
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 375 Session of
2001

INTRODUCED BY CORRIGAN, BELFANTI, CAPPABIANCA, COLAFELLA,
GRUCELA, HENNESSEY, HORSEY, LAUGHLIN, READSHAW, ROSS,
SAINATO, SHANER, STABACK, STURLA, TIGUE AND GEORGE,
JANUARY 31, 2001

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JANUARY 31, 2001

AN ACT

1 Authorizing an advanced placement incentive grant program for
2 school districts; providing for the powers and duties of the
3 Department of Education; and making an appropriation.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Advanced
8 Placement Incentive Act.

9 Section 2. Definitions.

10 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
11 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
12 context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 "Advanced placement course." A high school level preparatory
14 course for advanced placement examination that is approved by
15 the College Board and Educational Testing Service.

16 "Advanced placement examination." The advanced placement
17 examination conducted by the College Entrance Examination Board,

on the basis of which participating institutions of postsecondary education award postsecondary academic credit.

"College board." The College Board and Educational Testing Service.

"Department." The Department of Education of the Commonwealth.

"Low-income student." A high school student who is eligible for Federal free or reduced meal programs or attends a school where at least 75% of all students enrolled are eligible for Federal free or reduced meal programs.

"Secretary." The Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth.

Section 3. Advanced placement incentive grants.

The department shall establish an advanced placement incentive grant program to assist school districts with the costs of advanced placement examination fees for low-income students, teacher training and materials necessary to offer advanced placement courses in high school.

Section 4. Procedure.

(a) Applications.--

(1) School districts may apply to the department for grants pursuant to section 3 based on the number of low-income students in the district enrolled in advanced placement courses who will take the next offered advanced placement examinations.

(2) A school district that applies to the department for this purpose shall designate school district staff to whom low-income students may submit applications for grants and shall institute a plan to notify such students of the availability of financial assistance pursuant to this section.

1 (b) Right to apply.--Any low-income student who is enrolled
2 in an advanced placement course may apply to the designated
3 school district staff for a grant pursuant to this section.

4 (c) Cooperation among school districts.--School districts
5 may join together and form collaboratives or consortia in order
6 to participate in the grant program established by this section.

7 Section 5. Grants for advanced placement teacher training and
8 instructional materials.

9 School districts may apply to the department for grants
10 pursuant to section 3 for the purpose of teacher training,
11 equipment and instructional materials necessary to provide
12 advanced placement courses and to assist low-income students
13 with the costs associated with advanced placement examinations.

14 Section 6. Report.

15 No later than January 1, 2004, the secretary shall submit a
16 report to the General Assembly describing the effectiveness of
17 the grant program established pursuant to section 3. The report
18 shall include, but not be limited to:

19 (1) The total number of pupils participating in advanced
20 placement examinations, separately identifying the number of
21 low-income students, and any increase in those numbers as a
22 result of the funding made available pursuant to section 3.

23 (2) The performance and pass rates on advanced placement
24 examinations on the part of low-income students, including
25 any increase in those rates.

26 (3) The number of pupils receiving financial assistance
27 pursuant to section 3.

28 (4) The number of low-income students in advanced
29 placement programs who enroll in higher education
30 institutions, separated by sector.

1 (5) The number of low-income students who have passed an
2 advanced placement examination with a score of three or
3 better in any subject area and have taken an advanced
4 placement course in that subject.

5 Section 7. Appropriation.

6 The sum of \$300,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary,
7 is hereby appropriated to the Department of Education for the
8 fiscal year July 1, 2001, to June 30, 2002, for the
9 establishment and operation of the Advanced Placement Incentive
10 Program authorized by this act.

11 Section 8. Effective date.

12 This act shall take effect immediately.