

Louisiana Believes

Advanced Placement (AP[®]) Test Fee Funding Options for 2017-2018 and Beyond

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AP[®] Test Fee Funding Options Webinar

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- We will begin shortly. Thank you.

Overview

- I. AP[®] Equity and Access
- II. AP[®] Exams and Associated Fees
- III. ESSA and the Federal Funding Forecast
- IV. College Board AP[®] Exam Fee Reduction
- V. 2017-2018 Budgeting Options
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Advanced Placement (AP[®]) Equity and Access

In an effort to **reassure students and families** that AP[®] is still available and to **protect the progress** your district has made to close AP[®] equity gaps, local school systems are encouraged to consider making 2018 AP[®] Exams free or affordable to all low-income students.

The Department strongly encourages the **elimination of barriers** that restrict access to AP[®] for students from ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic groups that have been traditionally underrepresented. It is only through a **commitment to equitable preparation and access** that true equity and excellence can be achieved.

AP[®] Exams and Associated Costs

Advanced Placement (AP[®]) courses offer students the opportunity to **earn college credit** by taking rigorous courses in high school.

Students who demonstrate mastery of course material on an AP[®] exam – **a score of 3 or higher** out of 5 – may be eligible for **college credit** for the course.

Students take AP[®] exams annually in May.

There are fees associated with the AP[®] Exam, but **reductions** are available for **students with financial need**.

The fee for each **2018 AP[®] Exam is \$94**.

AP[®] Federal Funding Forecast

The total amount of federal funding provided to school systems under ESSA has increased from the prior school year. In Title I specifically, the amount of unrestricted funding flowing directly to school systems increased by \$8.7M, and an additional \$22.1M for competitive grants for school improvement was added.

To provide for that increase, **some small programs were eliminated in the ESSA reauthorization.** The majority of programs eliminated do not directly impact school systems. **The Advanced Placement (AP[®]) Incentive Program grant that provided partial reimbursements of exam fees for low-income students taking an AP assessment no longer exists under the new law.**

The College Board will continue to provide a reduced exam fee for low-income students, but the \$53 portion that was previously covered through the federal grant will need to be covered by a different funding source.

College Board AP[®] Exam Fee Reduction

The College Board provides a **\$32 fee reduction** per exam for students with [financial need](#).

For each AP[®] Exam taken with a fee reduction, the school forgoes its **\$9 rebate**, resulting in a cost of **\$53 per qualifying exam**.

2018 AP Exam Fee Reduction

AP exam fee	\$94
College Board fee reduction	\$32
School rebate	\$9
Reduced AP exam fee	\$53

2017-2018 Budgeting Options

- **TITLE I:** A school operating a schoolwide program may use Title I funds from **any activity that supports the needs of students** in the school as identified through the comprehensive needs assessment and articulated in the schoolwide plan.
- **TITLE IV, PART A:** Based on the Title I funding formula, funds authorized under Title IV, Part A may be used by school systems to support health and safety programs, **a diversity of academic programs** and modern technology.
- **TITLE V, PART B:** The Rural Education Initiative provides grant funds to rural school systems that serve concentrations of children from low-income families. Qualifying school systems may use Title V funds to more effectively **improve the quality of instruction and student academic achievement.**
- **MINIMUM FOUNDATION PROGRAM (MFP):** Funding through this program is provided to school districts as a block grant. School districts have the flexibility to spend the funding to meet the needs of their schools and students.

2018-2019 Budgeting Options

DIRECT STUDENT SERVICES (DSS)

- As outlined in the [approved state ESSA plan](#), Louisiana will set aside and redistribute, using the Title I formula, three percent of the state's total Title I allotment to local school systems. School systems must develop a budget for these set-aside funds **that supports students with the greatest needs in gaining access to academic courses**, credentials, and services that are not currently available at their schools.
- Student experiences may include activities that **assist students in successfully completing postsecondary level instruction and examinations** that are accepted for credit at institutions of higher education (**including Advanced Placement** and International Baccalaureate courses), which may include reimbursing low-income students to cover part or all of the costs of fees for such examinations.

Contact Information

Office of Student Opportunities

For more information on AP[®] exam funding options for 2017-2018 and beyond, please contact:

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