Archived Information ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEST INCENTIVE

Goal: To increase the numbers of low-income high school students prepared to pursue higher education.	Funding History (\$ in millions)			
	Fiscal Year	Appropriation	Fiscal Year	Appropriation
Legislation: Higher Education Act Amendments of 1998, Title VIII, Part B, P. L. 105-	1985	\$0	2000	\$15
244.	1990	\$0	2001	\$22
	1995	\$0	2002 (Requested)	\$22

Program Description

The Advanced Placement Incentives program awards grants to states to enable them to cover part or all of the cost of test fees of low-income students who are enrolled in an advanced placement class and plan to take an advanced placement test. In addition, states in which no low-income student pays more than a nominal fee to take the tests in core subjects may also use grants for activities designed to increase the number of low-income students who take advanced placement classes and tests. The state educational agency is responsible for disseminating, through secondary school teachers and guidance counselors, information on the availability of test fee subsidies. The funds provided to states are to be used to supplement other non-Federal funds available to assist low-income students in paying for advanced placement testing.

Subsidizing test fees for low-income students encourages them to take advanced placement tests and obtain college credit for high school courses, reducing the time and cost required to complete a post-secondary degree. Advanced Placement Incentive grants also ensures that a growing number of low-income students have access to advanced placement classes. Tests and challenging high-level classes make these students more attractive to more competitive institutions of higher education. For these reasons, the program complements the Department's student aid programs and helps promote educational excellence and equal access to higher education.

Program Performance

OBJECTIVE 1: ENCOURAGE A GREATER NUMBER OF LOW-INCOME STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM.

Indicator 1.1 Students served: The number of AP tests taken by low-income students will increase by 10 percent annually (e.g., to 83,300 in 1999).						
Targets and Performance Data		Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality			
Year	Actual Performance	Performance Targets	Status: In 2000 the performance goal was	Source: College Board data on participation in		
1999:	92,750	83,300	exceeded.	Advanced Placement testing.		
2000:	102,475	102,000		Frequency: Annually.		
2001:		112,200	Explanation: In 2000, low-income students took	Next collection update: Spring 2001.		
2002:			102,475 Advanced Placement tests.	Date to be reported: Fall 2001.		
				Validation Procedure: Quality of data is monitored by College Board.		
				Limitations of Data and Planned		
				Improvements: No significant limitations of the		
				data—no planned improvements.		