
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 774 Session of
2005

INTRODUCED BY CORRIGAN, MELIO, CALTAGIRONE, DALEY, BEBKO-JONES,
CRUZ, DeWEESE, FABRIZIO, FREEMAN, GOODMAN, HARHAI, JAMES,
KOTIK, MANN, McILHATTAN, PALLONE, READSHAW, ROONEY, SAINATO,
SHANER, STURLA, TIGUE, BROWNE, CURRY, EACHUS, FRANKEL,
GEORGE, GRUCELA, HERMAN, JOSEPHS, LEACH, McGEEHAN, O'NEILL,
PISTELLA, ROEBUCK, ROSS, SCAVELLO, STABACK AND THOMAS,
MARCH 14, 2005

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, MARCH 14, 2005

AN ACT

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

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

1 examination conducted by the College Entrance Examination Board,
2 on the basis of which participating institutions of
3 postsecondary education award postsecondary academic credit.

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

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

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

12 "Program." The Advanced Placement Incentive Grant Program
13 established under section 3 (relating to Advanced Placement
14 Incentive Grant Program).

15 "Secretary." The Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth.
16 Section 3. Advanced Placement Incentive Grant Program.

17 The Advanced Placement Incentive Grant Program is established
18 to assist school districts with the costs of advanced placement
19 examination fees for low-income students, teacher training and
20 materials necessary to offer advanced placement courses in high
21 school. The program shall be administered by the department.

22 Section 4. Procedure.

23 (a) Applications.--

24 (1) School districts may apply to the department for
25 grants pursuant to section 3 (relating to Advanced Placement
26 Incentive Grant Program) based on the number of low-income
27 students in the district enrolled in advanced placement
28 courses who will take the next offered advanced placement
29 examinations.

30 (2) A school district that applies to the department

1 under this subsection must designate school district staff to
2 whom low-income students may submit applications for grants
3 and must institute a plan to notify such students of the
4 availability of financial assistance pursuant to this
5 section.

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

9 (c) Cooperation among school districts.--School districts
10 may join together and form collaboratives or consortia in order
11 to participate in the program.

12 Section 5. Grants for advanced placement teacher training and
13 instructional materials.

14 School districts may apply to the department for grants
15 pursuant to section 3 (relating to Advanced Placement Incentive
16 Grant Program) for the purpose of teacher training, equipment
17 and instructional materials necessary to provide advanced
18 placement courses and to assist low-income students with the
19 costs associated with advanced placement examinations.

20 Section 6. Report.

21 No later than January 1, 2007, the secretary shall submit a
22 report to the General Assembly describing the effectiveness of
23 the program. The report shall include, but not be limited to:

24 (1) The total number of pupils participating in advanced
25 placement examinations, separately identifying the number of
26 low-income students, and any increase in those numbers as a
27 result of the grants made available pursuant to section 3
28 (relating to Advanced Placement Incentive Grant Program).

29 (2) The performance and pass rates on advanced placement
30 examinations on the part of low-income students, including

1 any increase in those rates.

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

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

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

11 Section 7. Effective date.

12 This act shall take effect July 1, 2005, or immediately,
13 whichever is later.