**Funding AP Exams for Low-Income Students in** **Kentucky**

For 60 years, the Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) has been delivering equity and excellence to millions of students across the country. Called the single happiest education story of the centuryi, more students—from more diverse backgrounds than ever before—are participating and succeeding in AP. Students with qualifying AP Exam scores can earn credit and skip intro-level courses at many colleges, saving them time and money as they work toward their degree.

Thanks to funding support from states, the federal government, and the College Board, **there has been a significant increase in AP participation by low-income students.** In the last 10 years, the **number of low-income students taking AP Exams has grown from 238,000 in 2009 to 619,000 in 2019 – an increase of 160%**. Providing government funding for low-income students increases AP participation for this important population. In states that provided funding for low-income students in 2019, AP participation increased. In states that did not dedicate funding for low-income AP students, participation dropped.

**AP Funding in Kentucky**

* The state covered the full cost of May 2019 AP Exams taken by low-income students.
* This funding helped to ensure that all students had the opportunity to experience the benefits of challenging coursework.
* 26% of 2019 AP public school examinees in Kentucky were low-income, higher than the national average of 25%.

**Funding Sources for AP Exams**

* **Title IV, Part A:** In FY2019, Congress increased Title IV, Part A funding to $1.17 billion. Kentucky and its districts can use these funds to cover part or all of the cost of AP Exams in 2020 for low-income students. The vast majority (95%) of this funding will go to districts; states may reserve 1% for administrative purposes and an additional 4% for state-level activities. States can use their set-aside to fund any state-level activity they choose, including AP Exam fees for low-income students.
* **Estimated FY19 Title IV, Part A State Set-Aside (4% of total allocation) for Kentucky:** $690,102
* **State and Local Funds:** A number of states cover the costs of their students’ AP Exams by using state funds. For example, Arkansas, Florida, North Carolina, and South Carolina cover the cost of AP Exams for all their students using state funds.
* **Title I:** Districts or schools receiving Title I funds may use those funds to cover a portion of AP Exam fees for low-income students. The funds must be used to supplement and not supplant any state or local funding for AP Exams. States may also reserve 3% of their Title I funds for Direct Student Services, which can include reimbursing AP Exam fees for low-income students.
* **A Combination of the Above:** Funding sources can be combined in creative ways. For example, a state could partially cover low-income students’ exams using state funds and then cover the remaining costs with their Title IV, Part A set-aside. Or a state could cover a portion of the cost with state funds and encourage districts to cover remaining costs from their Title IV, Part A allocation. We encourage states to start working now with districts on a plan to fund their AP programs.

**Cost of Low-Income AP Exams**

* In 2020, the cost to make AP Exams free for low-income students will be:
	+ - $53 per AP Exam, except AP Seminar and AP Research Exams
		- $101 per AP Seminar and AP Research Exam

**AP is a high quality, low-cost educational success story.**

* Each of AP’s 38 courses is modeled upon a comparable college course. College and university faculty play a vital role in ensuring that AP courses align with college-level standards. Each AP course concludes with a college-level exam developed and scored by college and university faculty members as well as experienced AP teachers.
* Performing well on an AP Exam means more than just the successful completion of a course. Most colleges and universities accept successful exam scores for credit, advanced placement, or both. And research consistently shows that students who score a 3 or above typically earn higher GPAs in college and have higher graduation rates.