March 18, 2014

TO: Chief School Administrators
    Charter School Lead Persons
    Nonpublic School Administrators
    Principals

FROM: Marie Barry, Director
       Office of Career and Technical Education

Karen Campbell, Director
       Office of Title I

SUBJECT: Advanced Placement Test Fee Program

This information will provide you with an update regarding the Advanced Placement (AP) Test Fee program. As you may be aware, this federal grant program has enabled states to pay part or all of the cost of advanced placement test fees for students who are enrolled in an advanced placement class and qualify as low-income family members. A low-income individual is defined as an individual who is determined by the local educational agency to be a child, age 5 through 19, from a low-income family, based on eligibility for free or reduced-price lunches under the National School Lunch Act.

This year, the College Board is charging an $89 fee per AP exam. At this time, the federal funding available for this program has not yet been determined; however, the College Board has announced that it will provide a $26 fee reduction based on a preliminary estimate and an $8 school rebate per exam for low-income students. The department is concerned that a lack of information about the federal contribution may deter low-income students in your district from taking AP Exams and potentially qualifying for college credit and placement. Please be aware that Title I, Part A funds may be used to pay the cost of taking an AP exam for a low-income student who is participating in a Title I, Part A program provided that paying for these costs is otherwise the responsibility of the students’ parents. Thus, if the low-income student would not be able to access the exam absent of the Title I, Part A funds, these funds can be used to pay the cost of taking the exam. However, if the local education agency (LEA) covers the cost of the exams for all students, or the LEA has a fund to pay the cost for low-income students in general, Title I, Part A funds may not be used.
Please share this information with the appropriate staff. Additional information will be provided to you as it becomes available. If you have any questions regarding the AP Test Fee program you may contact David McNair at (609) 777-3578 or APexams@doe.state.nj.us.

MB/KC/dm/s://Advanced Placement/2014 Grant/031814 AP Test Fee Program

c: Members, State Board of Education
   Senior Staff
   Executive County Superintendents
   Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers
   Executive County School Business Administrators
   NJ LEE Group
   David McNair
   Michael Barry