

Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and Cambridge Fee Reduction Program for SY 2024-2025



Background:

At the 2024 Special Session I, the General Assembly appropriated \$750,000 in FY25 and FY26 to support economically disadvantaged students in public high schools taking Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or Cambridge Exams. Families who qualify for free and reduced lunch benefits are eligible for a fee reduction except for the last \$20 in exam fees per exam taken for those eligible student provided funding support. For students attending a school participating in the Community Eligibility Program (CEP), eligibility will be determined by the school division using the family’s income information. For additional information about eligibility, please see *Frequently Asked Questions*.

Per [Item 124 BBB, Chapter 2, Special Session 1, 2024](#), school divisions are responsible for providing eligible students and parents with notification of this financial assistance opportunity at the time of course enrollment and exam registration. VDOE’s Office of Parental Engagement has created a [flyer](#) for school division use.

An article announcing the fee reduction program was published in the [Virginia Education Update](#) on October 3, 2024.

Timeline:

October-November 2024	School divisions should promote the fee reduction program to families and students before and during test registration. VDOE’s Office of Parental Engagement has created a flyer for school division use.
December 6, 2024	School divisions must appoint a Person of Contact (POC) for this program. POCs should complete the FY 2025 AP-IB-Cambridge Funding Form by December 6, 2024 . The form will ask for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • POC Contact Information. • # of AP exam registrations for fee reduction eligible students. • # of IB exam registrations for fee reduction eligible students. • # of Cambridge exam registrations for fee reduction eligible students.
February 2025	School divisions will receive a Grant Award Notification (GAN) with reimbursement amounts awarded based on exam registration numbers for fee reduction eligible students. Funding will be provided shortly thereafter in a lump sum amount.
May 15, 2025-June 2, 2025	POCs will receive a form to update registration numbers for eligible students to actual tests taken by fee reduction eligible students. Forms should be completed by June 2, 2025 .
June-August 1, 2025	Pending new calculations per actual tests taken, unused funds will be returned to VDOE from school divisions by August 1, 2025 .

Frequently Asked Questions

How will school divisions determine student eligibility?

Public high school students who are eligible to receive free or reduced lunch also qualify for the fee-reduction program per the appropriation act. Division leaders should work with their school nutrition director to properly identify eligible students without violating 'overt identification' of such students. This information should be provided to limited personnel for direct program purposes only following local division processes.

For divisions or schools participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), eligibility is determined by the school division. School divisions should use one or more criteria to determine eligibility:

- Have families self-report that household income is at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
- Have families submit documentation of income from federal tax return or payroll stubs compared to FPL
- Have families submit eligibility letters for SNAP, TANF, or Medicaid

Can eligible students use the fee reduction on more than one qualifying exam?

Yes, pending availability of funds.

Are private school and/or homeschool students eligible for this fee reduction program?

No, per the appropriation act language, the fee reduction program is only for public high school students.

How will reimbursement funds be calculated?

Exam fees for eligible students will be reduced to \$20. If a program offers an automatic fee reduction based on economic hardship, that discount will be automatically factored into the reimbursement amount. Divisions can expect reimbursement based on the following calculations:

Advanced Placement (AP) Exams: Divisions will receive a reimbursement of \$33 per regular (non-capstone) AP exams and a reimbursement of \$81 for AP Research and AP Seminar exams.

International Baccalaureate (IB) Exams: Divisions will receive a reimbursement of \$103 per exam.

Cambridge Exams: Divisions will receive a reimbursement of \$94.50 per exam.

Divisions will be reimbursed in February based on test registration numbers for eligible students. After testing windows have closed, divisions will be required to provide the number of actual tests taken for eligible students and return unused funds to VDOE.

How long will this funding be available?

Funding is appropriated for FY25 and FY26.

Who should a school division contact for additional questions?

The contact for this program is [Amanda Nevetral](#), Director of the Office of Advanced Learning, 804-418-4693.