

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **GCPS students earn national honors for Advanced Placement results**

A number of **Gwinnett County Public Schools** (GCPS) students from the graduating class of 2006 have been recognized for earning top honors on their Advanced Placement test results during their academic career with GCPS. Almost 1,100 seniors from last year have been recognized by the College Board for excelling on their AP tests. They are part of the more than 5,500 Gwinnett students who took Advanced Placement tests offered by the College Board last spring.

Based on College Board results, more than 15% of the class of 2006 earned national distinction under the following categories:

**AP Scholars** --- More than 500 students earned a score of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams.

**AP Scholars with Honors** --- Close to 200 students earned a score of 3 or higher on four or more AP exams, with an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken.

**AP Scholars with Distinction** --- More than 300 students earned a 3 or higher on five or more AP exams, with an average grade on all exams of at least 3.5

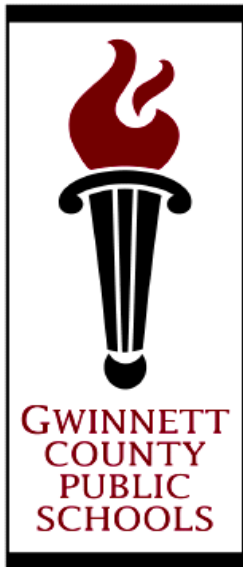
**National AP Scholars** --- 65 students for earning grades of 4 or higher on eight or more AP exams, with an average grade on all exams of at least 4.

“The Advanced Placement program provides an opportunity to challenge each student to engage in academic rigor and have the support needed to excel against world-class standards.” says **Linda Mitchell, executive director for student accountability, assessment, and advisement**. “The students earning these awards have demonstrated motivation, persistence and a high level of achievement. In addition, their successes highlight the quality of teachers, instruction and curriculum in Gwinnett’s K-12 academic programs.”

Each Advanced Placement test is graded on a scale of 1-5. Scores of 3 and higher are critical as most colleges will grant credit for those comparable classes. GCPS’ percentage of students scoring a 3 and higher increased during the 2005-06 school year. Results show 66.4% of Gwinnett AP test-takers scored 3 or higher, compared to 55.8% at the state level and 59.6% globally.

Participation in AP classes and exams provides students with more rigorous classroom experience and performance comparison to college-level work. The Georgia Department of Education pays for students to take one AP exam. Students then pay the \$85 fee for each additional AP exam they opt to take. Students who are eligible for the free/reduced lunch program are provided the tests free of charge.

-- 30 --



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*is to pursue excellence  
in academic knowledge,  
skills, and behavior  
for each student,  
resulting in measured  
improvement against  
local, national, and  
world-class standards.*