



South Monterey County Joint
Union High School District

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South Monterey County Joint Union High School District Placed on the College Board's 7th Annual AP[®] District Honor Roll for Significant Gains in Student Access and Success

433 School Districts Across the U.S. and Canada Are Honored

King City, CA — South Monterey County Joint Union High School District is one of 433 school districts in the U.S. and Canada being honored by the College Board with placement on the 7th Annual AP[®] District Honor Roll. To be included on the 7th Annual Honor Roll, South Monterey County Joint Union High School District had to, since 2014, increase the number of students participating in AP while also increasing or maintaining the percentage of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher. Reaching these goals demonstrates the district has successfully identified motivated, academically prepared students who are ready for AP.

“This is truly an honor and a recognition of the dedicated hard work that staff, students and their families have made to advancing our students’ academic achievement. When you look at our student demographics, many will say it can’t be done. This distinction shows that if you believe it can, it will get done! Congratulations to our students and staff!” stated District Superintendent, Daniel Moirao.

National data from 2016 show that among black/African American, Hispanic, and Native American students with a high degree of readiness for AP, only about half are participating. The first step to getting more of these students to participate is to give them access. Courses must be made available, gatekeeping must stop, and doors must be equitably opened. South Monterey County Joint Union High School District is committed to expanding the availability of AP courses among prepared and motivated students of all backgrounds.

“Congratulations to all the teachers and administrators in this district who have worked so tirelessly to both expand access to AP and also to help students succeed on the AP Exams,” said Trevor Packer, the College Board’s head of AP and Instruction. “These teachers and administrators are delivering real opportunity in their schools and classrooms, and students are rising to the challenge.” 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 districts

are experimenting with initiatives and strategies to see how they can expand access and improve student performance at the same time.

In 2016, more than 4,000 colleges and universities around the world received AP scores for college credit, advanced placement, or both, and/or consideration in the admission process.

Inclusion on the 7th Annual AP District Honor Roll is based on a review of three years of AP data, from 2014 to 2016, looking across 37 AP Exams, including world language and culture. The following criteria were used.

Districts must:

- Increase participation/access to AP by at least 4% in large districts, at least 6% in medium districts, and at least 11% in small districts;
- Increase or maintain the percentage of exams taken by black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and American Indian/Alaska Native students; and
- Improve or maintain performance levels when comparing the 2016 percentage of students scoring a 3 or higher to the 2014 percentage, *unless* the district has already attained a performance level at which more than 70% of its AP students earn a 3 or higher.

When these outcomes have been achieved among an AP student population in which 30% or more are underrepresented minority students (black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and American Indian/Alaska Native) and/or 30% or more are low-income students (students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch), a symbol has been affixed to the district name to highlight this work.

The complete 7th Annual AP District Honor Roll can be found **here** ([create hyperlink](#)).

About South Monterey County Joint Union High School District

The South Monterey County Joint Union High School District is located in the Salinas Valley between the Santa Lucia and Gabilan Mountain Ranges known as the “Gateway to Monterey County.” It is an area with a rich agricultural history, King City was incorporated in 1911 and Greenfield in 1947. The school district is a joint union school district serving the communities of southern Monterey County and portions of San Benito County. The economy of this area is predominately agricultural with most business and employment opportunities being tied to the agriculture industry. Agriculture is the dominant industry. Thirty-eight (38%) percent of the population is employed by the agricultural sector, followed by other major employers: including education, manufacturing, and retail trade. Agriculture contributes over \$4.38 billion per year to Monterey County’s economic output.

The ethnicity of the student body is primarily Hispanic (97%) and White/Non-Hispanic (11%) and supports over 500 English Language Learners.