

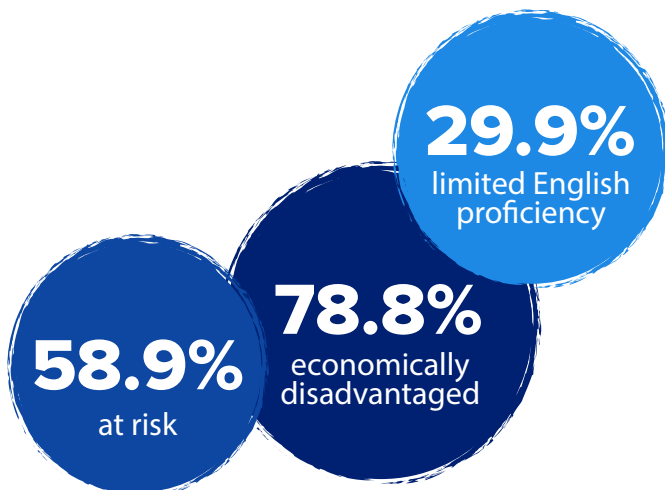
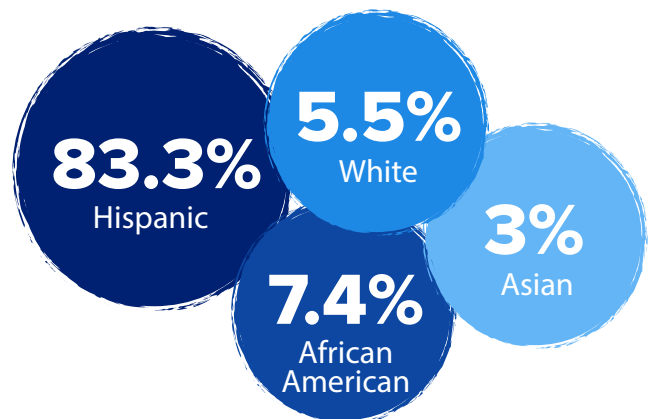
## TEACHER SPOTLIGHT:

# How an AP<sup>®</sup> Lead Teacher Helps Her High-Achieving Students Excel Despite Economic Disadvantages and the Challenges of Hybrid Learning

## THE DISTRICT

Twice in the past 10 years, **Pasadena ISD** has earned the **College Board<sup>®</sup> AP<sup>®</sup> District Honor Roll distinction**, which recognizes school districts committed to increasing access to AP for underrepresented students while simultaneously maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher.

### Pasadena ISD, TX Student Population



## THE CHALLENGE

Supporting the AP program in a hybrid learning environment to ensure all students can improve their opportunities for higher education, regardless of their background.

## THE SOLUTIONS

### PROVIDE OPEN ACCESS

According to Eve Emmons, the AP English Lead Teacher, “To maximize equity, our AP courses are open access, so any student who wants to take rigorous courses can. The district further supports our students by providing equitable resources for instruction. Even before the pandemic, most of our students were already equipped with district-assigned technology.”


### OFFER DISCOUNTED EXAM FEES

At Pasadena ISD, Emmons says, “Our students pay only \$15–\$25 for a \$95 exam. We try to make sure that if a student wants to take the AP exam, he or she is offered the opportunity to do so. There are many hidden gems out there, and we want to make sure they have the opportunity to shine.”

### UWORLD’S LEARNING TOOLS FOR AP® COURSES

When schools first closed due to COVID-19, Emmons says, “We didn’t have permission to post our hard copy resources digitally. Thankfully, UWorld being a digital resource, all we had to do was assign the practice that our students needed. Since we had piloted the program the year before, we thought UWorld could be our saving grace, and they were! We know that students outside our demographic profile often have the means to pay for resources on their own, but our students do not.”

UWorld helps Emmons in a number of ways: “We use it as practice. We use it as assessment. We use it as intervention,” she says. “It also has excellent practice tools like vocabulary clarification and maps for history classes. Students who need to can change the font size and screen brightness. They can also cross out or cancel answer choices. The timing tool helps students get in the habit of keeping track of their time, which is important on exam day.”



*“EVEN WHEN WE HAVE MOVED OUT OF HYBRID LEARNING, I WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT MY AP STUDENTS BY INCORPORATING ONLINE AND ASYNCHRONOUS LEARNING FROM UWORLD INTO MY FACE-TO-FACE CLASSROOM.”*

- Eve Emmons

She concludes that the kind of preparation UWorld offers can change students’ lives. “Legendary educator Jaime Escalante once said that ‘Math is the great equalizer,’ and I say that ‘AP scores are the great equalizer,’ because a 5 on the AP exam is a 5 no matter where you’re from or how much money your parents make.”