



OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

Dear LEA Representative:

In December 2015, Congress passed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), a reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind legislation that governs federal, state, and local policy around assessments, school funding, and accountability and support for schools. As part of ESSA, the federal formula grant program that covered Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) test fees for low-income students has been moved into Title IV, Part A funding for “Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants.” The last round of AP and IB exams covered under the old funding stream, the Advanced Placement Test Fee program, were administered in spring of 2016.

With this updated funding structure, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) provides funding to local education agencies (LEAs) for low-income student AP and IB test fees under Title IV-A. This letter provides additional information, regulations, and guidance on how LEAs can approach financial support for low-income students taking AP and IB exams. Federal funding under the ESSA regulations begins with the allocation that states receive in summer prior to the school year. OSSE and LEAs may also use Title IV, Title I, and Title II funding to support other types of activities related to AP and IB access and performance, including funding specific AP and IB courses and exams (Title IV, Title I) and supporting professional development and training for AP and IB teachers (Title II).

Regulations on Title IV-A Funding Levels – Below \$10,000 and Above \$30,000

In addition, federal regulations require LEAs that do not receive at least \$10,000 under Title IV to join a consortium of LEAs to access funds. Many District of Columbia LEAs eligible for AP and IB exam funding for low-income students will not meet this \$10,000 threshold and will be required to enter a consortium in order to access funds. Once Congress determines the level of state allocations for Title IV funds, OSSE will notify LEAs that do not meet the threshold of the steps necessary to join a consortium to be able to access funds.

LEAs or consortia of LEAs receiving more than \$30,000 in Title IV funding are required to spend funds across three categories named in ESSA Title IV:

- Must use 20 percent or more of the funds to support activities that support well-rounded educational opportunities (this includes AP and IB exam fees);
- Must use 20 percent or more of the funds to support safe and healthy students; and
- Must use a portion of the funds to support the effective use of technology, including an assurance that the LEA or consortium will not use more than 15 percent of the remaining portion for purchasing technology infrastructure.

LEAs or consortia receiving between \$10,000 and \$30,000 do not have to abide by the funding restrictions listed above.

#### Next steps

- OSSE will notify LEAs about the level of state administrative costs available to cover low-income student exam fees in each, and how much will be available for each LEA to use toward AP and IB exam fees for low-income students.
- OSSE will be in touch about Title IV funding levels and will notify LEAs below the \$10,000 threshold that they need to join a consortium to access funds.

#### Program Contact

For more information and questions regarding AP and IB testing fees, please contact Joi Jones at [Joi.Jones@dc.gov](mailto:Joi.Jones@dc.gov).