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## **Bellevue Makes AP Honor Roll**

*One of only 367 Districts Nationwide to Receive the Honor*

The Bellevue School District has been honored by the College Board with a place on the prestigious AP® Honor Roll. Bellevue's recognition as a 2011-2012 AP Honor Roll District is the result of opening Advanced Placement classrooms to significantly more students, while maintaining the percentage of students earning high scores on AP exams. Only 367 school districts nationwide received the honor this year.

The College Board looks at several criteria when determining which schools will make the Honor Roll. It examines the last three years of AP data, looking for an overall increase in participation in or access to AP classes. In Bellevue, the number of students participating in AP courses has increased 14%; from 2553 students in 2009 to 2916 students in 2011. The College Board also looks for an increase in the percentage of exams taken by minority students.

Another factor for inclusion on the Honor Roll is maintaining or improving performance levels on the AP exam. In 2011, 72% of Bellevue students earned scores of 3 or higher on an AP exam, the same as in 2009. Most colleges offer credit or advanced placement with a score of 3 or higher on an AP exam.

The Bellevue School District encourages all students to enroll in one or more advanced level courses before graduation. "Taking challenging AP courses in high school prepares our students for success in college and increases the likelihood that they will earn a four-year degree," says Superintendent Amalia Cudeiro. "Our rigorous AP coursework and highly qualified AP teachers are an important component of our mission to provide all students with an education that allows them to succeed in college, career and life."

Taking AP courses in high school also helps students with the transition to college. "Participation in college-level AP courses can level the playing field for underserved students, give them the confidence needed to succeed in college, and raise standards and performance in key subjects like science and math," said College Board President Gaston Caperton. "The AP Honor Roll districts are defying expectations by expanding access while enabling their students to maintain or improve their AP Exam scores."

The Bellevue School District offers AP courses in a wide variety of subjects, including Biology, English Literature and Composition, Environmental Science, U.S. History, and Statistics. AP is accepted by more than 3,800 colleges and universities worldwide for college credit, advanced placement or both on the basis of successful AP Exam scores.