



CASE STUDY

McGraw-Hill Education SCOREboard™ Fuels Historic Gains in Cheektowaga High School AP Program

ABOUT THE SCHOOL

School District
Cheektowaga Central School District

School Enrollment
748

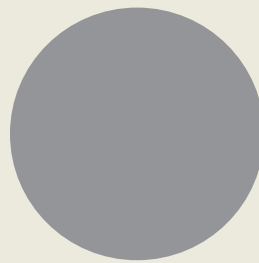
Grades
9-12

Economically Disadvantaged
51%



Overview

Cheektowaga Central High School is the sole high school in the Cheektowaga Central School District. The district also includes an elementary school, a middle school, and an alternative education program for students in grades 6-12. Located east of Buffalo, New York, in the working-class suburb of Cheektowaga, Central High School has a diverse student body and boasts an 87 percent college attendance rate for its graduates.



62%
CAUCASIAN



28%
AFRICAN AMERICAN



5%
PACIFIC ISLANDER



3%
HISPANIC



Ethnicity

2%
MULTIRACIAL

Achieving Success on the Advanced Placement Exam

A new approach for the Advanced Placement classroom

Chuck Tilley knows that history is always in the making. As a 24-year veteran of the classroom and current U.S. History teacher for Advanced Placement (AP*) and non-AP classes, he recognizes the need to keep current even though his work is focused on the past.

In 2013, Tilley attended the International Society for Technology in Education conference where he came across the McGraw-Hill Education (MHE) booth. He recalls meeting with MHE representative Katie Cannon and telling her that he had been using a U.S. History textbook from another publisher for years to guide his AP history class, but was interested in the *American History: Connecting with the Past* textbook by McGraw-Hill Education. Still, he was hesitant to make a switch.

That's when Cannon introduced him to *SCOREboard*[™]—the first Advanced Placement Exam Preparation solution that adapts to each student's learning needs and delivers a personalized learning plan to ensure student comprehension as they prepare for AP exams.

Tilley was enthusiastic about the opportunities that *SCOREboard* presented, along with its companion program, *ONboard*[™] Series for Advanced Placement, which is designed to help students unfamiliar with the rigors of AP classwork build the skills they need to be successful. Eager to enhance his AP History learning environment, Tilley independently sought and secured a grant that outfitted his AP classroom with 25 laptops, new textbooks, and *McGraw-Hill AP Advantage* which includes *SCOREboard* and *ONboard*.

“Now they have to take more ownership of their learning.”

Chuck Tilley,
AP U.S. History teacher

A learning curve worth climbing

“Students have been trained to be passive learners and to listen to a teacher tell them what to do,” Tilley said. “Now they have to take more ownership of their learning while I play more of a facilitator role.” The transformation from teacher to facilitator was a steep learning curve for Tilley, and McGraw-Hill Education helped him make the adjustment.

“McGraw-Hill Education sent a curriculum specialist to New York to sit down and walk me and other users in the region through the platform until we were comfortable with it,” he said.

Tilley also acknowledged another challenge that made *SCOREboard* worth exploring—preparing students for the rigor of the AP classroom.

“For many of my students, the AP U.S. History class is their first exposure to AP coursework and many of them are not prepared,” Tilley said. “Even for tenth grade honors students who move into AP classes, the rigor can prove to be too much work.”

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To learn more about AP Advantage which includes *ONboard* and *SCOREboard*, visit mheonline.com/advancedplacement

AP advantage



The comprehensive approach of *SCOREboard* helped prepare all of Tilley's students for success—including those not accustomed to AP coursework. Online access and a mobile app ensured his students could connect to course material at any time. Adaptive questions helped his students increase their content comprehension and strengthen areas of weakness. Finally, a diagnostic test and personalized learning plan revealed areas where additional study was needed by his students while four AP practice exams prepared them for the actual test. Instantaneous results and reports from the practice tests gave Tilley and each student data on frequently missed questions, sections needing improvement, and other insights that better prepared them for the actual exam.

Historic results for Cheektowaga Central High School's AP U.S. History class

When it came time for Tilley's students to take the AP exam, he more than tempered his expectations.

"I expected the results to be horrible," Tilley said.

"The results simply blew me away."

Chuck Tilley,
AP U.S. History teacher

Tilley’s uncertainty was based on the fact that he had 47 students in his AP class as part of an open enrollment option—essentially offering it to any interested eleventh grade student. As a result, 17 students who otherwise wouldn’t have qualified for the AP class enrolled in it and took the exam.

“The results simply blew me away,” Tilley said. “This group crushed everything we had accomplished in the past.”

Of his 47 students, 73 percent qualified for college credit with a score of three or higher, and 17 of those students scored a four or five on the AP five-point scale. In comparison, the national average for students scoring three or higher was 52.4 percent† and the percentage of students in Tilley’s previous classes scoring three or higher was 55 percent. Another point of interest was the 17 students who normally would not have qualified for Tilley’s AP class—10 of those students earned a three or higher.

In the final analysis, Tilley’s class was nearly twice as large as previous years and included students who typically wouldn’t have taken AP History, but even with these challenges, his class surpassed the scores of his previous AP classes. As a result of such exceptional results, Tilley plans to acclimate his students to *SCOREboard* earlier in the school year and to better leverage *ONboard* to prepare his students for the rigors of AP coursework. With the addition of *SCOREboard* and *ONboard*, Tilley is now a U.S. History teacher who is happily looking toward the future.



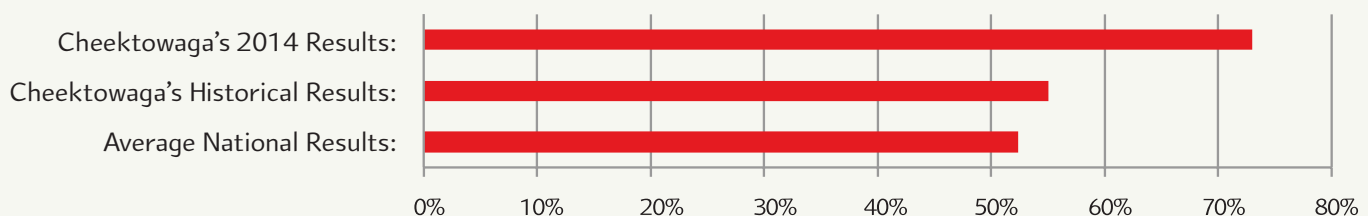
About McGraw-Hill Education *ONboard* and *SCOREboard*

The McGraw-Hill Education *ONboard* Series for Advanced Placement is the perfect summer assignment and is designed to help incoming AP students build the background knowledge and skills they need to succeed in their upcoming AP coursework and beyond.

SCOREboard is the first Advanced Placement Exam Preparation solution that truly adapts to each student’s learning needs, delivering a personalized learning plan to ensure student comprehension as they prepare for the AP exam. *SCOREboard* features diagnostic and adaptive content review, personalized learning plans, four AP practice exams, and comprehensive reports for students and teachers.

† Source: College Board; AP Program Participation and Performance Data 2014

The Results AP Test Scores: 3 or Higher



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AP advantage