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# AP<sup>®</sup> Cohort Data Report

GRADUATING CLASS OF 2025



**ILLINOIS  
SUPPLEMENT**

# About the Data

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This report offers a measure of participation and performance that shows success on the Advanced Placement® (AP®) Exam in the overall context of access and opportunity.

## Data Notes:

1. Supplements A, C, D, and E represent only public school students because no central source of enrollment and demographic data is available for nonpublic schools. Supplements B and F represent both public and nonpublic school students.
2. References to the total number of high school graduates represent projections supplied in *Knocking at the College Door* (Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, 2024).
3. Students in the graduating class of 2025 experienced 1 year of interrupted learning. Take caution interpreting the data. Observed declines in participation and performance are commonly attributed to the need for schools to close or to shift to remote learning. They occur, overall, in relation to the amount of in-person learning that was disrupted.
4. Due to the update of high school graduate projections by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) in 2024, figures in this report shouldn't be compared to figures in previous reports.
5. Figures displaying student race/ethnicity in this report should be compared with caution to figures in previous reports, as it's optional for students to provide this information.

# List of Supplements

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**Supplement A** Number of Illinois Public School Graduates Taking and Scoring a 3 or Higher on an AP Exam During High School

**Supplement B** Potential Cost Savings for Illinois Students (Public and Nonpublic Schools) and Families

**Supplement C** Percentage of Illinois Public School Graduates Taking an AP Exam During High School, by Race/Ethnicity

**Supplement D** Score Distributions of AP Exams Taken by the Illinois Public School Class of 2025 During High School

**Supplement E** Expanding Access: AP Courses by Grade for Illinois Class of 2025

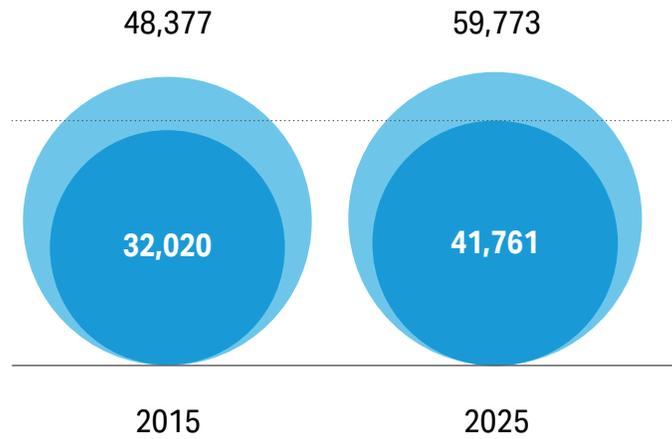
**Supplement F** Illinois Highlights (Public and Nonpublic Schools)

# Illinois

## Number of Illinois Public School Graduates Taking and Scoring a 3 or Higher on an AP Exam During High School

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- Number of Graduates Leaving High School Having Taken an AP Exam
- Number of Graduates Scoring 3+ on an AP Exam During High School



## SUPPLEMENT B

# Illinois

## Potential Cost Savings for Illinois Students (Public and Nonpublic Schools) and Families

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In Illinois, public and private high school students earned **203,733 qualifying AP scores** of 3, 4, or 5 in 2025. These scores translate into **an estimated 611,199 potential college credits**. At a cost of **\$522.67** per college credit, the **potential tuition and fee savings** to Illinois students and families is **\$319,455,381**.

