

HOUSE BILL 705

By Brooks H

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
relative to education.

WHEREAS, the general assembly finds that high school students should be encouraged to enroll in and successfully complete more rigorous coursework, such as Advanced Placement (AP) courses, to enable success in postsecondary students; and

WHEREAS, the general assembly wishes to enhance the accessibility of AP courses for all students; and

WHEREAS, the general assembly finds that high school students interested in career and technical training also should be encouraged to pursue completion of rigorous coursework and successful passage of career and technical certification examinations; and

WHEREAS, the cost of taking AP examinations and career and technical certification examinations may discourage students from attempting these exams; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 3, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

**49-1-3\_\_.**

(a) The state board of education shall seek a national nonprofit education organization with which to form a partnership to be known as the Tennessee Advanced Placement Partnership (TAPP).

(b) The partner shall provide, under contract with the state board:

(1) Staffing in support of the partnership in selected schools and school districts;

(2) Consulting expertise and technical assistance to help improve college readiness of secondary students; and

(3) Assistance in middle and secondary schools in ensuring that all students have access to high quality, rigorous academics, with a focus on access to Advanced Placement (AP) courses.

(c) The partnership shall:

(1) Make available professional development to enable teachers of AP courses to have the necessary content knowledge and instructional skills to prepare students for success on an AP examination and mastery of postsecondary course content;

(2) Provide administrators, including principals and school counselors, with professional development that will enable them to create strong and effective AP programs in their schools;

(3) Provide middle and high school teachers with pre-Advanced Placement professional development and materials that prepare students for success in AP courses;

(4) Utilize the results of student diagnostic tests, such as the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), to identify students who are prepared or who need additional work to be prepared to enroll and be successful in AP courses; and

(5) Prepare an annual report concerning the implementation of the program to be submitted to the education committees of the house of representatives and the senate and the state board of education. The report shall be prepared with the assistance of the department of education and, if contracted for by the state board, a third party vendor or evaluator, and shall include the pertinent details of the partnership, including:

(A) The number of students participating in the program, including a demographic breakdown;

(B) The number and percentage of the participating students taking an exam and the score obtained;

(C) The number of teachers attending Advanced Placement and pre-Advanced Placement professional development;

(D) Recent trends in Advanced Placement participation and performance;

(E) The distribution of funds under this program;

(F) Levels of participation in the tenth grade PSAT/NMSQT testing for providing Advanced Placement potential;

(G) Information on whether the participating school or school district provided funding for the associated AP exams; and

(H) Other pertinent matters suggested by the state board of education or the education committees of the house of representatives and the senate.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 4, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

**49-6-4\_\_.**

(a)

(1) Public high school students enrolled In Advanced Placement courses shall not be required to pay any fee to take the AP examination.

(2) Public high school students enrolled in career and technical courses leading to certification or licensure in the field of study shall not be required to pay any fee to take the certification or licensure examination.

(3) The cost of the examination shall be the responsibility of the state, regardless of the score achieved on the examination by the student.

(b) The provisions of this section shall not be construed to be an appropriation of funds and no funds shall be obligated or expended pursuant to this section unless such funds are specifically appropriated by the general appropriations act.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013, the public welfare requiring it.