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Date: February 25, 2016 at 2:58:18 PM EST

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Subject: Georgia schools, teachers, students earn honors for Advanced Placement

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*272 Georgia schools earn honors for Advanced Placement programs,
students and teachers also recognized*

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February 25, 2016 – State School Superintendent Richard Woods today named 272 Advanced Placement (AP) Honor Schools. These schools are part of an AP program in Georgia that is earning accolades: Georgia is [13th in the nation](#) for the percentage of students earning the highest AP exam scores (3, 4, and 5) and tied for third in the nation in one-year percentage point growth in the percentage of public school graduates scoring a 3, 4, or 5 on at least one of the exams.

The schools being recognized by the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) fall into six categories, based on the results of 2015 AP courses and exams. A list of categories is below, and a full list of schools in each category is attached.

Three Georgia teachers were also recognized by the College Board as the 2016 AP Professionals of the Year for the Southern Region. The three teachers – Kimberly Heglund, John Jameson, and Joni Jameson – happen to be siblings, and all teach at Archer High School in Gwinnett County. Each teacher has presented at the GaDOE's AP Regional Workshops each fall for 11 years.

And Georgia is home to two AP Scholars for 2015 – the College Board grants State AP Scholar recognition to one male and one female student in each U.S. state and the District of Columbia. The winning students have scores of 3 or higher on the greatest number of AP exams, and then the highest average score (at least 3.5) on all AP exams taken. [Learn more about Georgia's AP Scholars, Stephanie Niu and Sanket Mehta, in this post on the Educating Georgia's Future blog.](#)

AP courses and exams are administered by the College Board, which also administers the SAT. AP courses are one of several ways Georgia students can access college-level learning opportunities while in high school. Students who receive a 3, 4, or 5 on AP exams are often eligible to receive college credit.

"Through the AP program, these schools are personalizing learning and expanding the opportunities available for their students," Superintendent Woods said. "This honor is a credit to the hard work of many dedicated educators here in our state, and I offer my congratulations to the teachers and students at each of these schools – and my gratitude for their hard work and dedication."

The Georgia Department of Education began recognizing AP Honor Schools in 2008. The recognition began with the first three categories listed below; the AP STEM and AP STEM Achievement categories were added in 2011 and the AP Humanities category was added in 2015.

Categories:

- AP Challenge Schools are schools with enrollments of 900 or fewer students and students testing in four of the core areas (English, math, science, and social studies).
- AP Access and Support Schools are schools with at least 30 percent of their AP exams taken by students who identified themselves as African-American and/or Hispanic, and 30 percent of all AP exams earning scores of 3 or higher.
- AP Merit Schools are schools with at least 20 percent of the student population taking AP exams and at least 50 percent of all AP exams earning scores of 3 or higher.
- AP STEM Schools are schools with students testing in at least two AP math courses and two AP science courses (AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, AP Statistics, AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Environmental Science, AP Physics B, AP Physics C, AP Computer Science).
- AP STEM Achievement Schools are schools with students testing in at least two AP math courses and two AP science courses, and at least 40 percent of the exam scores on AP math and AP science exams earning scores of 3 or higher.
- AP Humanities Schools are schools with students testing in all of the following AP courses: at least one ELA course, two social sciences courses, one fine arts course and one world language course.

Links to lists of schools:

[Challenge](#)

[Access and Support](#)

[Merit](#)

[STEM](#)

[STEM Achievement](#)

[Humanities](#)

[Totals and definitions](#)

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