

Greetings,

I am writing to request support for an important program that directly impacts students in my school and district. For several years our community has depended on the ODE **AP/IB Exam Fee Scholarship Program** to support low income students to register for rigorous exams in all subjects that potentially earn them college credit. We have been informed that this year will be the last year of this program - that this program will disappear with no comparable replacement.

What this means for our students and families is that now, regardless of income, they will be responsible for ALL fees associated with exam registration. For a student on the "free and reduced lunch program" who began their two year IB experience this year at no cost may be asked to contribute over \$500 next year to complete their intended program. Over the past several years we have been able to access the scholarship program to lower our published cost to students and families.

In my individual conversations with students about the benefits of taking these exams, the cost is the point where the conversation changes. For a teenager to weigh the potential benefit of many college credits with the immediate cost of hundreds of dollars is very difficult and discouraging.

**The cost of exam registration will be a significant barrier to equitable participation in our most rigorous college readiness experiences.**

I know this program has directly impacted students around the state, it has allowed them to attend and contribute to our institutions of higher learning, and reduced the financial burden of accelerated learning experiences and university level education.

**The AP/IB Exam Fee Scholarship makes a difference in the lives of our most vulnerable students.**

Please put the AP/IB Exam Fee Scholarship Program back into the budget!

Thank you,

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