

AP® Opportunity Program Overview

All students who are academically ready for the rigor of the Advanced Placement Program (AP)—regardless of their location, background, or socioeconomic status—have a right to fulfill that potential. Although the number of low-income students participating in AP has grown steadily over the last decade, there are still thousands of low-income students who are solidly prepared for the rigors of AP, but lack access to these courses.

To expand access to the AP Program for low-income students, the College Board, through a \$1.2 million grant from the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation is launching the AP Opportunity Program. This initiative will enable over 80 schools across the nation to start 150 new AP courses, ultimately enrolling 9,000 students, during the 2014-2017 academic school years.

The goal of the five-year program is to ensure that low-income students, who are academically prepared for rigorous coursework, have access to AP courses and are encouraged to enroll.

By removing some of a school's significant barriers to starting an AP course, and asking a school to commit to the AP courses for at least three years, the College Board hopes the AP Opportunity Program will lead to sustainable AP programs for years to come.

School Selection Criteria

To focus the funding on schools with the most unmet student potential and need, the following data-driven criteria was used to develop the list of schools selected for this initiative:

- They are **public high schools** in the U.S.
- They **serve large numbers of low-income students**; 70% or higher of students qualify for free and reduced-price lunch (FRL).
- They have **ten or more students with high potential** to be successful in college-level AP courses that were not offered at the high school in the 2012-13 academic year. AP potential is indicated by their scores on the 2012 PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test). For this criterion, high AP potential is defined as a 60 percent or higher likelihood of scoring a 3, 4, or 5 on the AP Exam.

AP Subjects Eligible for the Program

The AP subjects included in this initiative are:

Biology,	Physics C: Mechanics,	English Literature and Composition,
Chemistry, Environmental Science,	Calculus AB,	U.S. Government and Politics,
Physics 1 and 2,	Calculus BC,	Macroeconomics,
Physics C: Electricity and	Computer Science A, Statistics,	Microeconomics,
Magnetism,	English Language and Composition,	United States History.

School Commitment

Schools that participate in the program will sign a Memorandum of Understanding committing to start one or more new AP course(s) and maintain these courses for a minimum of three years. This will enable the new course(s) to become an integral part of the school's overall AP course offerings. New AP courses will need to have a minimum of 10 students. Schools will follow their usual enrollment policies, as well as use AP Potential data to identify students with high potential and encourage them to enroll.

Program Support for Schools and Teachers

This grant will provide each participating school with “start-up” funding for the classroom resources, educational materials, and teacher professional development typically needed to start one or more new AP courses. In addition, each teacher will receive “replacement funding” in years 2 and 3 to replace any materials depleted by the class like lab materials. Funding for classroom resources varies by course and ranges from \$1,200 for AP Computer Science A to \$9,000 for AP Chemistry; it is provided in the form of a DonorsChoose.org gift card.

Teachers of the new AP course(s) in participating schools will attend a 4-5 day subject-specific professional development workshop called an AP Summer Institute (APSI), which can range in cost from \$400-\$1,400 based on the state (and existing state subsidies). Participating teachers will register for a local AP Summer Institute and the tuition will be paid directly to the APSI Director by the College Board. The district or school will provide the cost of transportation, any required lodging, and any meals not covered by the tuition cost.

A typical school will receive \$2,600-\$16,000 throughout the duration of the program.

Key Dates of the Program

January/February 2014: Information webinars available to explain the AP Opportunity Program; they are open to all state, district, and school administrators

January–March 31, 2014: Schools enroll in the AP Opportunity Program by submitting their Memorandum of Understanding.

April 30, 2014: Deadline by which teachers submit their Letters of Commitment and register for a 2014 AP Summer Institute.

March/April 2014: Administrators and teachers of schools enrolled in the program are invited to attend “Welcome Webinars” to learn more detailed program specifics.

March/April 2014: Teachers attend DonorsChoose.org webinars **and** register for AP Summer Institutes

April–August 2014: Teachers order classroom resources through DonorsChoose.org

June–August 2014: Teachers attend APSIs

August/September 2014: New AP Courses begin

November 15 2014: Schools submit AP Participation Form

November 2014–January 2015: Teachers submit AP Course Audit materials

May 2015: Students take AP Exams