



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Advanced Placement program earns FL High national recognition

FOREST LAKE, MINN. – Principal Steve Massey frequently refers to his school as a “college prep high school,” and over the past decade the Forest Lake Area High School has demonstrated that commitment by offering among the broadest and most challenging selection of Advanced Placement (AP) and College in Schools (CIS) classes in the state.

This commitment was recognized yesterday by The College Board, which named Forest Lake Area High School, along with 387 other high schools, on its AP Achievement List.

The list recognizes schools that have seen significant growth in the AP programs, not only in participation in their programs but in the number of students who have qualified for college credit through Advanced Placement courses.

“From 2008 to 2010, Forest Lake Area Schools has increased the number of students participating in AP from 238 to 343, while improving the percentage of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher, the score typically needed to earn college credit, from 46% in 2008 to 53% in 2010,” said Jennifer Topiel from The College Board.

(MORE)

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Advanced Placement

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The AP Achievement List is made up of all school districts that are simultaneously expanding opportunity and improving performance, so even low-performing districts are included if they have been able to maintain or improve scores while expanding access. The list includes 388 school districts representing 43 states, with California's 37 districts on the list representing the largest number of districts from a single state, followed by Michigan with 29 districts and Pennsylvania with 28 districts.

“Participation in college-level AP courses can level the playing field for underserved students, give them the confidence needed to succeed in college, and raise standards and performance in key subjects like science and math,” said College Board President Gaston Caperton. “The AP Achievement List districts are defying expectations by expanding access while enabling their students to maintain or improve their AP Exam scores.”

Many U.S. school districts have focused on expanding access to AP courses as part of a strategy for fostering college readiness. While these efforts have resulted in more students earning scores of 3 or better — the score typically cited as a “qualifying” or “successful” score because the majority of U.S. colleges and universities provide college credit or advanced placement for this score — these efforts have also resulted in more students now earning scores of 1 or 2. Accordingly, there has been a slight decline since 2001 in the percentage of AP students scoring a 3 or better, a decline that is to be expected in any program attracting a broader cross-section of students.

“Our high school has set out to become a leader in providing students the tools they need to succeed in studies after high school, whether that be a four-year college, technical college or the military,” said Forest Lake Area Schools Superintendent Linda Madsen. “This kind of recognition not only shows that we are succeeding in this mission, but that we have also been able to provide students with opportunities to potentially save thousands of dollars in college tuition by earning those credits right in our classrooms.

“We’re very proud of this honor and proud of the excellent work that Principal Steve Massey and the great staff at our high school have done, and continue to do, to give our students the best education possible,” Madsen said.