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April 20, 2017

**GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM #17-11**

**TO:** District Superintendents  
AP Coordinators

**FROM:** Steve Canavero, Ph.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT:** Changes to Federal Funding for Low-Income Students' Advanced Placement Exams

This memo is intended to provide information regarding changes to the Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) federal funding for low-income students. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), signed into law in December 2015, makes significant changes to these funding sources. Starting in May 2017, Nevada will no longer receive funds through the federal Test Fee Program. The program will be consolidated with many other education programs under ESSA Title IV, Part A, Title I and Title II.

This change, if not addressed, has the potential to prevent some low-income students from taking AP exams. Therefore, due to the impact that this could have on low-income students' access to AP and IB testing and potentially qualifying for college credit, the Department is offering a menu of alternative funding options for your districts to consider. In the absence of the federal fund, districts have the following options to cover the AP exam fee for low-income students in May 2017:

**Title I Part A**

If your district has sufficient Title I Part A funding available to reallocate, submit an amendment to your Title I budget to use a portion of the district's set aside to pay for these AP test fees for students attending school-wide funding model. You may have a discussion with your district AP coordinator(s) to see whether some students will be able to benefit from this Title I opportunity and take the AP Exam they worked hard for.

## **Title IV, Part A**

Congress included a special rule under Title IV Part A to allow state/districts to use FY 2017 Title IV funds to cover all or part of AP exams taken by low –income students in May 2017.

### **College and Career Readiness Grant**

Those districts that received AP funds through state College and Career Readiness grant may submit an amendment to the College and Career Readiness budget and use a portion of funds to pay the AP test fee for exams that will be taken by low-income students in May 2017.

### **GEAR UP**

Those schools receiving GEAR UP funds may use a portion of the grant to cover AP and IB test fees for low-income students.

If you have any questions please contact Homa Anooshehpour at [homa@doe.nv.gov](mailto:homa@doe.nv.gov) or (775) 687-9164.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Canavero". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" and last name "Canavero" clearly legible.

Steve Canavero, Ph.D.  
*Superintendent of Public Instruction*