

# Teaching the Social and Behavioral Sciences in K-12 Education: Past, Present, and Future

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# Road Map

- ◆ Current State of Psychology in K-12
- ◆ Goals
- ◆ Challenges
- ◆ Current Efforts
- ◆ Next Steps



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# Current State

## ◆ High School Participation in Psychology

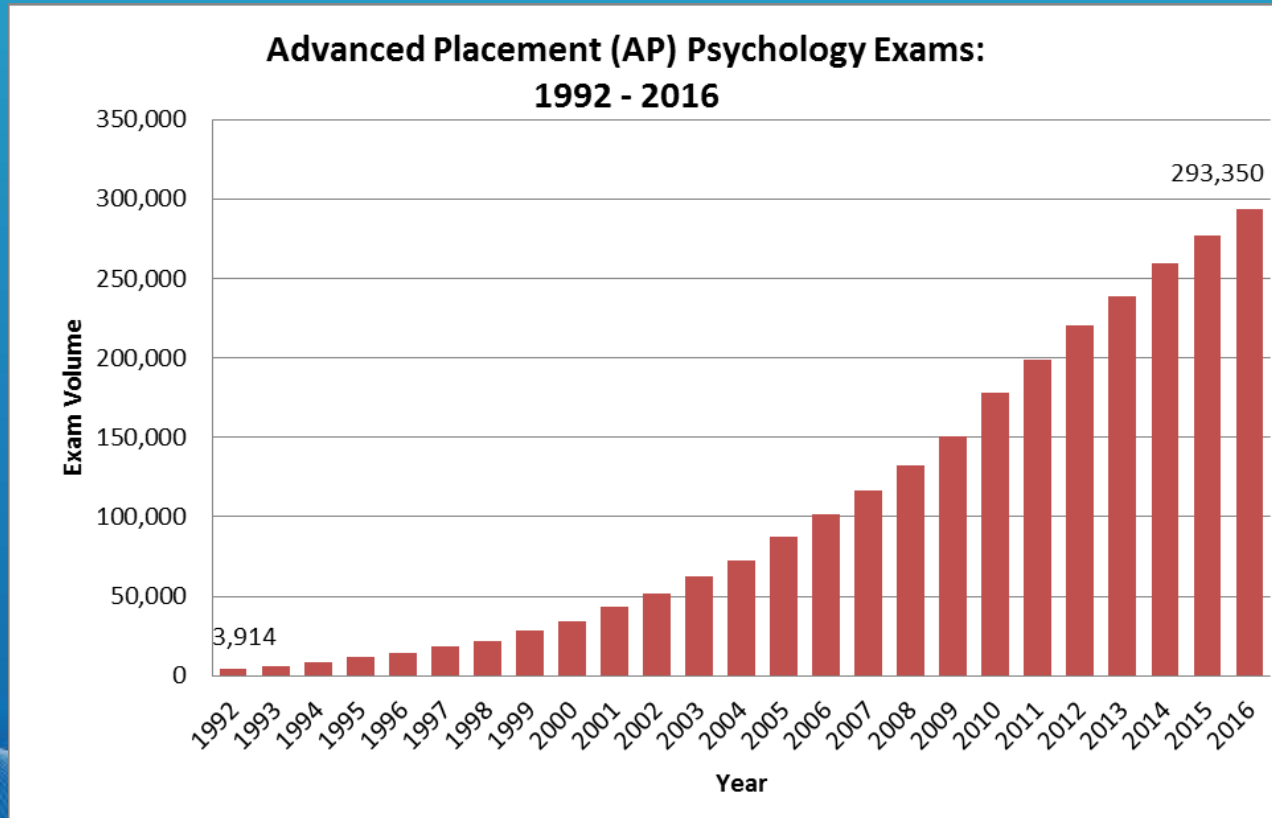
- Approximately **8,000-10,000 high school psychology teachers** in the US
- According to the NCES (2009), nearly **30% of graduating students** earned credits in a psychology course during their four years in high school (U.S. Department of Education, 2011).
- College Board data (2015) indicated that **32% of all SAT test takers** took psychology during high school (College Board Research & Development, 2015).



