

College Board Advanced Placement (AP) Exams

- Purpose: To receive input and guidance from the Board regarding the requirement that students take College Boards exams if enrolled in AP courses.
- Review of our Strategic Plan and performance indicators.

Priority 1: Transylvania County Schools will produce globally competitive students.

Goal		Performance Indicator(s)
1.1	Rigorous and relevant academic standards and assessment systems are in place for every student.	<a href="#">ABC's Growth &amp; Performance Recognition Status</a>
1.2	Every student masters essential knowledge and skills.	<a href="#">Percent Proficient on K-2 Assessments of Reading, Writing, and Math</a> <a href="#">Composite EOG &amp; EOC Proficiency Rates</a> <a href="#">AP Performance Statistics</a> <a href="#">SAT Results</a>
1.4	Every student has the opportunity to graduate from high school with an Associate's degree or college transfer credit.	<a href="#">Annual Dropout Rate (Duplicated 9-12 Count)</a> <a href="#">Cohort Graduation Rate</a> <a href="#">Frequency of Dual Enrollment in College Courses</a>

- Current practices:
  - Students enrolled in AP courses are required to pay exam fees (\$87 per test for 2011) and sit for the tests.
  - Fees are returned to students who score at least a three on the test. Fees are not returned to students scoring below a three.
  - Students who elect not to test incur a reduction of eight points on the final class average (a reduction of one Quality Point).
  - In 2011 we administered 166 exams in 11 different subjects.
  - Students are eligible for fee reductions or waivers based on family income.
  - Estimating a 70% pass rate and 19 fee waivers, the cost to TCS in 2011 for fee reimbursements might be \$8,613. Our budget for this year is \$5,350.

- Other information and considerations:
  - A survey of 15 different school systems reflects wide inconsistency in practices related to the test requirement, funding options, and consistency and enforcement of their own policies.
  - Ten of the 15 school systems require students to pay their own fees.
  - Ten of the 15 require students to take the exam, though only two systems responded that they reduce student grades or quality points if students do not test.
  - One large system recently dropped both the exam requirement and the reimbursement and stated that participation is 95% of its former rate.
  - Two school systems pay for the test but leave the test as optional.
  - The State Board of Education eliminated the option of school systems to remove the AP course from the student transcript and replace it with an Honors level course for students who do not test.
    - At least one WNC school system still follows this practice.
- What do we hope to achieve:
  - Provide a rigorous academic and intellectual experience.
  - Increase enrollment in AP courses.
  - Provide opportunities for students to earn college credit while in high school.
- Options include:
  - Maintain current practice: require exam (lower grades of students who do not take exam) and reimburse students who pass.
  - Require exam and require students to pay without reimbursement.
  - Encourage exam participation (not require) and TCS pay the fee.
  - Encourage exam participation (not require) and require students to pay without reimbursement.