



Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Exams 2011-2012

Frequently Asked Questions

Why did CMS stop funding AP and IB exams?

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, like most other school districts, has felt the economic downturn that began in late 2008. We made stringent cuts the past three years, including a reduction in force. This year, we have again created a budget that includes reductions and efficiencies in our schools, while keeping as many resources in the classroom as possible. The Board of Education voted in 2010 to eliminate district funding for AP/IB exam fees to save \$1.4 million to help reduce the budget deficit.

What are the fees for AP and/or IB exams?

- **AP:** Each exam costs \$87
- **IB:** Registration fee is \$145.
Each exam then costs \$100.

When are fees due?

IB exam registration fees due Friday, October 14, 2011.
IB exam fees are due by Tuesday, November 1, 2011.
AP exam fees are due by Friday, February 17, 2012.

Why is the deadline for IB fees in the fall when the exams are not given until the spring?

Fees must be collected in a time frame that allows the district to process the fees and orders and then place those orders with the International Baccalaureate Organization, who provide the exams.

What if I cannot afford the fee?

Effective with the 2011-2012 school year, students will only be granted an AP or IB fee waiver if they apply and are accepted to the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program (formerly free-and-reduced price lunch program). As a result of a change in the NC Department of Public Instruction policy, eligible students who do not apply for the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program will not be granted an AP or IB fee waiver.

What are my payment options?

Pay online using a credit or debit card. A processing fee will be added by the contracted vendor.

OR

Make a payment by check or money order at the front office of a CMS high school. Checks should be payable to the school. Cash payments will not be accepted.

Can I receive a refund if I change my mind?

No. Refunds of an exam fee will not be given unless a student moves out of district before the exams are ordered.

Can students still take an AP or IB course if they do not take the exam for that course?

Yes. The requirement that students in AP and IB courses must take the corresponding exam has been removed from CMS policy and regulations. There will be no penalty (i.e. reducing the student's final letter grade) for students who choose not to take AP/IB exams. All students in these courses will be required to take a comprehensive exam at the end of the course, which will count as 25% of their final course grade.

