February 2, 2018

Dear Superintendents and Principals,

In the 2015-16 school year, the United States Department of Education (USED) announced the elimination of the Advanced Placement (AP) Test Fee Grant Program, which provided funding for low-income students to take AP exams at a reduced rate. When the AP Test Fee Grant program ended in 2016, the per exam cost was $93. In recent years, the federal grant paid $38, the College Board provided a $31 fee reduction, and a $9 per exam rebate for low-income students was discounted. This left a balance of $15 per exam, which local districts had to cover.

According to [*702 KAR 3:220, Guidelines for Waiver of School Fees*](http://www.lrc.ky.gov/kar/702/003/220.htm)*, Section 1,* schools and districts are required to establish a process to waive any applicable fees charged by the district for pupils who qualify for free or reduced-price meals (F/R).

Last school year, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) was able to designate funds to cover all the fees for low-income students, making AP exams free for these students with no outstanding costs passed along to the schools and districts. As a result, the number of AP exams taken by low-income students increased by 13.9% over the previous year. The number of these exams with a qualifying score (QS) of three or more points (the score that typically qualifies students to receive college credit for AP coursework) also increased by 13.9%. KDE recognizes that when given the opportunity and access to take rigorous coursework like AP, Kentucky’s low-income students are finding unprecedented success.

**I am delighted to announce that for the 2017-18 school year only, once again KDE has been able to set aside funds to pay for AP exams taken by students who qualify for F/R meals.** In other words, the remaining balance of $53 will not be paid by the student, school or district. This amount will be paid by KDE in the hope that schools will continue to provide Kentucky’s low-income students with the opportunity to take rigorous AP courses that prepare them to excel in their future college and career choices.

Here is a breakdown of the 2017-18 AP Exam fee schedule for students who are eligible for free/reduced-priced meals:

Information related to AP exam fees for future years is not available at this time.

Original AP Exam Fee-$94
College Board fee reduction-$32
School exam rebate (waived for F/R meal-eligible student exams)-$9

Amount left over-$53
F/R meal-eligible student pays-$0
School/district pays-$0
KDE pays-$53

If you have additional questions, please contact Jennifer Pusateri, AP State Coordinator, by email at [jennifer.pusateri@education.ky.gov](mailto:jennifer.pusateri@education.ky.gov) or by phone at 502-564-4970 x.4116.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Pruitt, Ph.D.

Commissioner of Education