

Funding AP Exams for Low-Income Students in Oregon

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 century¹, 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.

Funding Sources for AP Exams

- **Title IV, Part A:** In FY2018, Congress increased Title IV, Part A funding from \$400 million to \$1.1 billion. Oregon and its districts can use these funds to cover part or all of the cost of AP Exams in 2019 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 FY18 Title IV, Part A State Set-Aside for Oregon:** \$420,120 (up from \$152,770 in FY17)
- **State and Local Funds:** A number of states, including Oregon, 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.

Projected Cost of Low-Income AP Exams in Oregon

- In 2019, the costs to make AP Exams free for low-income students in Oregon will be:
 - \$53 per AP Exam, except AP Seminar and AP Research Exams
 - \$101 per AP Seminar and AP Research Exam

- Below is College Board’s best guess, based on past volume, of the approximate number of AP Exams that will be taken by low-income students in Oregon in 2019 and the funding required.

	2019 All Schools	2019 Public Schools Only
Total projected AP Exams taken by low-income students	7,730	7,620
Projected net AP Exam price for low-income students	\$53	\$53
Projected number of AP Capstone Exams taken by low-income students ⁱⁱ	39	39
AP Capstone Exam price	\$101	\$101
Total projected cost to make AP Exams free for all low-income students	\$411,562	\$405,732

AP Funding in Oregon

- For May 2018 AP Exams, the state provided \$26 per AP Exam for low-income students.
- This funding helped ensure that all students had the opportunity to benefit from challenging coursework. The number of low-income students taking an AP exam in Oregon in 2018 increased by 6.5% over 2017 levels. AP participation by low-income students grew faster in 2018 than participation by non-low-income students in Oregon, which helps to close equity gaps.

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.

i. Malkus, Nat (2016). American Enterprise Institute.

ii. Feel free to make your own projections for AP Capstone volume based on your knowledge of expected AP Capstone growth in the state for the 2018-19 school year. In 2017, Oregon low-income students took 12 AP Capstone exams.