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## Service

The College Board's roots lie in working to prepare students for college and the workforce. We are a not-for-profit membership organization of more than 5,400 schools and colleges. Our programs and services are created by seasoned and committed educators. We serve seven million students and their families in 23,000 high schools and 3,500 colleges annually. The College Board's programs and services provide all students with the necessary motivation and the critical thinking, reading, math reasoning, and writing skills to succeed in life.

## Systems

The College Board Success System is a flexible set of services that helps states:

- Prepare students to meet and exceed federal, state, and local standards
- Motivate students to prepare for, apply to, and succeed in college
- Provide quality assessments built upon rigorous standards
- Support access to a rigorous curriculum
- Align K-12 and college readiness skills and standards
- Conduct quality professional development for teachers, school counselors, K-12 and higher education administrators, and state personnel

## Support

The College Board partners with states to increase the number of students prepared to succeed in college and in the workforce. These partnerships support state efforts to:

- Vertically align their K-12 curriculum, instruction, and assessment programs to clear definitions of college readiness
- Analyze how well their K-12 curriculum, instruction, and assessment programs help students develop the college readiness skills measured by College Board assessments
- Develop optimal assessment programs that measure students' progress toward college readiness throughout middle school and high school, support accountability reporting, and provide nationally recognized measures for college entrance and placement
- Analyze data and provide recommendations to enhance the quality of education in the state

States face one of the most important and difficult jobs in America—preparing students for college and the workforce.

The College Board, with its flexible systems and more than 100 years of experience partnering with states, schools, and colleges, is committed to providing the **service**, **systems**, and **support** necessary for all Arkansas students to excel.

### The College Board Success System

- ✓ Strengthen rigor of high school curriculum
  - Advanced Placement Program® Courses and Exams
  - AP® and Pre-AP® Teacher Development
  - PSAT/NMSQT® Program
- ✓ Prepare more students for college-level course work
  - Assessments: PSAT/NMSQT, SAT®, AP
  - Subject-matter mastery: SpringBoard®, AP
- ✓ Build a college-going culture beginning in middle school
  - CollegeEd®
  - SpringBoard
  - Pre-AP Professional Development



ARKANSAS

# Arkansas and The College Board: Preparing Students for College Success



The College Board's mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. We are a not-for-profit membership organization committed to excellence and equity in education.

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## Why is the College Board Success System part of the solution for Arkansas?

Arkansas is committed to closing the achievement gap and preparing all students for college and work readiness. Through legislation and policy, Arkansas funds rigorous curricula and support to improve the outcome for every student. The College Board has created a system of teaching, learning, and assessment for middle schools and high schools that can help expand access to rigorous course work in high school, while at the same time building students' college-going aspirations by giving

them the academic experiences they need to succeed in college or the workforce. The College Board's programs and services can help leverage Arkansas's educational resources to address the issues of rural schools and diverse student populations. The College Board Success System creates conditions where high standards for all become the norm in every school and ensures that teachers are armed with the right tools to deliver high-quality instruction and assessments to every student.

### 2007 PSAT/NMSQT Participation Data

- 11,119 PSAT/NMSQT exams taken statewide
- 6,566 PSAT/NMSQT exams taken by juniors statewide
- 4,553 PSAT/NMSQT exams taken by sophomores statewide

### 2008 AP Participation and Performance Data

- 17,729 Arkansas students took an exam, representing a 5.5% increase over 2007.
- 29,339 exams were taken by Arkansas students, representing an 8% increase over 2007.
- 8,588 exams earned scores of 3+, representing a 6.2% increase over 2007.

## Five-Year College Graduation Rates—National Survey:

Comparing AP Students to Non-AP Students with Comparable Academic Profiles

STUDENT POPULATION	AP EXAM GRADE OF 3, 4, 5
AFRICAN AMERICAN	28% higher
HISPANIC	28% higher
WHITE	33% higher
LOW INCOME	26% higher
NOT LOW INCOME	34% higher

Source: Chrys Dougherty, Lynn Mellor, and Shuling Jian, *The Relationship Between Advanced Placement and College Graduation* (National Center for Educational Accountability, 2006)

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## Utilizing PSAT/NMSQT data to identify students with the potential to succeed in AP courses.

