



AzCAN believes that all students need to build a rigorous academic foundation and develop academic behaviors to prepare for education beyond high school. One program providing academic rigor and a means to college credit is Advanced Placement (AP). Although more than 300 Arizona schools offer AP courses, statewide gaps in funding and awareness are preventing us from achieving the full potential of and equal access to this program.

ADVOCACY

ISSUE 1: Submitting Scores for College Credit

In 2016 more than half of Arizona's seniors who took an AP exam did not send their scores to any college or university. Almost 30% of those students were low-income. 7,322 of the scores not sent were 3 or higher. Students can send one free score report by designating a postsecondary institution on their AP registration form. Once students receive their scores, they can also send score reports to colleges of their choice, for \$15 per request.

TAKE ACTION

1. Teach students to use AZTransfer's [Exam Equivalency Guide](#) to see how AP scores transfer to Arizona colleges and universities.
2. Encourage all students to use their free score report by designating a college on the registration form.
3. Promote **Just Pick One**, a reminder that there is no down side to naming an Arizona university or community college during AP registration.

ISSUE 2: Funding for Exams

Until 2017 Arizona school districts could use dedicated federal funds to subsidize exam fees for low-income students. To continue this practice, districts need to include it in their proposals for block grants known as Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants, or tap another funding source. AP exams are \$94 each, or \$53 for students with financial need.

TAKE ACTION

1. For 2018 there is [one-time funding](#) available through the Governor's Office and various donors to subsidize AP exams for students with financial need.
2. For 2019: Include AP exam subsidies in your district's Title IV-A [grant application](#) so that students with financial need will continue to have access to AP exams beyond 2018.

ISSUE 3: Bonuses for AP Teachers (A.R.S. 15-249.06)

The Arizona Department of Education is administering a credit by exam incentive program (encompassing AP, IB and Cambridge) in which \$450 per passing score in science, math and English is distributed to schools serving 50% or more free/reduced lunch students, and \$300 per passing score to all other schools. At least half the bonus must go to teachers.

Note: [HB 2663](#) added Social Studies to the list of subjects covered.

TAKE ACTION

1. Familiarize yourself and your staff with the language of the [legislation](#).
2. Discuss how your district will spend the 50% of the incentive that is not allocated to teachers, and what portion can be used to subsidize exam fees for students with financial need.