


Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

December 21, 2007

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jerry D. Weast, Superintendent of Schools 

Subject: Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme/
Cambridge Program Final Examination Exemption

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of the decision to exempt all students who have taken the Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme/Cambridge Program (AP/IB/CIE) examination from the traditional second semester two-hour final examination in the related course. This decision was made after consideration of the recommendation of the multi-stakeholder work group and feedback from the Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Associations, students, Councils on Teaching and Learning, and high school principals. This exemption will be implemented starting with the second semester of this school year, 2007–2008.

According to Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) regulations, all students in Grades 9–12 who are enrolled in computer science, English, foreign languages, mathematics, science, and social studies courses must take a final examination that counts as 25 percent of the final grade for the semester. Starting with the second semester of the 2007–2008 school year, students who take the AP/IB/CIE assessment are exempt from the final examination and will complete an end-of-course, culminating activity/assessment that will count as 25 percent of the semester grade and will be recorded in the same manner as the final examination.

Students enrolled in the courses but who do not take the AP/IB/CIE examination will take a final examination and also will complete the culminating activity/assessment. For these students, the culminating activity/assessment will be recorded as part of their fourth quarter marking period grade and the final examination will be recorded in the usual manner as 25 percent of the semester grade.

The culminating activities/assessments will be developed by school-based subject area teams based upon guidelines established by program supervisors in collaboration with resource teachers in the content areas. These activities/assessments will be developed at the beginning of second semester for implementation during class time at the end of the semester or during final examination week when students take traditional two-hour final examinations. Teachers are expected to complete the culminating activity/assessment during class time unless, in their

judgment, the students need additional time to prepare for the activity. In those unique circumstances, the student may complete the activity during the traditional final examination week.

Financial assistance is available to schools to reduce or eliminate the cost of AP/IB/CIE tests for students who demonstrate need. A combination of The College Board Fee Reduction process (unlimited), the Maryland State Department of Education Fee Waiver Program (limited), the MCPS Assessment Assistance Fund (Independent Activity Fund—259 account), and a local waiver of the test administrative fee may be used to reduce or eliminate the cost of an AP/IB/CIE test for qualified students. High schools have received a memorandum from Mr. Larry A. Bowers, chief operating officer, dated December 14, 2007, with instructions on accessing these financial supports.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Carol K. Blum, director, High School Instruction and Achievement, at 301-517-5007.

JDW:csj

Copy to:

Executive Staff

Mrs. Blum