

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 377**

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**Introduced by Assembly Members Linder and Dababneh**

February 18, 2015

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An act to add Chapter 19 (commencing with Section 53400) to Part 28 of Division 4 of Title 2 to the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 377, as introduced, Linder. Examination fees: Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Examination Fee Grant Program.

Existing law authorizes a system of incentives to encourage high schools to operate International Baccalaureate Diploma Programs, and to encourage pupils in these schools to enroll in, attempt, and pass the International Baccalaureate course of study and examinations that lead to the International Baccalaureate Diploma. Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction, from funds appropriated for the purpose of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, to annually allocate to each school district, on behalf of each high school or middle school within the district that offers the program, up to \$25,000 for each participating high school and middle school to cover the costs of professional development required by the program and to help pay the test fees for low- and middle-income pupils in need of financial assistance.

Existing law authorizes a school district receiving economic impact aid funds to expend any portion of those funds to pay for all or part of the costs of one or more advanced placement examinations that are charged to economically disadvantaged pupils, as defined.

This bill would, subject to appropriation in the annual Budget Act or other statute, establish a grant program, administered by the State Department of Education, for the purpose of awarding grants to cover the costs of advanced placement examination fees or International Baccalaureate examination fees, or both, for eligible economically disadvantaged or foster youth high school pupils, as defined. The bill would authorize a school district or charter school to apply to the department for grant funding under the program based on the number of economically disadvantaged or foster youth high school pupils in the school district or charter school who will take the next offered advanced placement or International Baccalaureate examinations and would require that grants be expended only to pay the fees required of eligible economically disadvantaged or foster youth high school pupils to take an advanced placement or International Baccalaureate examination, or both. The bill would authorize an eligible economically disadvantaged or foster youth high school pupil enrolled in an advanced placement or International Baccalaureate course, or both, to apply to the designated school district or charter school staff for a grant to pay the examination fee, as provided.

The bill would also make various findings and declarations relating to advanced placement courses and college outcomes.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) Advanced placement (AP) courses provide willing and
- 4 academically prepared high school pupils with the opportunity to
- 5 obtain college-level coursework experience.
- 6 (b) According to a research report conducted by the college
- 7 board, a positive relationship has consistently been shown between
- 8 AP participation and performance and various college outcomes,
- 9 including grades earned in subsequent courses related to the AP
- 10 courses, higher first-year grade point averages, retention, and
- 11 graduation.
- 12 (c) Also according to the college board's research, AP
- 13 participation and performance is related to an increased likelihood

1 of majoring in areas related to science, technology, engineering,  
2 and mathematics, and fostering interest in those particular careers.

3 SEC. 2. Chapter 19 (commencing with Section 53400) is added  
4 to Part 28 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Education Code, to read:

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CHAPTER 19. ADVANCED PLACEMENT AND INTERNATIONAL  
BACCALAUREATE EXAMINATION FEE GRANT PROGRAM

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10 53400. (a) Subject to appropriation in the annual Budget Act  
11 or other statute for this purpose, there is hereby established a grant  
12 program for the purpose of awarding grants to cover the costs of  
13 advanced placement (AP) examination fees or International  
14 Baccalaureate (IB) examination fees, or both, for eligible  
15 economically disadvantaged or foster youth high school pupils.  
16 The department shall administer this program.

17 (b) (1) As used in this section, “eligible economically  
18 disadvantaged high school pupil” means a pupil in high school  
19 who is eligible for a state or federal free or reduced-price meal  
20 program.

21 (2) As used in this section, “eligible foster youth” has the same  
22 meaning as “foster youth,” as that term is defined in Section  
23 42238.01.

24 (c) A school district or charter school may apply to the  
25 department for grant funding pursuant to this section, based on the  
26 number of economically disadvantaged or foster youth high school  
27 pupils in the school district or charter school enrolled in AP courses  
28 or IB courses, or in both, who will take the next offered AP or IB  
29 examinations. A school district or charter school that applies to  
30 the department for this purpose shall designate school district or  
31 charter school staff to whom pupils may submit applications for  
32 grants and shall institute a plan to notify pupils of the availability  
33 of financial assistance pursuant to this section. Grants shall be  
34 expended only to pay the fees required of eligible economically  
35 disadvantaged or foster youth high school pupils to take an AP or  
36 IB examination, or both.

37 (d) An eligible economically disadvantaged or foster youth high  
38 school pupil who is enrolled in an AP or IB course, or both, may  
39 apply to the designated school district or charter school staff for  
40 a grant pursuant to this section. A pupil who receives a grant shall  
only pay five dollars (\$5) of the examination fee.

1 (e) School districts and county superintendents of schools may  
2 join together and form collaboratives or consortia in order to  
3 participate in the grant program established by this section.

4 (f) Grants provided pursuant to this section shall not be used to  
5 supplant fee waivers available to low-income pupils who take AP  
6 or IB examinations.

7 (g) If the total applications from school districts and charter  
8 schools exceed the total funds available pursuant to this section,  
9 the department shall prorate the grants based upon the ratio of the  
10 total amount requested to the total amount allocated in the annual  
11 Budget Act or another statute for this purpose.

12 (h) To facilitate program administration and school district or  
13 charter school reimbursement, the department may enter into a  
14 contract with the provider of AP or IB examinations. For purposes  
15 of the contract authorized pursuant to this subdivision, the  
16 department is exempt from the requirements of Part 2 (commencing  
17 with Section 10100) of Division 2 of the Public Contract Code  
18 and from the requirements of Article 6 (commencing with Section  
19 999) of Chapter 6 of Division 4 of the Military and Veterans Code.