

TEA Strategic Priority:	#3—Connect High School to Career and College
Statutorily allowable use of funds:	<p><i>Title IV, Part A—Well-rounded Education.</i> Accelerated programs and activities to raise student academic achievement, such as: reimbursing low-income students for the costs of accelerated learning exams, if students are enrolled in accelerated learning courses; increase availability of and enrollment in accelerated learning courses and exams, dual or concurrent enrollment, programs, and early college classes</p>

Project Description

The Texas Advanced Placement (AP)/International Baccalaureate (IB) Incentive Program has historically funded exam subsidies for low-income students who take AP or IB exams within a given school year. State subsidies have historically been \$30 for each AP or IB exam taken by an eligible public school student. For several years, state funding has been augmented by the US Department of Education AP Test Fee Grant Program, which gave a test fee subsidy of \$16 for AP exam and \$65 for each IB exam taken by eligible students.

However, with the passage of the ESSA, the AP Test Fee Grant Program was not renewed, which means that districts and schools will need to offset the prior federal exam subsidy with funds from their Title IV allotment, if they choose. While TEA has committed to filling the gap in federal exam subsidies for the 2016-2017 school year, it cannot offer funds to continue this funding for the 2017-2018 school year and beyond. Thus, to ensure that low-income students are not adversely affected by the changes in ESSA, TEA recommends that schools and districts use part of their Title IV funds to fund exam subsidies for low-income students, as was intended by the changes made to ESSA.

LEA Financial Commitment (start-up and annual costs) *

Annual costs will vary depending on the level of exam subsidy that schools and districts seek to offer and the number of eligible students taking exams. Districts and schools should consult their AP or IB coordinators for data on the number of eligible test-takers from year to year.

If districts and schools choose to fully replace the federal exam subsidy amount, then they should plan on the following amounts:

- \$16 for each eligible AP exam
- \$65 for each eligible AP Capstone exam
- \$65 for each eligible IB exam

**When possible, TEA staff has estimated costs by major expenditure categories used in the ESSA Consolidated Application and the Expenditure Reporting (ER) System. Costs, such as locally-determined salaries, benefits, and wages, could not be estimated.*

Goals and Student Achievement Objectives

By subsidizing the AP and IB exam fees for eligible public school students, schools and school districts will ensure that all students have access to opportunities to earn postsecondary credit at minimal cost. In addition, these subsidies will help increase the likelihood that low-income students apply for, attend, and succeed in college.

Expected Outcomes

Examples of expected outcomes of subsidizing AP and IB exam fees for low-income students are listed below. The outcomes are formatted as SMART goals (the percentage of _____ will increase from X% to Y% by Z (target date) or the number of _____ will increase from X to Y by Z).

- The number of low-income students enrolled in AP and IB courses will increase from X to Y by Z.
- The percentage of the low-income students who take an AP or IB exam will increase from X% to Y% by Z.
- The percentage of low-income students who earn college credit will increase from X% to Y% by Z.
- The number of low-income students who apply for financial aid for postsecondary education will increase from X to Y by Z.
- The percentage of low-income students who directly enroll in postsecondary education the fall after graduation will increase to Y%, up from X% currently, by Z.

How Will Success Be Measured and Data Sources Available

In school year 2015–2016, over 190,000 exams taken by low-income students qualified for state and federal exam subsidies –roughly 60,000 more than in 2012. Based on this impressive growth, TEA fully expects the number of low-income students taking AP and IB exams to continue to grow annually.

Success will be measured by both the continued growth in low-income students eligible for exam subsidies and increased percent of eligible students earning college credit based on AP and IB exam scores. Both the College Board and the International Baccalaureate Organization offer data, and the TEA tracks the number of eligible exams as part of the state-run Texas Success Initiative.

Training and Support TEA Offers

Training and support for the AP and IB programs are offered by the College Board and International Baccalaureate Organization.

Required Activities or Components

To be eligible for a test fee subsidy, a student must have taken an authorized AP or IB course in the applicable school year or have been recommended by the principal to take the exam and must have demonstrated financial need, as determined following 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.

Staffing Requirements for LEAs

Districts and schools already support program staff as part of their AP and IB program offerings.

Resources**

- [The College Board](#)
- [International Baccalaureate Organization](#)

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