

Instructional Data Warehouse News

January 22, 2025

www.nassauboces.org/idw

Advanced Placement Comparison Reports Our new interactive reports now allow select district comparisons.

by Fred Cohen

It is always informative to compare your own district to the Nassau County or NY State benchmark, but sometimes a more specific comparison is needed - "How do I compare to districts most like mine?" Factors such as demographics, size, and location are often key indicators. The Instructional Data Warehouse (IDW) has three new AP comparison reports located in the folder called "District Comparison Reports."

Each of the three reports is "interactive," which means that beneath the chart is a table which can be reconfigured as one would do with an Excel table. The three reports are noted below as they appear on the IDW menu. Note that each ends with "iReport" indicating that the report is interactive and be reconfigured. Note, as well, that the first report shows AP course participation while the other two show exam scores.



Upcoming IDW Events

IDW Trainings:

- Wednesday, 2/5/25
9am-11am
Teacher Interface
- Wednesday, 2/5/25
1pm-3pm, 3-8 Admin
- Wednesday, 2/12/25
1pm-3pm, HS Admin
- IDW Bullseye
Thursday, 3/6/25
2pm-3:30pm

Register on MLP

To book an in-district training, please call Stephanie Witt 516-608-6623

- Comparison of Advanced Placement Course Participation Across Districts **iReport**
240126 BJM JD
- Comparison of Advanced Placement Exam Scores Across Districts By Subgroup **iReport**
240726 bjm 240126 BJM JD
- Comparison of Advanced Placement Exam Scores and Participation Across Districts **iReport**
240307 bjm

The first report compares participation rates and reflects a district's encouragement to enroll in each **course** offered. Some are niche courses where only a limited number of districts participate. Other courses are almost universal with enrollment by every Nassau County district. Such courses make comparisons ideal. Knowing how your district's participation compares to similar districts is a key data point to analyze.

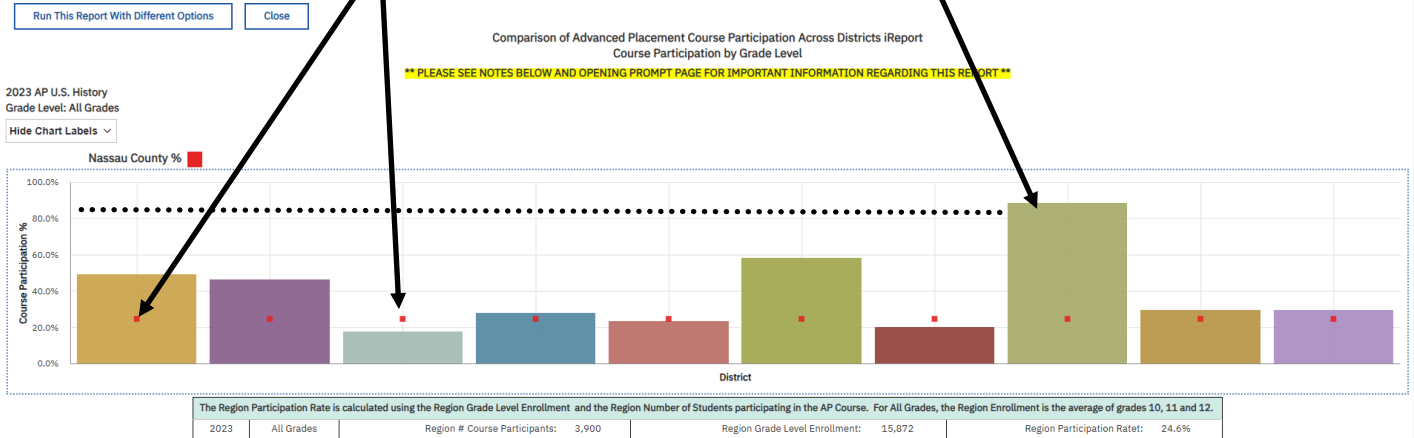
The comparison begins at the prompt page shown below. The most recent year posted will be 2023 until SED posts the 2024 scores on the School Report Card. For Grade Level, choose "All Grades" because most courses are taken by students in more than one grade. You must also choose a specific AP course and the districts you will use as appropriate comparisons.



Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Technology
Questions? Contact: Stephanie Witt, Supervisor II, Instructional Data Warehouse
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Now let's examine the output of the report. The visualization below shows results for AP U.S. History for those districts selected (names of the districts hidden). Note that each district is compared to the Nassau County benchmark (red squares) and to the other districts selected. **One district** had an extraordinarily high course participation rate of over 80% of its average grade course enrolment. County participation, as shown by hovering over the red square, is 24.6% of the average grade enrollment.



Each district can compare its AP enrollment for this course to the Nassau County average and, specifically, to those districts the user wants to use as appropriate comparisons. Remember that this report gives data for only the AP History **course enrollment** not for the number of students who actually take the AP exam. Since this is an iReport, scroll down to view the interactive table containing key additional data.