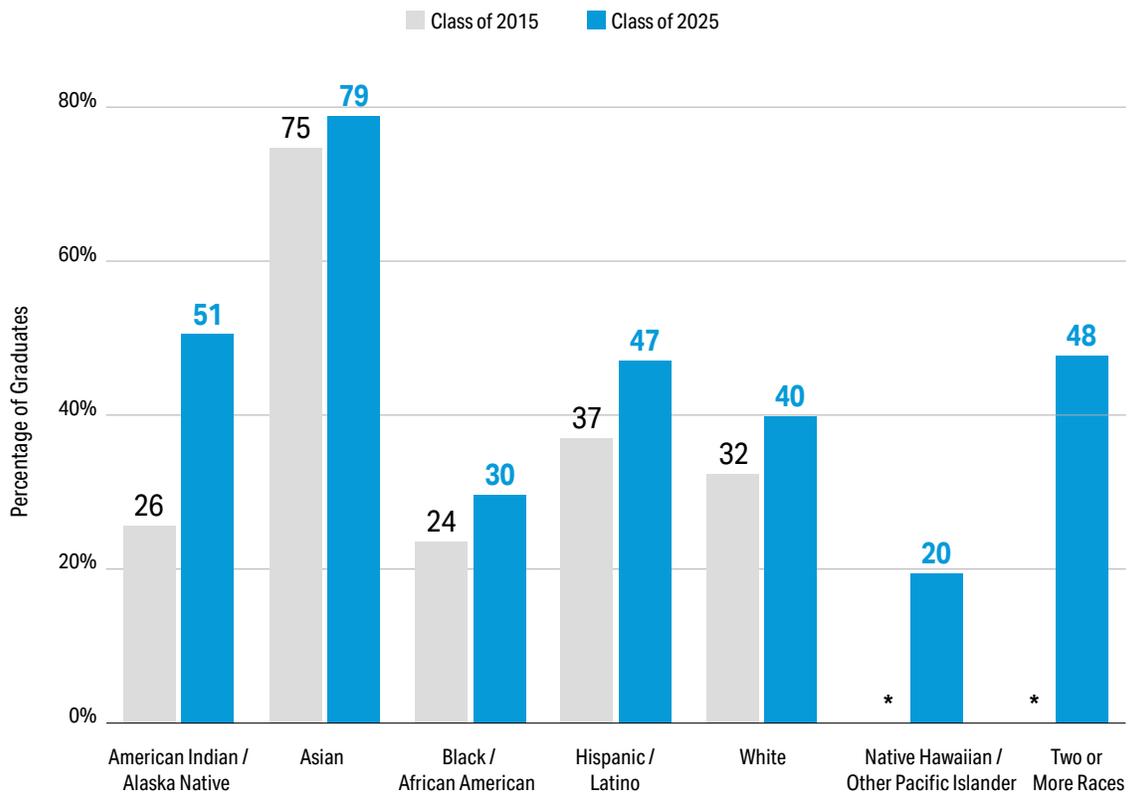
Please note: This report assumes a student earns three college credits for a qualifying score of 3, 4, or 5. Average 2025-26 in-state tuition and fees at public four-year institutions in Illinois are based on Figure CP-6 of *Trends in College Pricing and Student Aid 2025*.

SUPPLEMENT C

# Illinois

## Percentage of Illinois Public School Graduates Taking an AP Exam During High School, by Race/Ethnicity

Comparisons between 2025 and 2015 race/ethnicity participation should be interpreted with caution. Beginning in 2016 and continuing through 2025, students had the option to select “Two or More Races” and “Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander,” options that were not available in 2015. Changes between 2015 and 2025 may partly reflect these changes to the categories student could select.



The number of graduates in the classes of 2015 and 2025 are sourced from the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE).