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# Current State

## ◆ Advanced Placement Psychology



Source: College Board. (2016). *AP Program Participation and Performance Data 2016*. Retrieved from <http://research.collegeboard.org/programs/ap/data/participation/ap-2016>

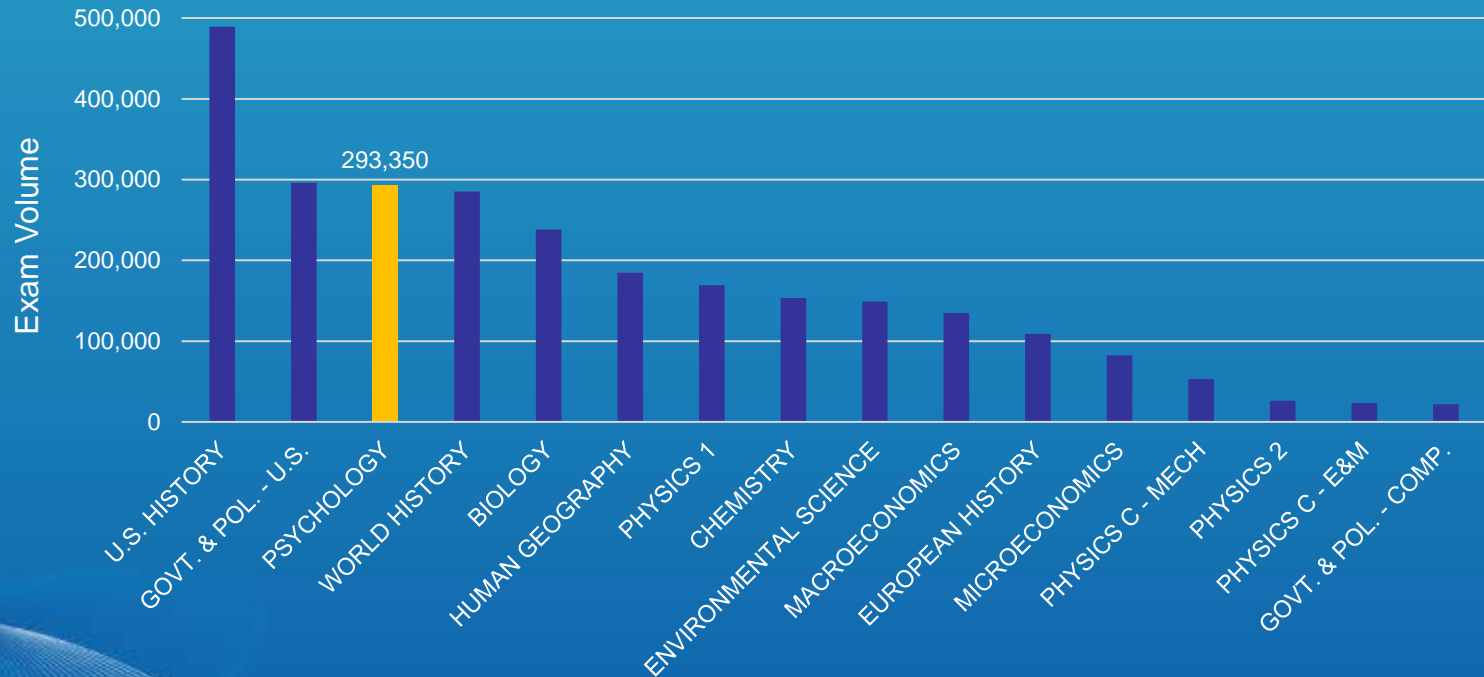


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# Current State

## ◆ Advanced Placement Psychology

### AP Course Participation: 2016



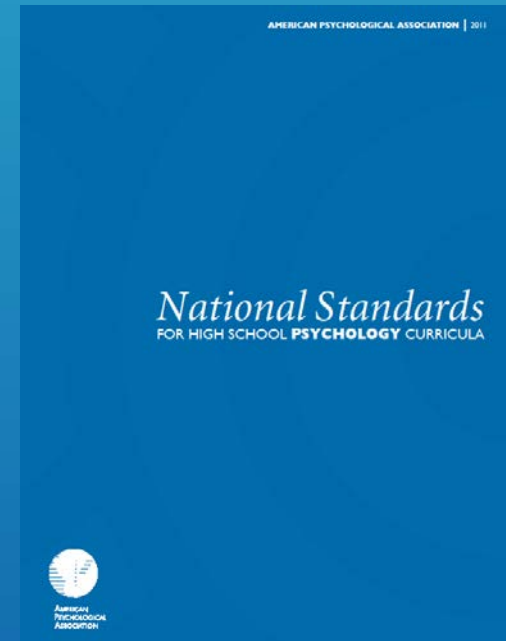
Source: College Board. (2016). *AP Program Participation and Performance Data 2016*. Retrieved from <http://research.collegeboard.org/programs/ap/data/participation/ap-2016>



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# Current State

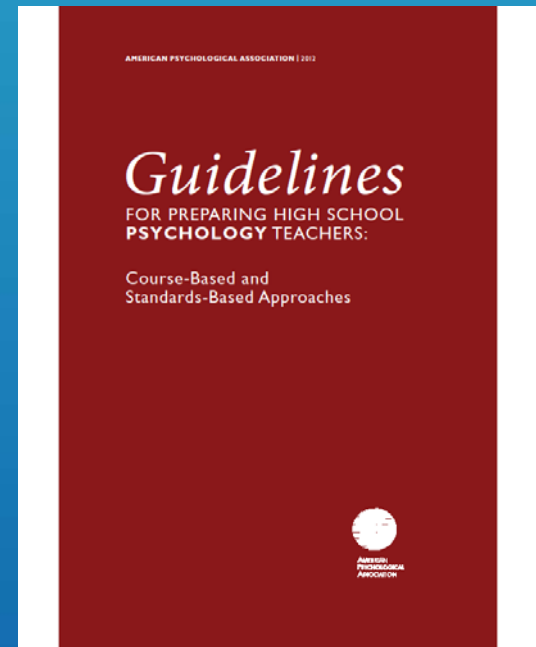
- ◆ National Standards for High School Curricula



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# Current State

## ◆ Teacher Preparation Issues



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# Current State

- ◆ No formal presence in K-8
- ◆ 2017 APA Summit on High School Psychology Education



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# Goals

- ◆ Promote high quality teaching of high school psychology
- ◆ Increase recognition of psychology as a science
- ◆ Given current departmental structure, strengthen psychology as a bridge between science and social studies



