



COLLEGE & CAREER PATHWAYS

AP Incentive Program Model Policy

ExcelinEd Policy Toolkit - 2018

MODEL POLICY - ADVANCED PLACEMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to incentive funding for students who earn a qualifying score on Advanced Placement examinations.

The Legislature of _____ enacts:

§1. Section _____ is created to read:

Section _____. Advanced placement incentive program; bonus funds—

A. A value of _____ full-time equivalent student membership shall be calculated for each student in each advanced placement course who receives a score of 3 or higher on the College Board Advanced Placement Examination for the prior year and added to the total full-time equivalent student membership in basic programs for grades 9 through 12 in the subsequent fiscal year. Each school district must allocate at least 80 percent of the funds provided to the district for advanced placement instruction, in accordance with this subsection, to the school that generates the funds.

B. Teacher Bonuses. The school district shall distribute to each classroom teacher who provided advanced placement instruction:

1. A bonus in the amount of \$_____ for each student taught by the Advanced Placement teacher in each advanced placement course who receives a score of 3 or higher on the College Board Advanced Placement Examination.

2. An additional bonus of \$_____ to each Advanced Placement teacher in a school designated by the Department of Education as a low-performing school who has at least one student scoring 3 or higher on the College Board Advanced Placement Examination, regard-less of the number of classes taught or of the number of students scoring a 3 or higher on the College Board Advanced Placement Examination.

3. Bonuses awarded to a teacher according to this paragraph shall be in addition to any regular wage or other bonus the teacher received or is scheduled to receive.

C. Unless a different amount is specified in the General Appropriations Act, the appropriation for this calculation is limited to \$_____ million annually. If the appropriation is insufficient to fully fund the total calculation, the appropriation shall be prorated.

§2. This act becomes effective _____.



DECISION POINTS

| # | Decision Issue | Model Recommendation |
|----|--|---|
| #1 | Should bonus funding be provided to schools for successful students in International Baccalaureate programs? | Yes. If a state funds student success in International Baccalaureate programs, it should use the same format for Advanced Placement and require a student score of 4 or higher to trigger incentive funding. |
| #2 | Should bonus funding be provided through the funding formula or a flat amount provided in the general appropriations act or law? | Some states do not have weighted funding and will need to proceed with a flat amount. The model legislation recommends states to pursue bonus funding through the funding formula because (1) funding for student success in Advanced Placement will grow or shrink with the overall budget and the state's economy, (2) funding would less likely to be eliminated during a state deficit, and (3) school districts will be more confident that funding will continue in the future to encourage longer-term investment in Advanced Placement courses. |
| #3 | Should the state provide additional funding to pay for at least one administration of an Advanced Placement exam? | This decision is up to the state. The model legislation incorporates the test fees into the funding provided to the school districts. |
| #4 | Should the state cap the amount of the teacher bonus each year? | The model legislation does not cap the amount of the teacher bonus. For fiscal reasons, a state may consider a cap, such as \$2,000-\$3,000 per year. However, the state may want to waive the cap for each traditionally underrepresented student (low-income, rural, or minority, e.g.) that earns a qualifying score. |