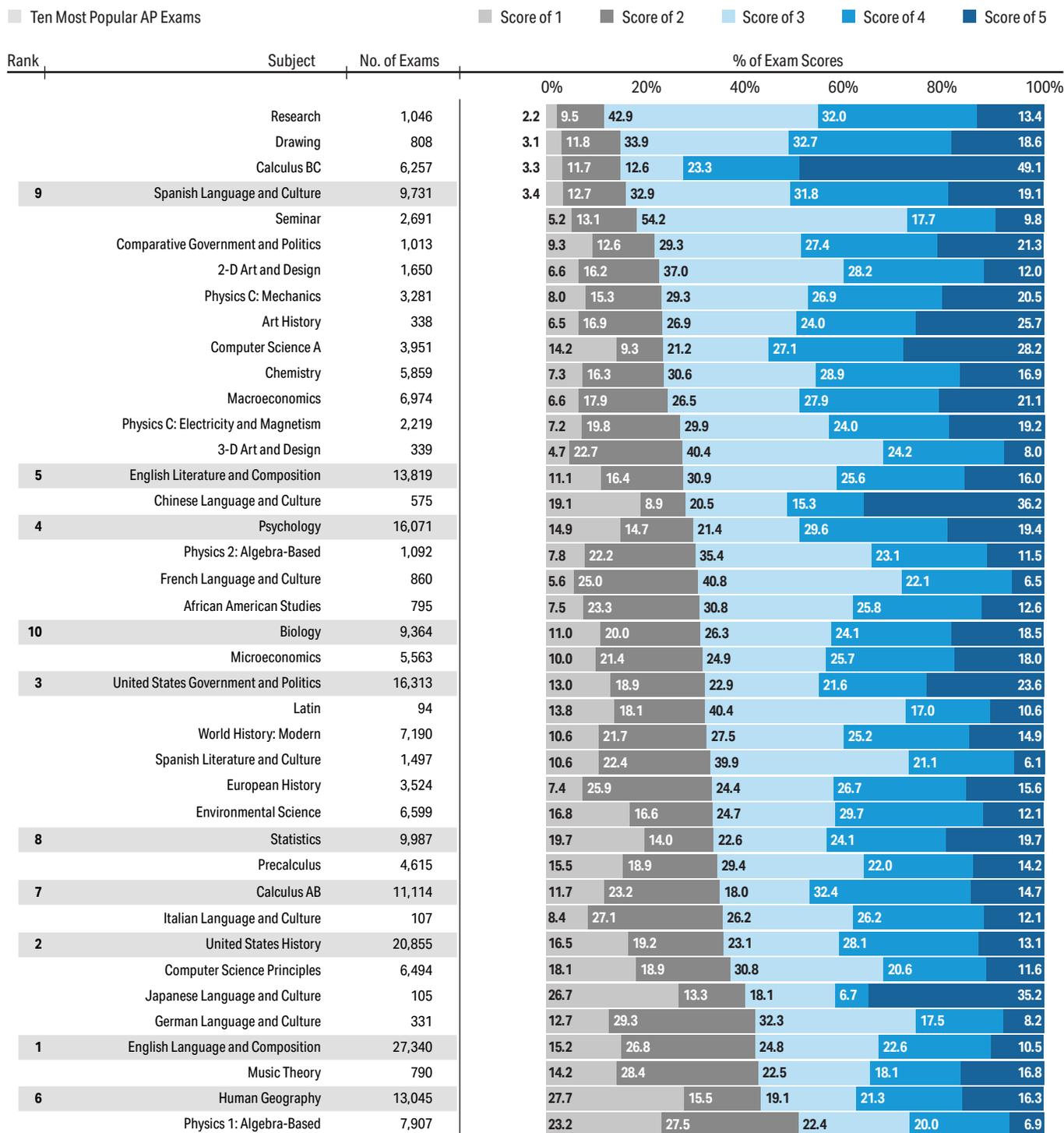
\* Data for Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander and Two or More Races aren't available prior to 2016. WICHE began making projections for these racial/ethnic categories starting in their 2020 release.

Year-to-year comparisons describing American Indian or Alaska Native student participation should be interpreted cautiously. A new tribal affiliation field was added for 2023, improving the accuracy of these data for that and subsequent years.

SUPPLEMENT D

# Illinois

## Score Distributions of AP Exams Taken by the Illinois Public School Class of 2025 During High School



Notes: Due to rounding, percentages don't always add up to 100.0.

Score distributions for subjects with fewer than five AP Exam takers were omitted from this figure.

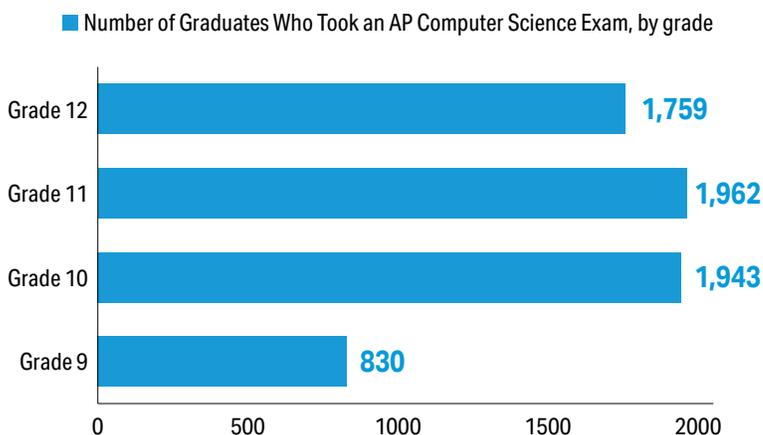
# Illinois

## Expanding Access: AP Courses by Grade for Illinois Class of 2025

The AP Program encourages educators to make access a guiding principle for their AP courses and give all willing and academically prepared students the opportunity to participate in AP. Schools are encouraged to make every effort to ensure that their AP classes reflect their student population. Recent feedback from educators reinforces that the intentional instructional design of the following courses extends the invitation to students who would otherwise be unlikely to choose AP courses.

