



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: December 23, 2025
To: Local Educational Agency Leads, Nonpublic School Administrators and Principals
Route To: High School Principals, Advanced Placement Coordinators, School Counselors
From: Jorden Schiff, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Teaching and Learning Services

2025-2026 School Year Advanced Placement Test Fee (APTF) Program

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) proudly announces its continued participation in the Advanced Placement Exam Fee Reduction program, increasing access to exams for students with financial need. In the 2025-2026 school year, the Advanced Placement (AP) test fee will be offset with support from the College Board and the NJDOE for students enrolled in an AP class and who qualify as low-income. A low-income student is defined as a child aged 5 through 19 from a low-income family, based on eligibility for free or reduced-price lunches under the *National School Lunch Act*.

The following will apply for each 2026 AP Exam (including AP Seminar and AP Research Exams) taken by students enrolled in the State's public or non-public schools who qualify for the College Board AP Exam fee reduction, as confirmed by the school's AP coordinator:

- The College Board will provide a \$37 fee reduction per exam;
- The applicable school will forego its \$9 rebate per exam;
- The State will pay \$45 per exam to the College Board; and
- **The student will pay \$8 per exam.**

The College Board will bill the State directly, based on the number of fee-reduced exams administered. This is determined by each school and as indicated by the applicable school's AP coordinator in the AP Registration and Ordering system.

Other Federal Funding Sources (Title I-A, Title IV-A, and ESSER)

Under the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA)*, as amended by the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*, districts are permitted to dedicate a portion of the Title I, Part A and/or Title IV, Part A funding they receive to defray the cost of AP and other advanced course or industry credential exams taken by low-income students. For more information on allowable uses of federal funds, refer to the NJDOE's "[Unlocking Your Federal Funds Guidance](#)."

If intending to use Title I, Part A or Title IV, Part A funds for this purpose, districts must ensure such costs are supported by their needs assessment and reflected in the budget section of their 2025-2026 ESEA Consolidated.

Additionally, LEAs implementing a Title I-A Schoolwide Program must ensure these costs are articulated in their annual school plan (ASP) as this is a Title I-A requirement.

Please share this information with the appropriate staff. If you have questions regarding the Advanced Placement Test Fee program, please contact APexams@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group