



TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

1701 North Congress Ave. ★ Austin, Texas 78701-1494 ★ 512/463-9734 ★ FAX: 512/463-9838 ★ <http://www.tea.state.tx.us>

Mike Moses
Commissioner of Education

**INFORMATION
ONLY**

August 26, 1999

TO THE ADMINISTRATOR ADDRESSED:

SUBJECT: Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate Incentive Program

During the recently completed legislative session, one of the real success stories in education was the growth of the Advanced Placement (AP)/International Baccalaureate (IB) Incentive Program. In high school campuses across Texas, more students have the opportunity to participate in highly challenging advanced level courses.

In May 1999 the legislature voted to substantially increase its funding for the program, and this enables the agency to fund more components of the AP/IB program. The following components will be funded for the 1999-2000 school year. Additional information on each of the components will be sent to districts throughout the year and also will be posted on the agency's web page at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/gted>.

- The agency will assume \$30 of the cost of every AP/IB examination taken by eligible Texas high school students. For the May 2000 testing, Texas students will pay no more than \$46 for each Advanced Placement examination. International Baccalaureate examinations will be covered in the program as well, with the cost of an examination being no more than \$18. To be eligible, students must have taken a PEIMS-designated AP/IB course.
- Students in financial need will receive further federal and state fee reductions. Students who are eligible for financial need reductions as outlined by the College Board are eligible for further fee reductions in addition to the \$30 rebate. Students who are eligible for the additional fee waivers will pay \$5 per AP/IB examination if campuses waive the school administration fee as recommended by the College Board.
- Teacher training stipends of up to \$450 will be available for AP/IB approved workshops. As in the past, AP summer institutes and IB teacher training workshops and summer programs will be reimbursed up to \$450 for tuition and per diem.
- Campuses will receive recognition for high student performance. To recognize the added efforts campuses must make to offer successful advanced level courses, the AP/IB legislation awards campuses a financial bonus for each student who scores three or above on the AP examination or four and above on an IB examination. The amount of the award can not be announced at this time because it is dependent

upon both the number of students taking examinations and the number who receive the indicated score.

- Campuses may apply for equipment grants of up to \$3,000. The application for these grants, which are limited to 150 during this fiscal year, will be sent to districts in early September. Award of the grants will be based on need as indicated in legislative requirements.

These exciting opportunities are available only because of the hard work of educators and students throughout Texas who worked so hard over the past few years. In the five years since the AP/IB Incentive Program has been in existence, the number of students taking examinations has more than doubled. Almost 90,000 examinations were taken by Texas public school students in 1999, and over 15,000 examinations were taken by students in financial need--an almost 350% increase in the number of examinations taken by students in financial need since 1993.

One of the highlights of my tenure as commissioner has been watching this program grow across Texas. Hopefully, the funding of new components will provide continued progress. Should you like more information on the program and the funded components, please visit the TEA website at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/gted> or call the Division of Advanced Academic Services at (512) 463-9455.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Moses", written in a cursive style.

Mike Moses
Commissioner of Education