

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 641 Funds for the Operation of Schools

SPONSOR(S): Plasencia and Overdorf

TIED BILLS: None **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 836

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee	11 Y, 0 N	Bailey	Potvin
2) Education Committee		McAlarney	Hassell
3) Appropriations Committee			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The Advanced Placement (AP) Capstone Diploma is a program offered by the College Board and is based on two year-long AP courses: AP Seminar and AP Research. These courses are designed to develop a student's skills in critical thinking, independent research, collaborative teamwork, and communication. The courses complement other AP courses the student may take. Students who earn a score of 3 or higher on four additional AP exams of their choosing, receive the AP Capstone Diploma. The AP Capstone Diploma program signifies that a student has completed a certain set of requirements in high school to earn an advanced diploma in addition to the standard high school diploma.

The bill provides for school districts to receive additional funding through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) for each student who receives an AP Capstone Diploma in addition to a standard high school diploma.

The bill would have a fiscal impact based on the number of AP Capstone Diplomas awarded. This fiscal impact would be incorporated into the overall FEFP. See Fiscal Comments.

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2020.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Advanced Placement Program

Present Situation

Since 1955, the College Board's Advanced Placement (AP) program has enabled millions of students to take college-level courses and earn college credit, advanced placement credit, or both while still in high school.¹ The AP program allows academically prepared students to pursue college-level studies through 38 AP courses, modeled on comparable introductory college courses, in seven subject areas.² Each AP course culminates in a standardized college-level assessment, or AP exam.³ The exams are scored on a scale of 1 to 5,⁴ with college credit awarded for AP exam scores of 3 or higher.⁵

Currently AP students who score 3 or higher on the AP exam in the prior year generate a value of 0.16 full-time equivalent (FTE) bonus amount in the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) calculation for the subsequent year.⁶ Each school district must allocate at least 80 percent of the funds to the high school that generates the funds.⁷ The school district must distribute to each classroom teacher who provided the AP instruction as follows:

- A \$50 bonus for each student taught by the AP teacher in each AP course who receives a score of 3 or higher on the AP exam.
- An additional \$500 to each AP teacher in a school designated with a grade of "D" or "F" who has at least one student scoring 3 or higher on the AP exam, regardless of the number of classes taught or of the number of students scoring 3 or higher on the AP exam.⁸

Bonuses awarded to an AP teacher are in addition to any regular wage or other bonus the classroom teacher received or is scheduled to receive.⁹ The Fiscal Year 2018-2019 final calculation of the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) includes 29,434 add-on weighted FTE for the AP program.¹⁰

Advanced Placement Capstone Diploma

The College Board established the Advanced Placement (AP) Capstone Diploma to provide students with opportunities to develop skills in critical thinking, independent research, collaborative teamwork, and communication skills.¹¹ The AP Capstone Diploma program is based on two year-long AP courses: AP Seminar and AP Research.¹² These two courses are designed to complement the other AP courses taken by an AP Capstone student. Students typically take the AP Seminar course in either grade 10 or 11, followed by the AP Research course.¹³ The AP Seminar course is a prerequisite for the AP Research course.¹⁴

¹ The College Board, *About AP*, <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/about-ap> (last visited January 17, 2020).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Section 1007.27(5), F.S.

⁶ Section 1011.62(1)(n), F.S.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ Florida Department of Education, *Florida Education Finance Program Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Final Calculation*, available at <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7507/urlt/1819FEFPFinalCalc.pdf>.

¹¹ The College Board, *What is the AP Capstone Diploma Program*, available at <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/pdf/ap-capstone-student-brochure.pdf?course=ap-capstone-diploma-program>.

¹² *Id.*

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ *Id.*

The AP Seminar course allows students to consider an issue from multiple perspectives, identify credible sources, evaluate strengths and weaknesses of arguments, and make logical, evidence-based recommendations. Students investigate a variety of topics through various viewpoints of their choice and complete a team project as well as take a written end-of-course exam.¹⁵

The AP Research course allows students to explore various research methods and complete an independent research project that builds on a topic, problem, or issue covered in the AP Seminar course or on a new topic of the student's choosing. At the end of the project, students submit an academic paper and present and defend their research findings. There is no end-of-course exam.¹⁶

Students who earn a score of 3 or higher on the exams for the AP Seminar course and the AP Research course, plus earn a score of 3 or higher on four additional AP exams of their choosing, receive the AP Capstone Diploma.¹⁷ The AP Capstone Diploma program signifies that the student has completed a certain set of requirements in high school to earn an advanced diploma in addition to the standard high school diploma.

There are 228 approved AP Capstone schools in Florida.¹⁸

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill provides a 0.30 full-time equivalent (FTE) add-on bonus amount funded in the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) to be generated by students who graduate with the Advanced Placement (AP) Capstone Diploma and meet the requirements for a standard high school diploma. Students who graduate with the AP Capstone Diploma will generate the add-on bonus funding for their school districts in the subsequent fiscal year.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Amends s. 1011.62, F.S., revising the annual allocation to school districts to include an additional calculation of full-time equivalent (FTE) membership for students who earn an Advanced Placement Capstone Diploma.

Section 2: Provide an effective date of July 1, 2020.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

There were 1,317 Advanced Placement (AP) Capstone Diplomas awarded to Florida public school AP students in Fiscal Year 2018-2019.¹⁹ Based on this data, and applying the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 based student allocation of \$4,279.49 multiplied by 0.30 full-time equivalent (FTE) and then multiplied by the 1,317 students equals \$1,690,827. Based on the number of AP Capstone

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ The College Board, *How it Works*, available at <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/pdf/ap-capstone-student-brochure.pdf?course=ap-capstone-diploma-program>.

¹⁸ Email, The College Board, Government Relations (Jan. 8, 2020).

¹⁹ Email, The College Board, Government Relations (Jan. 9, 2020).

diplomas awarded in Fiscal Year 2020-2021, the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) would be redistributed to accommodate these students.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

School districts that offer the Advanced Placement Capstone Diploma program may receive additional funding through the Florida Education Finance Program.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

None.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

Not applicable.