AP Potential™ is a powerful tool for guiding more students toward the AP classes in which they have the best chance for success. Opening the pipeline to AP is a critical part of preparing students for college success. In 2008, 685 students in Arkansas received a grade of 3+ on the AP Calculus AB Exam. Using the results of 11,119 Arkansas students who took the 2007 PSAT/NMSQT, AP Potential has identified 2,856 students likely to receive a grade of 3+ on the AP Calculus AB Exam. Arkansas has a great opportunity to enable these students to enroll and succeed in AP.

Arkansas has enabled more students, from all backgrounds, to achieve at higher levels by:

- ✓ **Requiring AP® courses in every high school**  
The state of Arkansas passed legislation in 2004 to require the four core AP courses to be offered in every high school in the state. The legislation has resulted in an increase of 166% in the number of AP students and a 76% increase in the number of exams scoring 3+.
- ✓ **Providing funds for AP Exams**  
Arkansas pays for all AP student exam fees. Between 2004 and 2008, the number of AP Exams in Arkansas has increased by 164%.
- ✓ **Providing funds for AP and Pre-AP® professional development**  
To develop highly qualified teachers, Arkansas provides funds for teachers to attend AP and Pre-AP professional development at AP Summer Institutes. Last year, 978 Arkansas teachers took advantage of this opportunity.
- ✓ **Providing funds to enable every tenth-grade student to take the PSAT/NMSQT®**  
In 2008, to support a college-going culture, Arkansas will provide funds for tenth-grade students to take the PSAT/NMSQT. All students who take the PSAT/NMSQT will receive individualized feedback and access to MyRoad™, a Web-based college and career planning tool.

## The College Board Standards for College Success™

- Enable states, school districts, and schools to vertically align their middle school and high school courses to a rigorous program of instruction and assessment that leads to college readiness and success in the Advanced Placement Program®.
- Enable teachers to differentiate instruction to support and challenge each student to achieve high standards.
- Enable colleges and universities to align their placement exams to clear definitions of college readiness.

## Advanced Placement Program®

- AP offers a rigorous curriculum consistent with the vision of high skills, creative thinking, and learning for every student.
- AP courses enhance student achievement by promoting high standards and expectations for all students.
- AP professional development includes workshops, Institutes, and online resources.
- AP Exams offer students the opportunity to earn college credit during high school.

## PSAT/NMSQT®

- The PSAT/NMSQT is a diagnostic assessment that provides skills feedback for students, faculty, and administrators.
- The PSAT/NMSQT prepares students for the SAT, enters them in scholarship competitions, and introduces them to the Student Search Service® used by colleges to communicate with potential applicants.
- The PSAT/NMSQT promotes early college awareness, including MyRoad—a college major, college, and career exploration tool, for all students.
- The PSAT/NMSQT identifies more students who may be successful in AP courses through AP Potential.

## SAT®

The SAT is the best independent, standardized measure of a student's college readiness skills: mathematical reasoning, reading, and writing.

## CollegeEd®

- CollegeEd® is an academic, career, and college planning program for grades 7–12.
- CollegeEd instills in students a strong desire to attend college.
- CollegeEd inspires students to study hard, set goals, and think big.
- CollegeEd teaches students that with proper planning, they can be successful in middle school, high school, and college.

## SpringBoard®

- SpringBoard® prepares students in grades 6–12 with the critical thinking, reasoning, and writing skills they need to be successful in college.
- SpringBoard adds rigor and structure to a school's curriculum, enabling teachers and students to reach their full academic potential.
- SpringBoard includes diagnostics, model instructional units, and professional development in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

