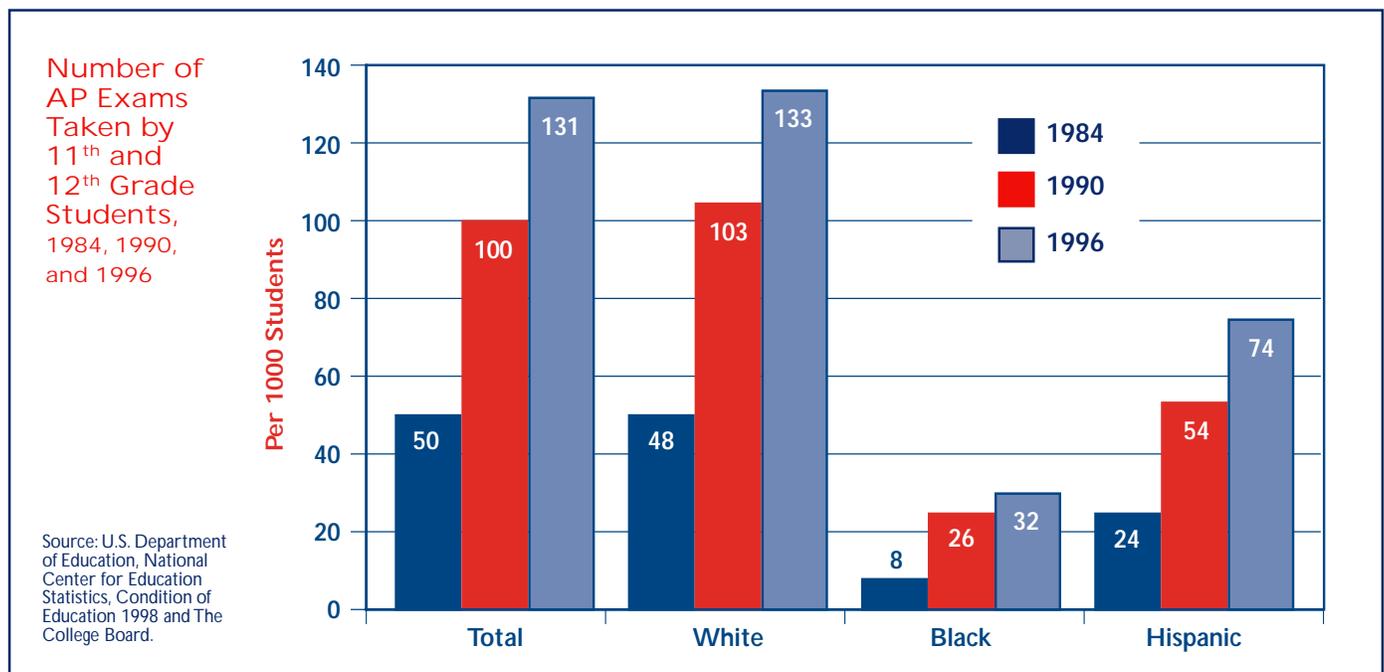


*Did you know?*

## STUDENTS ARE TAKING MORE AP EXAMS.

### THE FACTS

Between 1984 and 1996, the number of Advanced Placement (AP) exams taken by high school students nearly tripled, growing from 50 exams per 1,000 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students to 131. This growth occurred among White, Black, and Hispanic students. Further, in 1997 and 1998, the growth in the number of AP exams taken continued, rising to 150 exams per 1,000 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. AP exams are annual tests that are offered in many different subject matters that give students an opportunity to demonstrate college-level achievement. Many institutions of higher education offer course credits, depending on a student's score on the AP exam.



### NEXT STEPS

With the exception of AP foreign language tests, where Hispanic students were almost three times as likely as Whites to take those exams, White students were more likely to take AP exams than were Black or Hispanic students. States and school districts need to (1) encourage Black and Hispanic students to pursue more rigorous coursework, including college preparatory courses, and (2) help finance the cost of taking the AP exams for low-income students.



CEP is the independent advocate for public education and for more effective public schools. The Center works to help Americans better understand the role of public education in a democracy and the need to improve the academic quality of public schools. We do not represent any special interests. Instead, we try to help citizens make sense of the conflicting opinions and perceptions about public education and create the conditions that will lead to better public schools. The Center receives its funding from charitable foundations such as The Pew Charitable Trusts, The George Gund Foundation, The Joyce Foundation, and Phi Delta Kappa International.

**STAFF:** John F. (Jack) Jennings, *Director*; Diane Stark Rentner, *Associate Director*; Toni Painter, *Administrative Assistant*  
This publication is not copyrighted and may be reproduced with appropriate attribution.

**HOW TO REACH US:**  
1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Suite 619  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
**Phone:** 202-822-8065  
**Fax:** 202-822-6008  
**Email:** [ctredpol@ctredpol.org](mailto:ctredpol@ctredpol.org)

**WEBSITE:** [www.ctredpol.org](http://www.ctredpol.org)

## REALITY CHECK

Many people believe the public schools are failing. Public schools must become better, but there have been major improvements in public education since the early 1980's which are being ignored. In the current atmosphere, the negative is being emphasized and the positive pushed aside. These one-page policy briefs are meant to show the improvements that have occurred in public education while urging persistent efforts to bring a better education to more students.



1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Suite 619  
Washington, D.C. 20036

NONPROFIT ORG.  
CART-SORT  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
WASHINGTON, DC  
PERMIT 1613

*Did you know?*

**STUDENTS ARE  
TAKING MORE AP EXAMS.**