



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
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GOVERNOR

August 31, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Principals, Charter School Administrators, State-Supported School Administrators, and Bureau of Indian Education Administrators

FROM: Dr. Gwendolyn Perea Warniment, ^{C. P. W.} Deputy Secretary of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment

RE: Advanced Placement Exam Fee Reduction Program

The New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) strongly believes that all students should have equal access to the full benefit of Advanced Placement[®] (AP) coursework.

AP students do college-level work in high school, and if they score a 3 or higher on the AP exam, they can earn college credit. All public colleges in New Mexico follow a standard, guaranteed AP credit policy. (Details are available through the Higher Education Department's website at https://hed.state.nm.us/resources-for-schools/public_schools/nm_advanced_placement_policy. You can also find the acceptance policies for most out-of-state and private universities by searching the College Board website at <https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/getting-credit-placement/search-policies>.) Please support and encourage students taking an AP course to take the corresponding AP exam and to submit score(s) to at least one college or university.

The PED will again cover a large portion of the exam fee for students who are eligible for free or reduced price lunch, resulting in a total cost to students of \$3 per exam. In order for students to qualify for the reduced Advanced Placement exam fee, the student's family must complete the National School Lunch Program eligibility form. While school lunches are covered for all students in 2021-22, only students who have a complete eligibility application are eligible for the Advanced Placement fee waiver.

The testing window for AP exams opens Monday, May 2, 2022 and runs through Friday, May 13, 2022. College Board plans to continue with the possibility of either in person or virtual testing, depending on conditions next spring.

Combined with expanded access to AP courses, the fee reduction program creates the opportunity to earn portable college credit for many students who previously could not afford to take the exam after completing the course. Without this state funding, the AP exam, and therefore college credit access, might be limited for many NM students. More information and deadlines concerning the NM Fee Reduction Program are available at www.APNewMexico.org.

Below is a breakdown of cost sharing for the AP exam fees charged to students on free or reduced price lunch programs:

SOURCE OF FUNDING	AMOUNT IN DOLLARS
State funded fee reduction	50.00
College Board fee reduction	34.00
School administration fee waived	9.00
Student contribution	3.00
TOTAL AP EXAM FEE	\$96.00

Students must register for AP exams by **November 15, 2021** (except spring-only courses). After November 15, a *late registration fee* of \$40 will be added to the “Total AP Exam Fee”. Should a student decide not to take an exam, a \$40 *cancellation/unused exam fee* will be owed. These fees will be owed even if a student is eligible for College Board fee reductions.

The College Board is continuing support to AP educators with resources adapted to virtual and hybrid learning models. More information is available at the AP website: <https://ap.collegeboard.org/>. We strongly affirm our commitment to ensure that AP participation continues to grow as it has for the past ten years, making it equitable and accessible to all students.

Please join me in working to ensure that all students in our state have access to rigorous, college-preparation coursework, such as AP, and the opportunity to earn college credit through AP exams.

GPW/EP/alm

cc: Kurt Steinhaus, Ed.D, Secretary of Education Designate
Jacqueline Costales, Division Director, Curriculum and Instruction
Elaine Perea, PhD, Director, College and Career Readiness Bureau