

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Education

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BILL: SB 1132

INTRODUCER: Senator Simmons

SUBJECT: Funds for Operation of Schools

DATE: March 25, 2019

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Brick	Sikes	ED	<b>Favorable</b>
2.			AED	
3.			AP	

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**I. Summary:**

SB 1132 provides for school districts to receive additional funding through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) for each student who receives an Advanced Placement Capstone Diploma in addition to a standard high school diploma.

The bill does not require additional state funds. The bill may increase funding provided through the FEFP to school districts that offer the AP Capstone Diploma.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.

**II. Present Situation:**

**The Advanced Placement Program**

The Advanced Placement Program (AP) enables willing and academically prepared students to pursue college-level studies while still in high school.<sup>1</sup> The program consists of college-level courses developed by the AP Program that high schools can choose to offer, and corresponding exams that are administered once a year.<sup>2</sup> A student must score a ‘3’ or higher, on a 5-point scale, to earn postsecondary credit through the AP Program.<sup>3</sup>

AP Capstone is a diploma granted to students who earn a score of ‘3’ or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP exams chosen by the student. The program is based on the AP Seminar and AP Research courses, which are yearlong AP courses.<sup>4</sup> These courses are

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<sup>1</sup> College Board, AP Central, *AP at a Glance*, <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/about-ap/ap-a-glance> (last visited Mar. 20, 2019).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> See ss. 1007.27(5) and 1007.23(1), F.S.

<sup>4</sup> College Board, AP Capstone Diploma Program, *How it Works*,

designed to complement the other AP courses that the AP Capstone student must take.<sup>5</sup> AP Seminar and AP Research use an interdisciplinary approach to develop skills students need for college-level work.<sup>6</sup> In the 2017-2018 academic year, 967 students in 154 public high schools in Florida earned an AP Capstone Diploma.<sup>7</sup>

The AP, International Baccalaureate (IB), and Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) programs are utilized in Florida schools to shorten the time necessary for a student to earn a high school diploma and a postsecondary degree, broaden the scope of curricular options available, and increase the depth of study available for a particular subject.<sup>8</sup> The law provides the following benefits to schools and students engaged in these programs:

- Successful completion of a course in any of these programs qualifies for college credit.<sup>9</sup>
- The percentage of a school's students eligible to earn college credit through any of these programs favorably affects the school's grade.<sup>10</sup>
- A grade earned in any of these programs is assigned additional weight for determining student eligibility for a Bright Futures Scholarship.<sup>11</sup>

### **Florida Education Finance Program**

The Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) is the primary mechanism for funding the operating costs of Florida school districts. Under the FEFP, financial support for education is based on the full-time equivalent (FTE) student membership in the public schools.<sup>12</sup> The number of FTE students in each of the funded education programs is multiplied by cost factors<sup>13</sup> relative to each program to obtain weighted FTE student values.<sup>14</sup>

A student who earns a qualifying score on a subject exam in the AP, IB, or AICE programs generates an additional value of 0.16 FTE student membership for a school district.<sup>15</sup>

During the 2017-2018 school year, 106,448 Florida public school students received a score of '3' or higher on 179,228 AP exams. In the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the additional FTE membership value associated with each student who earns a qualifying score on an AP exam is approximately \$673.<sup>16</sup>

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<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-capstone/how-ap-capstone-works#awards> (last visited Mar. 20, 2019).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> Email, College Board (Mar. 20, 2019).

<sup>8</sup> Section 1007.27(1), F.S.

<sup>9</sup> Section 1003.4295, F.S.

<sup>10</sup> Section 1008.34(3)(b)2.b., F.S.

<sup>11</sup> Section 1009.531(3)(a), F.S.

<sup>12</sup> *See* s. 1011.62, F.S.

<sup>13</sup> Program cost factors are based on desired relative cost differences between the following programs as established in the annual General Appropriations Act: grades K-3; 4-8; 9-12; two program cost factors for exceptional students; secondary career education programs; and English for Speakers of Other Languages. Section 1011.62(1)(c), F.S.

<sup>14</sup> Section 1011.62, F.S.; Florida Department of Education, *2017-2018 Funding for Florida School Districts*, <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7507/urlt/Fefpdist.pdf>.

<sup>15</sup> Section 1011.62(1)(1-n), F.S.

<sup>16</sup> This figure was calculated with the base student allocation of \$4,204.42, as provided in s. 2, ch. 2018-9, L.O.F., and a cost factor of 1.00 for the 9-12 Grade program. No district cost differential was applied.

Florida law currently provides additional bonus funding through the FEFP for school districts for each student who receives an IB or AICE diploma. A student earning an IB or AICE diploma generates a value of 0.3 FTE.<sup>17</sup> In the 2017-2018 fiscal year, approximately 7,271 students received either an IB or an AICE diploma, generating approximately \$9.2 million<sup>18</sup> in additional funding to the school districts.<sup>19</sup>

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 1132 provides for school districts to receive additional funding through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) for each student who receives an Advanced Placement Capstone Diploma in addition to a standard high school diploma. The additional value is assigned to the full-time equivalent student membership in basic programs for grades 9 through 12 in the subsequent fiscal year.

In effect, the bill provides the same additional FTE funding for each student who receives an AP Capstone Diploma as a student who receives an IB or AICE diploma. The bill may result in more districts offering, and more students earning, AP Capstone Diplomas.

### IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

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<sup>17</sup> Section 1011.62(1)(1-m), F.S.

<sup>18</sup> This figure was calculated with the base student allocation of \$4,204.42, as provided in s. 2, ch. 2018-9, L.O.F., and a cost factor of 1.00 for the 9-12 Grade program. No district cost differential was applied.

<sup>19</sup> Department of Education, Office of Funding and Financial Reporting, *Florida Education Finance Program 2018-19 Third Calculation*, at 14 (2019), available at <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7507/urlt/18193rdCalc.pdf>.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:****A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

Students and families of students who earn college credits in high school through the Advanced Placement Capstone Diploma Program may experience cost savings.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

The bill has no impact on state revenues or expenditures. Adding 0.3 full-time equivalent membership value for each student who earns an Advanced Placement Capstone Diploma may allow some school districts to generate additional bonus funding through the Florida Education Finance Program.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends the following section of the Florida Statutes: 1011.62.

**IX. Additional Information:****A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

**B. Amendments:**

None.