

Santa Barbara Unified School District Board Policy

BP 6141.5

Instruction

ADVANCED PLACEMENT

The Governing Board is committed to the educational excellence of all its students. Further, the Board believes that a challenging curriculum and high standards will promote educational excellence. One of the programs offered at the high school level that exemplifies this high standard is the Advanced Placement (AP) Program. The Governing Board supports the Advanced Placement Program as described by The College Board:

"The Advanced Placement Program is designed to enable motivated college-bound students to challenge themselves to complete college-level courses while still in high school and to obtain college advanced placement or credit, or both, on the basis of rigorous AP Examinations." (On Behalf of Educational Excellence, The College Boards, 1994)

It is the intent of the Governing Board that rigorous college-level courses be offered at each high school and that these courses meet College Board's expectations and requirements for Advanced Placement courses. It is also the intent of the Board that students demonstrate mastery of the material in Advanced Placement courses by taking Advanced Placement exams. Advanced Placement exams are given to students participating in the program and are a nationally recognized standard for measuring performance in Advanced Placement courses.

The Governing Board wishes to underline the purpose of Advanced Placement course/exams. These courses and exams should be taken by students who wish to receive advanced placement in college and are able to complete a rigorous program of study. Advanced Placement courses are designed with the premise that some high school students are capable of completing college-level courses while in high school and by doing so can advance their course of studies at the college level.

The district will provide a weighted grade for Advanced Placement and Honors courses, regardless of whether students take the exam.

The district is unable to cover the cost of Advanced Placement exams, except for students who qualify under free and reduced lunch eligibility criteria. In order to provide that exemption, a qualifying student fee reduction will be sought from Educational Testing Service.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

48980 Parental notifications

52240-52244 Advanced Placement program

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

3840 Advanced Placement as program option for gifted and talented students

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

CDE: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

AP Challenge Project: <http://www.apchallenge.net>

College Entrance Examination Board: <http://www.collegeboard.org/ap>

Advancement Via Individual Determination: <http://www.avidcenter.org>

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