



THE
COLORADO
EDUCATION
INITIATIVE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WHAT: Students' success in Colorado Legacy Schools AP program celebrated at Glenwood Springs High

WHEN: Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 8:45 a.m.; event begins at 9:05 a.m.

WHERE: Glenwood Springs High School, 1521 Grand Ave., Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

New Data Show Major Gains among AP Students Enrolled in Colorado Legacy Schools Program
CLS Program Enrolls 47 Percent More Students in AP courses

DENVER, Colo. — Students around Colorado are scoring big wins in Advanced Placement (AP) courses through [The Colorado Education Initiative's](#) (CEI) statewide [Colorado Legacy Schools](#) (CLS) program. Increased enrollment and success for *all* students in rigorous AP math, science, and English courses reflect the diversity of Colorado's students — and our future workforce. Participating schools are seeing student achievement gaps narrow and the number of qualifying AP exams rise.¹

CLS helps schools narrow student achievement gaps, reach more students typically underrepresented in AP courses, and increase college readiness by exposing more students to higher academic rigor in high school.

The 11 Colorado schools in nine districts that began the three-year CLS program in 2014-2015 are:

- Alamosa High School, Alamosa School District RE-11J
- Battle Mountain High School, Eagle County Schools
- Cedaredge High School, Delta County School District
- Englewood High School, Englewood Schools
- George Washington High School, Denver Public Schools
- Glenwood Springs High School, Roaring Fork School District
- Grand Valley High School, Garfield School District
- Jefferson High School, Jeffco Public Schools
- Paonia High School, Delta County School District
- Vista PEAK Preparatory High School, Aurora Public Schools
- Wheat Ridge High School, Jeffco Public Schools

Across these 11 schools, overall enrollment in AP math, science, and English courses grew from 1,431 students in 2013-2014 to 2,106 in 2014-2015. As shown in the following table, while the number of overall qualifying scores on AP exams in 2014-2015 grew impressively, students traditionally

¹ CEI examines the same indicators of success as the National Math and Science Initiative's (NMSI) College Readiness Program, a national program dramatically increasing the number of students taking and passing AP math, science, and English exams, particularly for traditionally underrepresented students. Find more [information](#) about the NMSI program evaluation.



underrepresented in AP courses — including students of color and students living in poverty — posted the strongest gains:

Overall First-Year CLS Results for 11 Schools in 2014-2015	Percentage Increase in Number of Students Enrolling	Percentage Increase in Number of Qualifying Scores
All Students	47%	49%
Students of Color	42%	80%
Students Living in Poverty	24%	105%

Glenwood Springs High School (GSHS) in Roaring Fork School District is celebrating incredible first-year results in the program.

“Before we joined CLS, we were only seeing a small percentage of students enrolling in AP courses with only 69 students enrolled in the 2013-2014 school year,” said GSHS Principal Paul Freeman. “This school year, our student enrollment in AP courses jumped to 234 enrolled students and 312 students have already enrolled in AP courses for the 2016-2017 school year — we’re really excited about our results.”

CLS helps schools make AP a reality for *all* students — including students of color, students who are living in poverty, and those who have not typically been top achievers. CLS schools report that the AP program support improved their school’s culture and climate with more adults and students who believe that high school kids can step up to meet higher expectations.

“While CLS supports our more traditional AP math, science, and English classes, we’ve also seen growth in other AP areas like Spanish and art,” said GSHS assistant principal Pat Engle. “Twenty-nine kids enrolled in this year’s AP Spanish class and they all passed their qualifying AP exams. Fourteen of those kids scored the highest score possible. We’re celebrating every student in our school because we know all of our students have unique potential.”

CLS director Dr. Greg Hessee said every student can grab this opportunity. “We know that students who enroll in high school AP courses, regardless of their ending AP exam results, are far more likely to graduate college ready than their peers and those are great numbers to see,” he said.

The CLS program provides schools with:

- A unique four-day AP summer institute for educators, with training on how to teach underrepresented students.
- Mock exams for students and scoring practice for teachers at mock readings.
- Two-day fall professional development for teachers.
- Ongoing instructional support from content specialists.
- Saturday in-person and online study sessions for students.

About The Colorado Education Initiative

The Colorado Education Initiative is an independent nonprofit working in partnership with the Colorado



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Department of Education, educators, schools, districts, and other public education stakeholders to unlock the unique potential of every student by incubating innovation, shining a spotlight on success, and investing in sustainable change that improves outcomes for all students. CEI envisions that every student in Colorado is prepared and unafraid to succeed in school, work, and life, and ready to take on the challenges of today, tomorrow, and beyond.

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