



THE FLORIDA SENATE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ON
PRE-K - 12 EDUCATION

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MEMORANDUM

To: Interested District and School Administrators, Teachers, and Parents
From: Danny Burgess, Chair
Subject: Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and AICE Course Funding
Date: April 16, 2025

Over the last few weeks, I have heard from several school district officials, teachers, and parents regarding course funding for Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and Cambridge AICE (Advanced International Certificate of Education) classes. To avoid further confusion on this important issue, I want to be perfectly clear – the Senate budget does not reduce or eliminate funding for these in-demand course options. To the contrary, the Senate budget continues significantly enhanced funding to cover class and testing costs, as well as bonuses for teachers whose students pass course exams. We also respond to district requests by providing flexibility schools have repeatedly asked for. I've included specific information below, which I hope will assuage concerns and provide further clarification.

Again this year, Florida taxpayers will make an unprecedented investment in our children's education, including an increase of nearly \$1 billion for public schools and our K-12 scholarships. We are also raising our annual investment in teacher raises to more than \$1.5 billion. New reporting requirements throughout the budget safeguard taxpayer dollars, improving accountability, transparency, and oversight of government spending. As part of that effort, when we crafted our K-12 budget, we looked for opportunities to better align funding with actual programs costs.

Each Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and AICE course is funded at approximately \$852 per course for 2024-25. These funds pay for the teacher's salary, professional development, instructional materials, etc. Over the years, greater value has been placed on these courses, which prepare students for college and career success. Prior Legislatures have made the policy decision to significantly weight these courses, paying a second \$852 per student (double funding) for each student who earns a certain score on the course exam.

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The Senate budget better aligns these important courses with actual costs. Instead of double funding, the school district will receive an additional \$426 per student who earns a certain score on the exam. According to cost reports from the Department of Education, this amount is sufficient to cover testing and teacher bonuses, with extra funds left over.

The second \$426 is left with the school districts, as part of an overall increase in funding. If a school district decides to keep investing those funds in AP/IB/AICE courses, like they were required to do previously, they are certainly free to do so. However, if a school district would rather spend the funds on teacher raises, student services, or other improvements, they would now have that flexibility. Our budget is designed to appropriately fund advanced courses (including teacher bonuses and student tests) but give districts freedom to spend the rest of these dollars as they see fit.

I'm proud of the Senate's strong track record of cutting red tape, ending needless bureaucracy, and supporting the parents and teachers who choose our neighborhood public schools. Our K-12 budget aligns with that overall policy objective. In our new environment of universal choice, where the money follows the student, our public schools are still the first choice for the majority of families. The Senate's K-12 budget supports their choice and continues to provide abundant funding for students who pursue advanced coursework and the talented instructors who teach these classes.