

ESSA Hub Committee Public Comment Form

Name (optional): Terry Whitney, College Board **Date:** 09/12/16

Comments you wish to provide to Hub Committee:

For nearly 20 years, the federal government has provided access to accelerated learning opportunities for low-income students through the AP/IB Test Free Program. As a result of this commitment, participation in these courses has risen dramatically. The number of low-income students taking AP exams expanded from 48,000 in 1999 to 472,000 in 2015 – an increase of over 850 percent. Similarly, participation in the IB program rose from 2,290 students in 2005 to 17,583 in 2015 – an increase of over 650 percent.

ESSA eliminated the AP/IB Test Fee Program as a single line item. AP and IB will now need to compete with almost 40 programs for funding. Next year, more than 500,000 low-income students will need funding assistance to help cover the cost of Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) examinations. ESSA authorized states to use Title IV, Part A (Title I too I think) funds to increase student access to “postsecondary-level instruction and examinations that are accepted for credit at institutions of higher education, including AP and IB programs.”

In 2015, the potential tuition cost savings for low-income students who earned a qualifying score on an AP or IB examination funded by the federal program was more than \$300 million.

The College Board, International Baccalaureate and the Advanced Coursework Coalition believes that access to these accelerated learning programs, is essential for our nation’s students and economy.

Research is clear that students who take advanced STEM courses in high school are more likely to major in these courses in college, preparing them for a career in these high demand fields. The ESSA state plan needs to include how low-income students will be able to access funding to continue taking AP and IB courses.

If you wish to have your comments shared with specific spoke committees please check those with which you would like the information shared:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Standards | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School Improvement |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assessment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Title I Program Plans/Assurances |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accountability | <input type="checkbox"/> Stakeholder Consultation/Program Coordination |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Effective Instruction and Leadership | |



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