of government. The Panel is made up of eight governors, four members of Congress, four state legislators and two members appointed by the President. The eight National Education Goals call for greater levels of: student achievement; high school completion; teacher education and professional development; parental participation in the schools; adult literacy and lifelong learning; and safe, disciplined, and alcohol-and-drug-free schools. The Goals also call for all children to be ready to learn by the time they start school and for US students to be first in the world in mathematics and science achievement by the year 2000.

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