



NEWS RELEASE

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SCCOE partnership leading nation in closing equity gaps, finding ‘missing’ students

SAN JOSE, CA – When it comes to equity in student participation and performance in Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB), efforts by the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE), in collaboration with Equal Opportunity Schools (EOS) are helping the county be among the nation’s leaders.

A review of the AP/IB Equity & Excellence Project by EOS and the Educational Services Branch to the Santa Clara County Board of Education shows the focus of schools and districts on closing race and income AP/IB access gaps offers among the highest impact per dollar toward the goals of boosting college and career readiness and closing the achievement gap.

In partnership with the nonprofit organization (EOS), the SCCOE is working with six districts to ensure that all students have the opportunity to succeed in challenging high school courses. Together, these “missing” students — those who are clearly capable but not enrolled in AP and IB courses — are identified and barriers are removed for this traditionally under-represented group. More than 650 low-income and/or minority students were added to AP/IB just last year across EOS partnerships, with early positive student success data.

Leading the way, the most current student-performance data from Ann Sobrato, Leigh, Mountain View, and Milpitas high schools puts them at the elite “Equitable 1%” status of U.S. high schools that fully reflect their diversity at the highest academic levels in AP & IB. For SCCOE partner schools, the number of students participating in AP and IB courses increased from just over 50 percent to nearly 90 percent in a single year with those increases also reflected in each of the eight measured race and income categories.

“We are committed to equally high AP and IB participation rates for Latino, African-American, and low-income students as compared to their peers,” said Jon R. Gundry, County Superintendent of Schools. “While pockets of inequity remain, there is an opportunity to build on what we know is working well for continued progress with all county high schools. My vision for success is to create those strategies through joint learning conversations with our partnering district superintendents and EOS as we move forward.”

To gather research for this project, EOS conducted interviews, surveys, and academic record analysis for partner schools at Milpitas Unified School District, East Side Union High School District, Campbell Union High School District, San Jose Unified School District, Mountain View-Los Altos Unified School District, and Morgan Hill Unified School District. In all, more than 90 percent of staff and students were surveyed to gauge the impact of equitable AP and IB participation and success.

One additional district and several more schools have joined this partnership this year. The County Superintendent of Schools, working with EOS will continue to develop a plan to support districts in this effort and create recommendations to address the challenges that have been identified to date.

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