

Summer Supports for AP Students and Teachers

States and districts can access the American Rescue Plan and other federal relief funding to support students through educational summer programming. Funds can be spent on planning and implementing activities related to summer learning, such as providing instruction through summer classes or professional development to educators.

Several schools and districts have developed plans for using the summer to prepare students for the coming year in AP. Here are some ideas and examples on how you might use federal funds to help teachers and students be ready for AP in the fall.

Recommendations to Support Students:

1. Encourage AP teachers and students to get an early start on their AP courses.

Teachers can assign videos and practice resources from Unit 1 this summer to help students become familiar with AP Classroom – AP’s site full of free resources for teachers and students – before the school year begins.

- The AP Program can provide an AP consultant to assist your teaching staff in using AP resources, such as the official *Course and Exam Description* binder and AP Classroom, to support their instruction. Workshops can be customized based on the needs of your teachers. [To get started, complete an interest form and select “Host AP workshop or Summer Institute”.](#)

2. Run an AP event or instructional camp for students. See examples below.

3. Accelerate and showcase project-based learning in the AP Capstone Diploma Program

- Invest in news literacy and information accuracy by providing [JSTOR digital library access](#) to AP Seminar and AP research students
- Optimize AP performance by using AP Seminar as a 10th grade ‘on-ramp’ to success in other AP courses; research suggests [AP Seminar students outperform peers in future AP English and Social science exams](#)

Learn What Schools and Districts are Doing:

- **Summer AP Day at Harvard High School (IL):** Harvard High serves a small-town population, with about 125 students participating in their “AP Ready” program. In addition to t-shirts to show off their class pride, AP teachers invite all registered students for the next school year to attend AP Day in August. At the event, students and families will hear from teachers about what to expect in the coming year, including AP events at the school, and how to prepare during the summer.
- **Two-Day AP Event and College Fair in Lake County Public Schools (FL).** All incoming 9th graders and their parents in Lake County will get acclimated for their AP journey through a summer program. They will:
 - a. Discuss the benefits of AP and strategies for success with district educators and local universities and colleges.
 - b. Attend sessions, such as a panel with current AP students or an informational session for parents.
 - c. Visit an expo hall featuring representatives from colleges and AP teacher tables highlighting their courses.
- **5-Week Paid Summer AP Academy in Baltimore City Public Schools (MD).** Baltimore City students won’t need to choose between finding summer employment and getting a jump start on their AP courses. Students will:
 - a. Participate in a 5-week (4 days per week) AP summer academy in partnership with the Office of the Mayor. The program, Youth Works, treats the academy as a summer job; students fill out timesheets and the city pays students via debit cards.
 - b. AP teachers build the program based on their experiences from the school year and each year, the theme “[This is what AP looks like](#),” builds student confidence. The teachers cover AP skills, social emotional needs, financial literacy, and provides opportunities for students to engage with peer mentors as well as taking them to visit local colleges.
- **AP Bootcamp at Spring Independent School District (TX)** runs 4 days a week for 3 weeks and is designed by AP teachers to help all students hone the skills necessary in any AP course, such as effective note taking systems, organizational skills, and time management. Students also work on setting SMART Goals for the school year and have a culminating project.
- **Platforms for AP Capstone™ students to showcase their work like Red Mountain High School (AZ).** AP Capstone students in Mesa, AZ, took their AP Capstone research to the next level with their [new research journal](#). Schools could also consider creating in-house publications through publishers like the [Journal of Student Research](#).

Recommendations to Support Teachers:

1. Provide AP Professional Learning Opportunities

- Run the new “Achieving Equity in AP” Workshop which covers policies, tools, curriculum and instructional strategies to improve and support diversity among your AP students and teachers.
- Send your teachers to official [AP Summer Institutes](#) endorsed by the AP Program. In particular, consider the new [AP Project Based Learning Series](#) for AP Environmental Science and AP U.S. Government and Politics.
- Host your own AP workshop or summer institute within your school district like the examples below. Topics covered: Course Planning; Course & Exam Description; Equity & Access, Diversity & Inclusion; AP Classroom; Rubric Training. Workshop content may be customized based on district/school goals.
- Invite your teachers to participate in the new, updated AP Mentoring program (for teachers currently teaching Computer Science A, Computer Science Principles, English Literature and Composition, U.S. Government & Politics, or U.S. History).

For more information on AP Professional Learning and Mentoring Opportunities, please complete an [interest form](#) and the team will get back to you in 3–5 business days.

2. Explore Computer Science Professional Learning Opportunities with endorsed providers.

- The College Board has endorsed innovative curricula that come with pre-approved syllabi, lesson plans, and other instructional supports by expert education organizations to prepare teachers, whether experienced or new to computer science, to teach [AP Computer Science Principles](#) or [AP Computer Science A](#). Check out each link to learn more.

Learn What Schools and Districts are Doing:

- **Customized AP Summer Institute in Washington, D.C.** The Office of the State Superintendent of Education is giving AP teachers a head start before the fall. They are planning their own, customized AP Summer Institute for all AP teachers in the district—reaching over 400 teachers. This virtual symposium will feature 15 three-hour sessions in the afternoon. The three main components are:
 - a. AP consultant will lead a discussion on skill-building in the subject area—application over content.
 - b. AP consultant will share AP Reader information for the specific subject area.
 - c. AP consultant in conjunction with DC AP teacher will lead time for the teachers to collaborate on best practices.

- **Customized AP Summer Institute in Newark Public Schools (NJ).** Teachers in Newark will participate in customized, virtual summer institutes in six subjects. The institutes consist of 24 one-hour sessions in a hybrid model of live and on-demand sessions led by an AP consultant.

Complete an [interest form](#) if your district is interested in customizing a summer institute and the team will get back to you in 3–5 business days.

You can also learn more [online](#).

- **Pre-AP Readiness Workshops for all teachers in Baltimore County Public Schools (MD).** All teachers in Baltimore County, even if they don't teach AP, are learning to differentiate instruction. They will participate in a:
 - a. 5-hour (2 sessions of 2.5 hours each) virtual Pre-AP Professional Learning workshop for ~100 teachers to:
 - i. Orient participants to the design and pedagogy of the Pre-AP program.
 - ii. Empower teachers to apply what they learn in the workshop to their own content area and grade level.
 - iii. Allow time for teachers engage with colleagues while learning new classroom approaches that they can use to help all their students to learn, grow, and succeed.

Learn more about Pre-AP Readiness Workshops at preap.org/readiness