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STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

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SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

February 16, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Sally Vaughn, Ph.D. *Sally*
Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

SUBJECT: Information about the Advanced Placement Test Fee Reduction Grant
for fiscal year 2011-2012

For the past 10 years the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has received the Advanced Placement (AP) Test Fee Reduction Grant. This grant pays for AP tests and the International Baccalaureate (IB) test and registration fees for low income students.

Grant applications have typically been available in November with the application deadline being in mid-December. This year, due to budget issues at the federal level, funding for the AP Test Fee Reduction Grant has been approved by Congress at a reduced level.

The recently passed FY2012 Appropriations bill reduced the funding for the AP Test Fee and Incentive Programs from last year's allocation of \$43 million to \$26.95 million. Given the current budget climate, this is a comparatively positive outcome that attests to the value of the federal AP funding in boosting low-income students' college readiness and reducing their college costs.

However, the budget reduction will, by necessity, reduce the amount of the contribution made by the federal government to each low-income student's AP Exam fees. Below are the full details, which we expect will be formally announced by the US Department of Education in their forthcoming notice inviting applications from states for these funds.

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AP Test Fee Program – 2012

- The federal contribution to low-income students has been reduced from \$57 per exam to **\$38 per exam**, with a cap of three federally subsidized exams per low-income student in 2012.
- The College Board contribution to low-income students will increase from \$22 to **\$26 per exam**, with no cap on the number of subsidized exams per low-income student in 2012.
- This combination of federal and College Board subsidies results in a:
 - **\$15 per exam fee** for low-income students for up to three AP Exams per student this year.
 - **\$53 per exam fee** for low-income students for the 4th, 5th, 6th, and additional AP Exams they take this year.

When the MDE receives additional information regarding the AP Test Fee Reduction Grant application, we will send further correspondence.

International Baccalaureate (IB) tests and registration fees funding will also be reduced. The MDE will provide detailed information when received.

Please direct any questions to Sam Sinicropi at 517-241-6895 or email to SinicropiS@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance