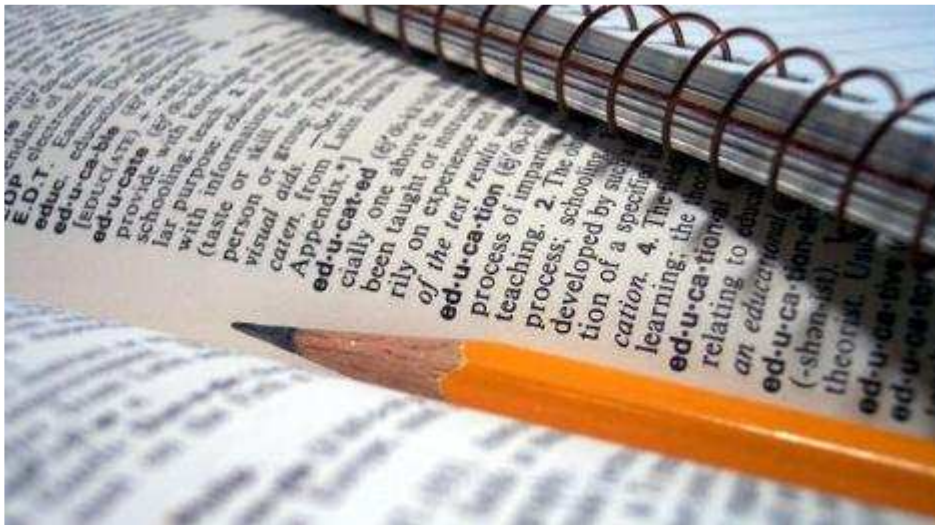




## Will AP incentive program make the grade amid education budget cuts?



Will AP incentive program make the grade amid education budget cuts?

by Brian New / KENS 5

[Bio](#) | [Email](#)

Posted on February 23, 2011 at 10:47 PM

[Recommend](#)

Last year, more than 42,000 Texas high school students earned college credits by performing well on Advanced Placement exams.

Many of these AP students who earned college credit potentially could earn a college degree in less time and thus save thousands of dollars.

But with the current state budget crunch, some say helping these students costs the state too much.

“The AP Incentive Program is a good program,” said education policy analyst James Golsan of the Texas Public Policy Foundation. “But it’s ‘do with what you have’ money, and Texas doesn’t have the money.”

Cutting the AP Incentive Program would save the state more than \$14 million a year.

The program pays for teacher training and a portion of a student's exams fees.

Supporters of the program say it has encouraged more students from lower-income families to enroll in AP courses.

Without the program, supporters say fewer students would earn college credit.

However, the new proposed state budget does not include money for the AP Incentive Program.

It's not alone. Several discretionary items in the state's education budget are set to be eliminated or at least reduced.

Among them: the Close the Gaps Loan Program, Teach for Texas Loan Repayment, the Border Faculty Loan Repayment Program, the Professional Nursing Shortage Program, and the TANF Scholarship Program.

**[Add another comment](#)**