

## **Connecticut State Department of Education Advanced Placement Program**

Every year the Connecticut State Department of Education seeks funding to pay for the Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) test fees for the state's low-income students who are enrolled in AP or IB courses in public and non-public schools. This funding will ensure that all eligible low-income students in Connecticut receive the financial assistance required to take the AP and IB tests. These courses and tests can provide genuine benefits to students planning to attend college.

This program especially broadens the level of college preparation and increases opportunities for college admissions for low-income students. Through participation in this program, an increasing number of students from low-income households will achieve higher academic standards in English, mathematics, science and other AP subjects. Participation in this program also expands the potential pool of students who might consider choosing career paths in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) during their college and, or university tenure. Between 2009 and 2011, the number of low-income students in Connecticut taking AP and IB tests has increased (AP: from 3,237 to 4,994, a 54 percent increase). The AP Test Fee program makes it possible for those students to take AP and International Baccalaureate (IB) Tests that they might otherwise find beyond their financial means.

The following statements indicate a growth in low-income students' participation in AP courses and test-taking.

- an average increase of 19 percent in low-income test takers over the last three years;
- Connecticut continues to oversee the National Mathematics and Science Initiative (NMS)
- grant that also generates new student participation in AP courses and tests;
- the Project Opening Door also contributes to the increase in the number of low-income students taking AP courses and tests.
- strong emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) program in
- several of Connecticut high schools, including the large urban districts;
- the estimated number of IB test fees (including test registration fees) is added to the estimated
- number of anticipated AP test fees to determine the total amount of this request.

Because the CT Department of Education seeks funding for the AP Test fees Program, Students can take the AP exam at no cost to them or their parents. Teachers are encouraged to prepare more students from low-income backgrounds to participate in the rigorous AP courses and actually take the AP exams. Parents are encouraged to provide an environment at home that will foster a curious mind, a passion for inquiry and a commitment to learning.

Please browse the State Department of Education website to learn more about the CT AP program.