

## Parent Information

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction is committed to providing equal educational opportunities for all students in the state of North Carolina. To support this mission, parents are encouraged to become knowledgeable and actively involved in their student(s) education. In doing so:

- use pertinent websites (such as [www.ncpublicschool.com/apinitiatives](http://www.ncpublicschool.com/apinitiatives) or your local schools website)
- use brochures and other resources to gather information
- visit and develop a rapport with your student's school counselor
- ask important questions (e.g. how do students receive additional support while taking advance coursework)
- stay abreast of news and events at the school
- volunteer at your student's school
- attend events at the school

Education is the foundation of information and access to a healthy, happy, and successful future. Do not miss it. Stay abreast and involved.

## How Can Parents Help Their Students?

Parents can help their students be productive in school by:

- Nurturing independent thinkers and doers
- Serving as their students' advocate
- Being knowledgeable about the local and national education system
- Creating an environment at home where students can learn
- Being actively involved in their students' education

For more information contact:

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## Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and Honors

### Parent Information Brochure



EQUITY AND ACCESS  
IN EDUCATION

## What is Advanced Placement (AP)?

The AP program is administered by the College Board and taught in local high schools across the United States and in some international countries. Educators from both the high school and higher education collaborate to create rigorous, nationwide AP curriculums that are measured using standardized tests in May of each year. AP courses are introductory, college-level classes taken by high school students. Students who take and pass AP courses and the AP tests can receive college credit. AP classes provide rigorous coursework for students who want to challenge themselves academically. Additionally, AP classes prepare high school students for the academic rigor of college. For more information about the AP program, visit ([www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)).

## Do students have to pay to take the test?

Students pay \$82.00 per test for each AP class they are taking. However, low income students may qualify for AP fee reduction. (Those students should communicate with their school counselor about this option.)

## Is the AP test mandatory?

The College Board has not mandated that all students take the AP test. Local Education Agencies (LEA's) have the flexibility to determine if the AP test in that school district is mandatory or optional for students enrolled in AP classes. (Check with your school counselor to determine.) Although the AP test can only enrich a student's

academic AP experience, in many cases, students taking the AP test are pursuing college credit for the course.

## Why should students take AP/IB/Advanced curriculum courses?

With over 80 % of students in North Carolina planning to attend either a two- or four- year college, college preparation is essential. Advanced curriculum coursework, like AP, provides:

1. college readiness
2. academic stimulation
3. broad intellectual challenges
4. increased self-confidence

## What is International Baccalaureate (IB)?

The IB program offers a high quality educational program of international education to students. There are three program areas: primary years (3-11), middle years (11-16), and diploma program (16-19). These programs generally follow the levels of education (elementary, middle, and high school). IB subject areas include, but are not limited to: English, Spanish, Chinese, and/ or French. IB programs are offered in select schools. To determine if your school district offers IB programs, contact the school's counselor. For more information about IB programs, visit ([www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)).

## Pre-AP/Academically Gifted (AIG)/ Advanced Curriculum

Students are encouraged to take rigorous coursework throughout their K-12 education.

Parents interested in rigorous coursework for their students can pursue the AIG program as early as elementary school. AIG programs provide differentiated instruction for students who are academically advanced in order to challenge and continue to motivate them academically. If the school offers an IB curriculum, parents can consult the school counselor on how their student can take advantage of the program. Other program options on the middle school level include AVID or Pre-AP. AVID (which stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination) programs motivate and prepare underachieving students to attend college, while Pre-AP coursework incorporates AP teaching strategies into the curriculum in order to prepare students for AP classes.

Schools offer a variety of advanced curriculum options. In some instances, students may avoid advance coursework. However, parents are encouraged to communicate with the teacher and school counselor to explore advance curriculum courses and programs to support students who take these courses. Parents can be advocates for their students in order to expose them to a rigorous curriculum as early as possible in their education.

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