

## **SB 267 Maryland AP Opportunities Act of 2020**

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The College Board is a nonprofit, membership organization comprised of more than 6,000 colleges, schools, and districts. Each year, we work with our partners to help clear a path for more than seven million students to own their own future through dozens of programs and services—including the SAT and Advanced Placement Program.

For us success is measured by the opportunities we deliver to students, including: how many low-income students take the SAT and AP Exams using a fee waiver; how many students study with free, personalized Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy; and how many students are connected to scholarships and free college planning resources. AP enables academically prepared students to pursue college-level studies while still in high school. This gives them the opportunity to earn college credit, placement in subsequent coursework, or both—helping them save time and money on college costs.

Dedicated federal funding for AP Exam fees was discontinued in 2017. Many states have subsequently stepped in to pick up the fees for low-income students wanting to take AP Exams. The College Board's 2019 AP administration data shows that a state commitment matters for low-income students. Participation among low-income students *grew* in states that committed to pay for some or all of a low-income student's AP Exam. Participation *declined* in states that did not pay for exams.

The College Board is pleased that Maryland is interested in partnering with us to support the state's low-income students. We support HB348 and SB267, which will invest in these hardworking students who deserve access to the opportunities that AP provides. HB348 and SB267 will ensure that over 20,000 Maryland students will pay nothing to take an AP Exam.

Following challenging coursework, success on AP exams helps students save money on college tuition and potentially graduate with less student debt over the course of their education. Research shows that AP students are better prepared for college. They are more likely to enroll in college, stay in college, do well in their classes, and graduate on time in four years.

Given all we know about the importance of AP, it's critical that all students with the potential to succeed in college-level coursework while in high school can access those opportunities. State funding is critical to providing a dedicated funding stream to support low-income AP students in Maryland and ensure that every student, regardless of his or her economic background, is given access to AP courses and exams.