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# Challenges

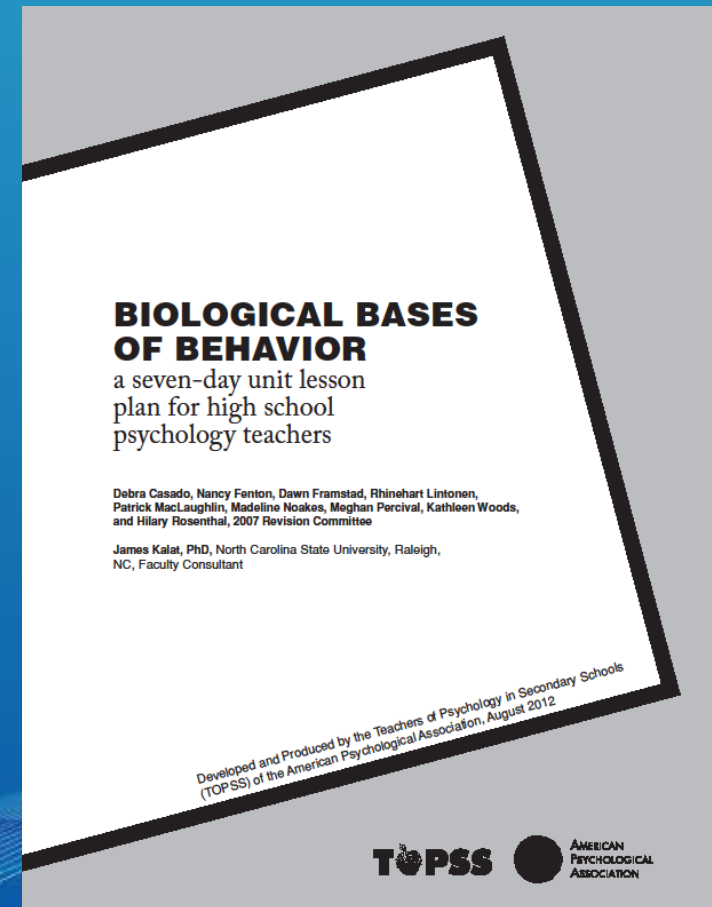
- ◆ Identifying who is teaching high school psychology
- ◆ Psychology is an elective course
- ◆ Public perception of psychology
- ◆ Teacher preparation issues



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# Current Efforts

- ◆ National Standards
- ◆ APA Teaching Resources
  - Online Lesson Plans



# Current Efforts

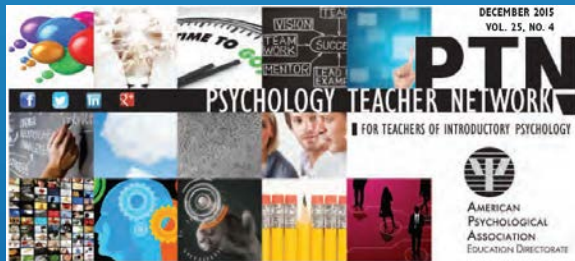
- ◆ National Standards
- ◆ APA Teaching Resources
  - Online Lesson Plans
  - Online Psychology Laboratory



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Online Psychology Laboratory (OPL). At the top left is a logo consisting of a blue square, a green square, and a white circle with a blue swoosh. To the right of the logo, the text "ONLINE PSYCHOLOGY LABORATORY" is displayed in a green, sans-serif font. Below the logo and text is a green navigation bar with white text links: "Home", "About OPL", "Register", "Teacher Tour", "Studies", "Data", "Code", "Resources", "Submissions", and "Help". The main content area is split into two columns. The left column has a green background with white text that reads "Helping students understand the science of PSYCHOLOGY". The right column features a photograph of a young woman with blonde hair, smiling and looking towards the camera. At the bottom of the page, there are two horizontal bars: a green bar on the left that says "Welcome to OPL" and a grey bar on the right that says "You will need a plug-in..."

# Current Efforts

- ◆ National Standards
- ◆ APA Teaching Resources
  - Online Lesson Plans
  - Online Psychology Laboratory
  - Psychology Teacher Network newsletter



**THINK LIKE A SCIENTIST: HARNESING CURRENT EVENTS TO TEACH PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE**

SUSANA A. NOLAN, PH.D., AND SANDRA E. HOCKENBURY, MA

*"Testing Neurons With Ultrasound"*  
(Gorman, 2015).

Every day the news media trumpet psychology-related findings with the potential to affect our lives directly.



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# Current Efforts

- ◆ National Standards
- ◆ APA Teaching Resources
  - Online Lesson Plans
  - Online Psychology Laboratory
  - Psychology Teacher Network newsletter
  - APA Professional Development
    - Clark University Workshop
    - APA Convention
    - Regional Teaching Networks



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# Next Steps

- ◆ Summit on High School Psychology Education
  - Psychology as Science
  - Skills to Promote Well-being
  - National Standards
  - Assessment of Content and Skills
  - Credentialing teachers
  - Ongoing Professional Development
  - Diversity and Access
  - Technology and Online Learning



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