



U.S. Department of Education

Education Department Awards 40 States, D.C., and the Virgin Islands \$28.4 Million in Grants to Help Low-Income Students Take Advanced Placement Tests

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The U.S. Department of Education announced today that it has awarded \$28.4 million in grants to 40 states, Washington, D.C., and the Virgin Islands as part of its efforts to boost college-and career readiness for historically underserved students.

The grants will help defray the costs of taking advanced placement tests for low-income students.

"We know that when students of all backgrounds are held to high expectations they excel. High school instruction needs to become more rigorous to foster college and career-readiness, and provide multiple pathways to success in order to prepare students for the 21st century global economy. Advanced Placement courses are helping schools meet this challenge by developing the study skills, critical reasoning, and habits of mind that prepare students for college. These grants eliminate some of the financial roadblocks for low-income students taking Advanced Placement courses, letting them take tests with the potential of earning college credit while in high school," said U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

The grants are used to help pay for low-income students taking approved advanced placement tests administered by the College Board, the International Baccalaureate Organization and Cambridge International Examinations. By subsidizing test fees for low-income students, the program is intended to encourage those students to take advanced placement tests and obtain college credit for high school courses, reducing the time and cost required to complete a postsecondary degree.

Levels of funding per state were determined on the basis of state estimates of the numbers of tests that would be taken by low-income students. From 2013 to 2014, the number of tests for low income students covered by the program increased by over 6 percent.

Based on the anticipated number of tests to be taken, the grants under the Advanced Placement Test Fee Program are expected to be sufficient to pay all but \$18 of the cost of each advanced placement test taken by low-income students. States may opt to require students to pay a portion of the costs.

The Obama Administration's commitment to equity in education underlies nearly every significant activity of the Education Department—from [My Brother's Keeper](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/02/27/fact-sheet-opportunity-all-president-obama-launches-my-brother-s-keeper-) (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/02/27/fact-sheet-opportunity-all-president-obama-launches-my-brother-s-keeper->) to the proposed [Race to the Top-Equity and Opportunity](http://www.ed.gov/racetothetop-equity-opportunity) (<http://www.ed.gov/racetothetop-equity-opportunity>) grant program, which would create incentives for states and school districts to drive comprehensive change in how they identify and close opportunity and achievement gaps.

The Advanced Placement Test Fee program is administered by the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education. For additional information on the program and these new awards, visit <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/apfee/index.html> (<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/apfee/index.html>).

Below is the list of 2014 Discretionary Grants for the Advanced Placement Test Fee Program:

State	Applicant	Amount *
AK	State of Alaska Department of Education & Early Development	\$26,843
AL	Alabama Department of Education	\$40,034
AZ	Arizona Department of Education	\$704,137

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CA	California Department of Education	\$10,736,965
CO	Colorado Department of Education	\$455,128
CT	Connecticut State Department of Education	\$293,444
DC	Office of the State Superintendent of Education	\$141,334
DE	Delaware Department of Education	\$97,841
HI	Hawaii State Department of Education	\$104,030
IA	Iowa Department of Education	\$59,823
ID	Idaho State Department of Education	\$75,552
IL	Illinois State Board of Education	\$2,224,219
IN	Indiana Department of Education	\$474,939
KS	Kansas State Department of Education	\$82,176
KY	Kentucky Department of Education	\$464,887
LA	Louisiana Department of Education	\$281,745
MA	Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education	\$672,919
MD	Maryland State Department of Education	\$635,077
ME	State of Maine, Department of Education	\$83,961
MI	Michigan Department of Education	\$639,367
MO	Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education	\$188,048
MS	Mississippi Department of Education	\$54,287
MT	Montana Office of Public Instruction	\$4,604
NC	North Carolina Department of Public Instruction	\$759,099
NE	Nebraska Department of Education	\$5,331
NH	New Hampshire Department of Education	\$30,399
NJ	New Jersey Department of Education	\$585,366
NM	New Mexico Public Education Department	\$46,240
NV	Nevada Department of Education	\$435,616
NY	New York State Education Department	\$2,643,454
OH	Ohio Department of Education	\$349,518
OR	Oregon Department of Education	\$198,258
PA	Pennsylvania Department of Education	\$596,608
RI	Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education	\$74,057
SD	South Dakota Department of Education	\$7,513
TN	State of Tennessee	\$67,516
TX	Texas Education Agency	\$3,018,808
VA	Virginia Department of Education	\$358,608
VI	Virgin Islands Department of Education	\$16,745

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VT	Vermont Agency of Education	\$29,928
WA	Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction	\$655,883
WV	West Virginia Department of Education	\$62,693
Totals		\$28,483,000

* The award amounts reflect the amounts needed to fund the spring 2014 exams and a portion of the spring 2015 exams for each state.

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