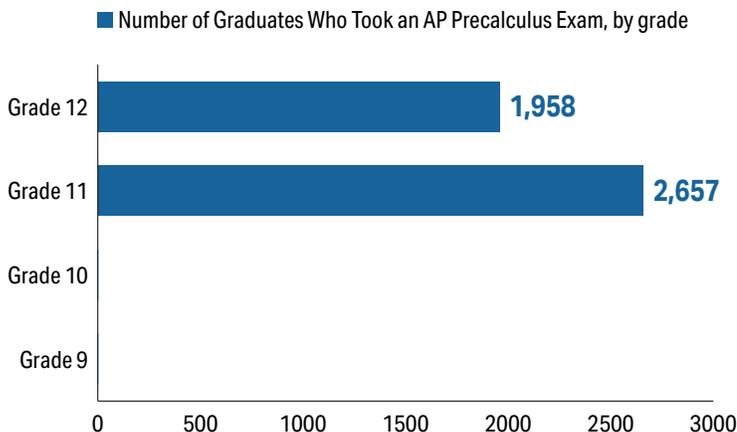
### AP Computer Science Principles

Since the course’s introduction, participation in AP computer science has tripled from 58,000 to 175,000 exams, transforming the pipeline to the study of computer science and STEM with career-relevant, project based work.



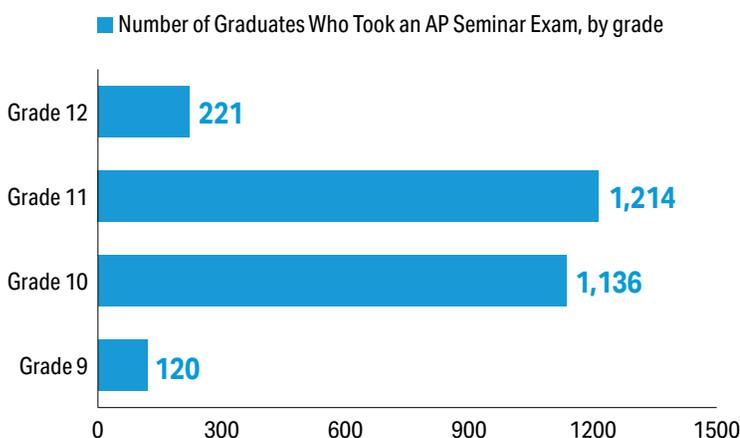
### AP Precalculus

Introduced in 2023-24, AP Precalculus is the largest course launch of any AP course in history. It’s designed for any student who has taken Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2. That means **any precalculus student can be an AP Precalculus student.**



### AP Seminar

Students from different backgrounds take AP Seminar, and exam scores are more similar across White, Black, and Hispanic students than among many other AP courses. 10th graders who take AP Seminar go on to earn higher scores on AP English, history, and government exams taken in 11th and 12th grades.