When the cursor is then placed at the top entry in any column on the table, a tool bar is exposed on the left side. The tool bar enables filtering and sorting. In this case, I sorted the "District Participation %" column in descending order. District names are not shown, but all other data are shown as is the tool bar in the upper left corner. Once again, this report shows all students **enrolled** in the United States History AP Course in the 10 districts selected. All of these students **may or may not have actually taken the AP test**. Tested students are listed on a separate report shown on the following page of this newsletter.

Tool Bar

Place cursor here to generate tool bar

AP Course	Grade Level	# Students Enrolled in Course	Average Grade Enrollment	District Participation %
AP U.S. History	All Grades	307	346	88.7%
AP U.S. History	All Grades	162	278	58.3%
AP U.S. History	All Grades	114	232	49.1%
AP U.S. History	All Grades	42	91	46.2%
AP U.S. History	All Grades	136	463	29.4%
AP U.S. History	All Grades	73	249	29.3%
AP U.S. History	All Grades	118	423	27.9%
AP U.S. History	All Grades	121	517	23.4%
AP U.S. History	All Grades	53	264	20.1%
AP U.S. History	All Grades	105	593	17.7%

The ten School District names are listed here.

The “Exam Score and Participation Across District iReport” shows “the percentage of students who earned proficient scores” on each assessment. This visualization shows the percentages for each district, and the interactive table lists the actual numbers (see table below). Note that this visualization offers benchmarks for Nassau County and for NY State too. These benchmarks are shown for each district.



The table below gives additional information including the number of students who took each AP test. As one might expect, the district with the highest percentage of test takers often is not the same as the district with the highest percentage of proficient students. Some districts or teachers actually seek a high percentage of proficient students while others favor high student enrollment.

It is most interesting to note how the course enrollment table on page 1 has a different descending order than this AP test proficiency table. For the purpose of this newsletter, however, we have chosen not to show the district names even though this is published information garnered from the School Report Card.

Benchmark data are included in the NYSED State Report Card AP database for each Year, AP Assessment and Grade Level.											
Nassau					NYS						
% Proficient	59.2%	# Assessments	4,955	# Proficient	2,934	% Proficient	57.3%	# Assessments	20,729	# Proficient	11,887

Entity	% Proficient	# Assessments	# Proficient	L1 #	L2 #	L3 #	L4 #	L5 #
School District names listed here.	85.0%	100	85	2	13	33	35	17
	83.5%	254	212	10	32	64	80	68
	72.6%	113	82	8	23	38	28	16
	66.3%	89	59	12	18	29	15	15
	59.9%	379	227	43	109	109	74	44
	55.3%	38	21	1	16	14	3	4
	55.0%	280	154	46	80	78	45	31
	50.0%	94	47	24	23	16	17	14
	42.2%	109	46	28	35	30	12	4
	29.4%	34	10	11	13	2	6	2



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The third AP interactive report allows the IDW user to **disaggregate** the percentage of students who earned proficient scores **by any subgroup**. The subgroup report lists the **hundreds** of permutations possible when determining a subgroup category. For example students can be male or female, ELL or not ELL, Economically Disadvantaged or not, and also be a member of any of the listed ethnic groups. Choose the appropriate subgroup designation, and the report will generate proficiency scores for that subgroup.

The easiest way to find the subgroup you want is to recognize that very many subgroup designations are possible. They are **listed in alphabetical** order. So first you need to scroll through the 75 or so possibilities for “American Indian,” and then the for “Asian,” and so on, until you get to “Economically Disadvantaged,” for example. There you also find the various combinations of Economically Disadvantaged such as “Economically Disadvantaged with Disabilities” and so on. The subgroups are incredibly specific with the last subgroup listed alphabetically as “White Student with Disabilities Parent in Armed Forces.”

There is one final caution. When viewing passing or proficiency results for any elective, whether an AP score or a Regents score, remember that the more students who sit for the assessment, the lower the passing rate usually is. Allowing only top scholars to take the History AP exam will produce a higher passing rate than allowing the entire grade to take the assessment.

Therefore, always take the percent of enrollment sitting for the assessment into account when comparing district results. Restricting enrollment to the highest achieving students is the easiest way to record high proficiency rates. It is not, however, the best method of encouraging all students to take the most challenging curriculum, which is typically the goal of most districts.

As always, IDW personnel are available to provide telephone assistance as well as virtual and in-district training for any district seeking to learn more about this newsletter, or about other best data practices. To schedule a training session or ask any IDW-related questions, please call Stephanie Witt at (516) 608-6623, Fred Cohen at 516) 608-6640, Tammy Mazza at (516) 608-6633, or Dr. Wanda Toledo at (516) 608-6648.

**What's
New in
the IDW?**

- **Comparison Reports for 2024 Grade 3-8 and Regents Examination are now available in the IDW.**
- **Don't forget to check out our IDW training schedule and /or request an in-district training visit for all staff members.**



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