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
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).
Current State

Advanced Placement Psychology

Advanced Placement Psychology

**AP Course Participation: 2016**

- **Exam Volume**
  - U.S. HISTORY: 293,350
  - PSYCHOLOGY: 293,350
  - WORLD HISTORY: 293,350
  - BIOLOGY: 293,350
  - PHYSICS 1: 293,350
  - ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE: 293,350
  - MACROECONOMICS: 293,350
  - EUROPEAN HISTORY: 293,350
  - MICROECONOMICS: 293,350
  - PHYSICS C - MECH: 293,350
  - PHYSICS C - E&M: 293,350
  - GOVT. & POL. - COMP.: 293,350

Current State

- National Standards for High School Curricula
Current State

◆ Teacher Preparation Issues
Current State

- No formal presence in K-8

- 2017 APA Summit on High School Psychology Education
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
Challenges

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

- National Standards
- APA Teaching Resources
  - Online Lesson Plans
Current Efforts

◆ National Standards
◆ APA Teaching Resources
  ■ Online Lesson Plans
  ■ Online Psychology Laboratory
Current Efforts

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