

# Science Education in North Carolina

The number of U.S. high school students taking higher level sciences such as chemistry and physics is at an alarming low. And the number of North Carolina high school students taking higher level science courses by graduation ranks below the national average.\*

Course	National Enrollment Average	North Carolina Enrollment Average
Chemistry	59%	55%
Physics	25%	16%

- In 2002, only 26% of NC students in grades 9-12 took chemistry, physics or advanced sciences.\*
- According to the National Assessment Governing Board, more than 50% of U.S. students do not take any science course in the 12th grade.

## Advanced Placement Courses in North Carolina

- 10% of 12th grade students in North Carolina took an Advanced Placement science exam in 2002.\*
- 59% of NC 12th grade students taking an Advanced Placement science exam in 2002 passed the exam.\*

## North Carolina Students Taking the AP Test in Sciences\*

Course	NC Students Taking Exam	% of Grade 12 Students	National % of Grade 12 Students
Biology	3,160	5	3
Chemistry	2,176	3	2
Physics	1,632	2	2

\*Source: State Indicators of Science and Mathematics Education 2003; The Council of Chief State School Officers.



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