



The following article is part of our archive

West New York schools get \$10,000 grant as one of four systems that have grown number of students taking Advanced Placement tests

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

By **JEAN-PIERRE MESTANZA**
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

WEST NEW YORK - The entity that administers the most widely used college entrance exam in the nation has recognized the local public school district as a 2011 AP District of the Year, one of only four in the nation.

The honor bestowed by the College Board, which administers the SAT exam, comes with a \$10,000 grant.

"This is very exciting and a very big honor," Superintendent of Schools John Fauta said about the honor bestowed by the College Board. "This is what it's all about, especially during difficult budgetary times."

The College Board looked at data from 2008, 2009 and 2010, and found that West New York Public Schools increased the number of students who took advanced placement tests from 44 in 2008 to 99 in 2010; and improved the number of students who scored at least "3" in the exam from 21 percent in 2008 to 37 percent in 2010.

Scores on the exam range from a "1" to "5," with "5" being the highest.

"This honor is based purely on data and they (West New York Public Schools) deserve it after more than doubling the amount of students able to take the exam," said Trevor Packer, the College Board's vice president of the AP Program.

Advance placement exams are administered to high school honors students and are generally given at the end of the school year.

Students receive college credit through the AP classes as well.

"This just goes to show how hard the teachers in West New York work with students in order to help them get to college," said Board of Education President Cosmo Cirillo.

The \$10,000 gift will be used for staff development and to buy textbooks, Fauta said.

The district will be honored along with the school districts of Chicago, Ill., Tampa, Fla., and San Bernardino, Calif., at the AP Annual conference in San Francisco on July 22....



Most Recent Stories

- Controversial phone app offering background checks is back
- N.J. environmental group to study Raritan Bay in hopes of finding area to create oyster colonies
- Christie one of many in N.J. to be hospitalized for asthma in hot, humid weather
- Jersey City man was murdered over a bicycle, authorities believe
- New Jersey Supreme Court decides condo buildings are not responsible for sidewalk maintenance after Hoboken suit
- Oyster Creek nuclear plant pump shuts down, resulting in fish kill
- Warrants issued for two Camden men linked to murders in Camden and Bucks County, Pa.
- Toms River man is shot in front of apartment
- Day after leaving hospital, Gov. Christie is back at work
- Work crews hope to repair Piscataway water main break before evening rush hour

© 2011 NJ.com All Rights Reserved.