

November 16, 2016

TO THE ADMINISTRATOR ADDRESSED:

**SUBJECT: Texas Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate Incentive Program—
Funded Components for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 School Years**

The Texas Advanced Placement (AP)/International Baccalaureate (IB) Incentive Program was originally enacted in 1993 by the 73rd Texas Legislature to emphasize the state's commitment to high academic performance. As a result of this initiative, AP and IB academic programs continue to grow at an impressive rate across Texas.

2015-2016 School Year Updates

Funding allocated to the Texas AP/IB Incentive Program by the 84th Texas Legislature and the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) AP Test Fee Grant Program will enable the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to fund the following components for the 2015-2016 school year.

- **2015-2016 Test Fee Subsidies**—TEA will provide a \$30 state test fee subsidy for each AP or IB exam that was taken by eligible Texas public school students in the 2015-2016 school year. As a result of a grant from USDE, TEA will also provide a federal test fee subsidy of \$16 for each AP exam and \$65 for each IB exam taken by an eligible public school student.

To be eligible for a test fee subsidy, a student must have taken an authorized AP or IB course in the 2015-2016 school year or have been recommended by the principal to take the exam and must have demonstrated financial need as determined in accordance with guidelines adopted by the State Board of Education that are consistent with the definition of financial need adopted by the College Board or the International Baccalaureate Organization.

For eligible IB exams, TEA issues the state and federal subsidies to individual campuses in the form of a reimbursement. For eligible AP exams, TEA pays the subsidies directly to the College Board. In order to receive the credit for these subsidies, each district/campus must have submitted a copy of their AP exam invoice reflecting the number of exams administered to eligible students.

- **2015-2016 Teacher Training Reimbursements**—TEA will provide teacher training reimbursements (TTRs) for approved training that took place during the 2015-2016 school year. Districts wishing to apply for TTRs for approved training must apply to TEA. Applications and information for the 2015-2016 teacher training reimbursement are now available on the TEA website at <http://tea.texas.gov/index2.aspx?id=25769807494>. The deadline to submit an application for reimbursement is December 16, 2016.

TEA will fund reimbursements for teacher training taken during the 2015-2016 school year for the cost of the training up to \$450 per eligible teacher. Teachers must complete a 24-hour or longer TEA-approved Pre-AP or AP training or a 15-hour or longer TEA-approved IB training. The amount of the teacher training reimbursement will be dependent upon the total number of eligible applicants and the amount of funding available after the payment of exam fee subsidies.

Please note that teachers will be eligible for this reimbursement only once every two years. Teachers who qualified for and received a TTR for training completed in the 2014-2015 school year are not eligible for reimbursement this year. Teachers eligible for TTRs include those who teach approved AP or IB courses at any grade level, as well as teachers of grades 6–11 who teach a course that meets the following criteria:

- Goes beyond the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) in depth and complexity
- Is appropriately rigorous to prepare students to be successful in AP or IB courses
- Is part of a vertical system of courses that ends with a specific AP or IB course (i.e., a Pre-AP English course that leads directly to AP Language and AP Composition)

TEA cannot reimburse trainings for administrators or counselors or trainings for program implementation. Trainings that are based on the Common Core State Standards are also not eligible for reimbursement.

2016-2017 School Year Funding

Funding allocated to the Texas AP/IB Incentive Program by the 84th Texas Legislature, the U.S. Department of Education AP Test Fee Grant Program, and the USDE Title IV Grant Program will enable the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to fund the following components for the 2016-2017 school year.

- **2016-2017 Test Fee Subsidies***—TEA will provide a \$30 state test fee subsidy for each AP or IB exam taken by eligible Texas public school students in the 2016-2017 school year. As a result of the grants from USDE, TEA will also provide a federal test fee subsidy of \$16 for each AP exam and \$65 for each IB exam taken by an eligible public school student. The same eligibility rules described above for the 2015-16 school year also apply to the 2016-2017 fee subsidies.
- **2016-2017 Teacher Training Reimbursements**—TEA will fund reimbursements for teacher training taken during the 2016-2017 school year for the cost of the training up to \$450 per eligible teacher. The same eligibility rules described above for the 2015-2016 school year also apply to the 2016-2017 teacher training reimbursements.

***NOTE:** The USDE grant that provides subsidies for AP/IB exams expires in 2016-17, and the grant award for the final year was insufficient to fully fund the \$16 subsidy. However, to ensure that eligible students are not adversely affected for the 2016-2017 school year, the TEA will use its Title IV funds to offset this gap in funding. The TEA will work with districts and charter schools to create a cost-sharing strategy for future funding of AP/IB exams, so that the exam subsidies can continue to benefit eligible Texas public school students (beginning in 2017-2018).

District personnel with AP/IB program responsibilities may wish to join the AP/IB Incentives listserv bulletin in order to stay informed about program requirements and the latest incentive developments. To join the listserv bulletin, please visit <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXTEA/subscriber/new> and select AP/IB from the list of subscriptions under the Curriculum & Instruction section.

The commitment to educational excellence by Texas educators and students is evident in the growth and success of the AP/IB Program, and we hope that the funding of these components strengthens programs even further. For more information about the program and the funded components, please visit <http://tea.texas.gov/index4.aspx?id=3822> or contact Monica Brewer, Statewide Coordinator for Gifted/Talented Education, by telephone at (512) 463-9581, or by email at monica.brewer@tea.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

Quentin Suffren
Executive Director
College, Career, and Military Preparation