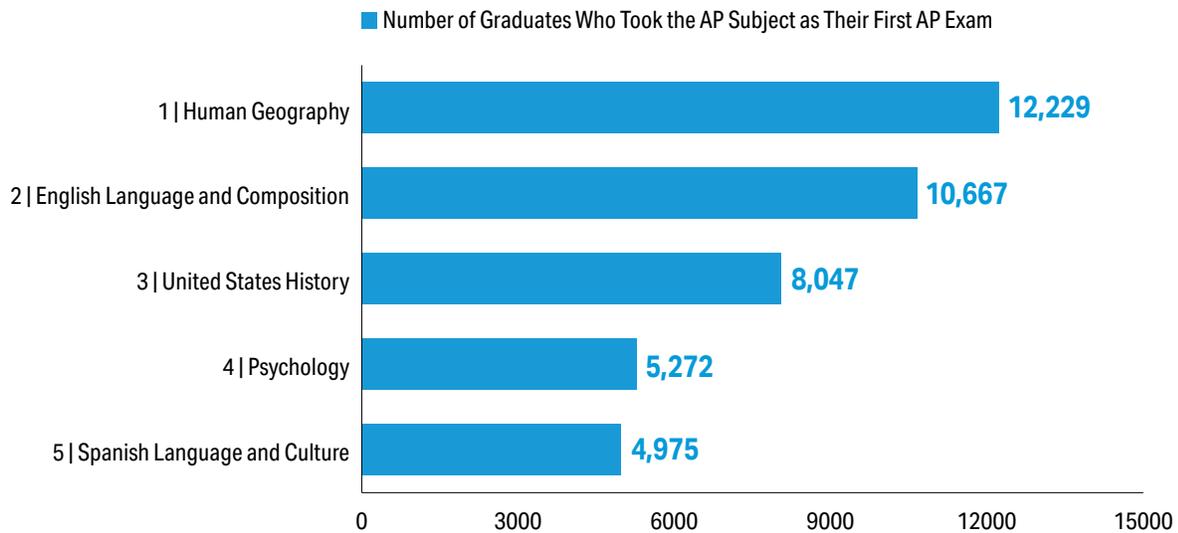


## SUPPLEMENT E CONTINUED

### Top Five First AP Courses

These courses are most likely to be the first AP Exam taken by the Illinois class of 2025 during their high school career. Investing resources for student success in these courses should be considered as they're most likely to be a student's first AP experience.

### Number of Graduates by Initial AP Exam Subject



**“The AP courses and content give my students a common experience with other students who might not have the same background as them. It lets them know that they belong and that they’re just as good and just as talented.”**

—AP TEACHER, ILLINOIS

## SUPPLEMENT F

# Illinois

## Illinois Highlights (Public and Nonpublic Schools)

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### Participation in the Development of AP

2025 AP Reading Participants: **1,042**

- AP high school teachers: **835**
- College and university faculty members: **207**

2025 AP Professional Learning Leaders: **48**

2025 AP Development Committee Members: **19**

Hoffman Estates High School	Business with Personal Finance
Lincoln Land Community College	Business with Personal Finance
Monmouth University	Chemistry
Augustana College	Comparative Government and Politics
Riverside Brookfield High School	Computer Science Principles
Glenbrook South High School	Environmental Science
The University of Chicago	French Language and Culture
Buffalo Grove High School	Human Geography
Maine Township High School District 207	Italian Language and Culture
Northwestern University	Microeconomics
York Community High School	Microeconomics
University of Illinois Chicago	Music Theory
Rock Valley College	Networking
Prospect High School	Psychology
Lane Tech College Prep High School	Seminar
Libertyville High School	Spanish Language and Culture
Northwestern University	Spanish Literature and Culture
Northwestern University	U.S. Government and Politics
The University of Chicago	U.S. History

### AP Capstone

Illinois public high schools participating in AP Capstone™ in the 2024-25 school year: **104**

Illinois public high school students in the graduating class of 2025 earned the following awards:

- AP Capstone Diploma™: **634**
- AP Seminar and Research Certificate™: **327**

## SUPPLEMENT F CONTINUED

### AP School Honor Roll

Number of Illinois schools eligible: **568**

Number of schools recognized on Honor Roll: **201**

Percent of schools recognized on Honor Roll: **35%**

- Percent of schools earning Bronze recognition: **8%**
- Percent of schools earning Silver recognition: **13%**
- Percent of schools earning Gold recognition: **7%**
- Percent of schools earning Platinum recognition: **7%**

To see the complete list of Illinois AP School Honor Roll recipients, visit:

**[apcentral.collegeboard.org/exam-administration-ordering-scores/scores/awards/school-districts-awards/ap-school-honor-roll-recipients](https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/exam-administration-ordering-scores/scores/awards/school-districts-awards/ap-school-honor-roll-recipients)**

# About College Board

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College Board reaches more than 7 million students a year, helping them navigate the path from high school to college and career. Our not-for-profit membership organization was founded more than 120 years ago. We pioneered programs like the SAT® and AP® to expand opportunities for students and help them develop the skills they need. Our BigFuture® program helps students plan for college, pay for college, and explore careers. Learn more at [cb.org](https://collegeboard.org).