

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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School District of New Berlin Placed on the College Board's 2nd Annual AP[®] District Honor Roll for Significant Gains in Advanced Placement[®] Access and Student Performance

New Berlin, WI — The School District of New Berlin is one of 367 public school districts in the nation being honored by the College Board with a place on the 2nd Annual AP[®] Honor Roll, for simultaneously increasing access to Advanced Placement coursework while maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP exams. Achieving both of these goals is the ideal scenario for a district's Advanced Placement program, because it indicates that the district is successfully identifying motivated, academically-prepared students who are likely to benefit most from AP coursework. Since 2009, the School District of New Berlin increased the number of students participating in AP from 378 to 474 (25% increase) while improving the percentage of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher from 75% in 2009 to 79% in 2011. The majority of U.S. colleges and universities grant college credit for advanced placement for a score of 3 or above on AP exams.

Joe Garza, district Superintendent states, "We are extremely proud of this great accomplishment and recognition. Having our students successfully complete college-level coursework is one of the four major goals we have systematically ascribed to as a school district the last two years. Our work is driven by our district's vision statement and attained through the action plans within our district goals, projects, and initiatives (GPIs). The increases seen in our student participation and the increases in achievement levels within AP coursework is a testament to the work of our district community as a whole. The commitment made by our students with the help and support of their parents, teachers, administrators, and Board of Education, can be attributed to our success. We will continue to seek increased opportunities for our students to successfully participate in and increase our performance levels as we move forward."

The 2nd Annual AP Honor Roll is made up of only those public school districts that are simultaneously expanding opportunity and improving performance. The list includes 367 school districts across 43 states and Canada. "The AP Honor Roll districts are defying expectations by expanding access while enabling their students to maintain or improve their AP Exam scores," said College Board President Gaston Caperton. Many U.S. school districts have focused on expanding access to AP courses as part of a strategy to improve college readiness. While these efforts have resulted in more students earning scores of 3 or better — these efforts also have resulted in more students 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 can be expected in any program attracting a broader cross-section of students.

The School District of New Berlin does not discriminate against individuals on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability. Federal law prohibits discrimination in education and employment on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or disability.

Helping more students learn at a higher level *and* earn higher AP scores is an objective of all members of the AP community, from AP teachers to district and school administrators to college professors. Many are experimenting with a variety of initiatives and strategies to determine how to expand access and improve student performance simultaneously. “This school district has achieved something very remarkable. It managed to open the doors of its AP classrooms to many more students, while also increasing the percentage of students earning high enough AP Exam grades to stand out in the competitive college admission process and qualify for college credit and placement,” said Trevor Packer, the College Board’s senior vice president of Advanced Placement and college readiness.

Inclusion on the 2nd Annual AP District Honor Roll is based on the following criteria:

1. Examination of three years of AP data, from 2009 to 2011;
2. Increase in participation in/access to AP by at least 4 percent in large districts, at least 6 percent in medium districts and at least 11 percent in small districts;
3. A steady or increasing percentage of exams taken by African American, Hispanic/Latino and American Indian/Alaska Native students; and
4. Performance levels maintained or improved when comparing the percentage of students in 2011 scoring a 3 or higher to those in 2009, *or* the school has already attained a performance level in which more than 70 percent of the AP students are scoring a 3 or higher.

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