

Fresno Unified School District
Board Communication

BC Number EA-1

From the Office of the Superintendent
To the Members of the Board of Education
Prepared by: Kristi Imbri-Olivares, Director
Cabinet Approval:

Date: May 01, 2020

Phone Number: 457-3896

Regarding: Advanced Placement Online Exam Student Support Plan

The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board information regarding the plan for student support for College Board's Advanced Placement (AP) Online Exams. As Fresno Unified continues to navigate distance learning through school closures, we wanted to ensure that students had every opportunity to earn college credit for their AP courses. On March 20, 2020, College Board announced that there will be no face-to-face AP exam administration this year. AP Exams will be given online for students to take at home between May 11 and May 22, 2020. Make-up AP exams will occur June 1 to June 5, 2020. This year's AP exams are significantly shorter and will take place within a 45-minute testing window.

A cross-departmental AP Work Team was formed with Equity and Access, Curriculum and Instruction, School Leadership, Information Technology, and College and Career Readiness to backwards map and plan how to help schools and students navigate the AP program, and to ensure that all AP students are being connected with, have their technology needs met, and are being provided with the support they need to complete their AP exam online at home. At the beginning of April, in partnership with our Communications Department, the AP Work Team sent out several communications to notify AP students and their families about this important change and developed a public-facing website where students and families can visit to obtain additional, up-to-date information and free remote learning resources through College Board (www.fresnou.us/AP). We recognized that students may not have access to technology or Internet connectivity at home and did not want this to be a barrier to our students to continue their learning and take their AP exam online. Therefore, an AP technology survey was developed and administered to collect information on whether or not AP students needed a device and/or Internet access, and if they were planning to take their AP exam online at home. Survey data was used to inform and coordinate with Fresno Unified high schools to ensure that students were able to obtain the technology they needed.

While AP teachers are being encouraged to connect with all of their AP students, a phone call script and call log to capture the data were created. Out of 4,638 AP students, there were over 1,800 AP students who did not respond to the technology survey. Counselors, counseling interns, and AP instructional coordinators were provided guidance on how to connect with students and capture the information. For the past three weeks, counselors, counseling interns, and AP instructional coordinators have been calling students directly. As of April 28, 2020, 4,585 students were successfully connected with, while our team continues to reach out to the remaining 53 AP students. Our counseling team is also working to support the 200 AP students who currently do not have access to technology (a device, Internet access, or both).

This week, College Board provided AP students and teachers with information on how to access the testing system on test day, and video demonstrations so that students can familiarize themselves with the system. The AP Work Team worked with counselors, AP teachers, and AP instructional coordinators to ensure that all students were trained and familiar with navigating the online AP exam platform by the end of last week. Students have received communications directly from College Board with instructions to register for the online AP exam. AP teachers and AP instructional coordinators are supporting these efforts by regularly communicating with their students and providing instructional support. All AP students are being encouraged to take their AP exam and to take advantage of College Board's free AP tutorials in preparation for their exams. Students are being asked to contact their academic counselor immediately if they still need access to a computer or the Internet. Our AP teachers and counselors also continue to regularly message to students the importance of checking their FresnoU emails and AP student portal for AP exam updates.

In addition, a Fresno Unified AP Hot Line was created and will be shared with students to provide support prior to their AP exam and during the AP online exam testing window. AP teachers and counselors connected with AP students this week to remind them about the AP exam testing window opening on Monday, May 11, 2020. AP teachers will continue to regularly communicate with their students before, during, and after the testing window to ensure they are completing their AP exams and continue their AP learning. College Board is partnering with districts across the nation by providing supplemental online AP learning materials taught by AP content experts on YouTube. Fresno Unified is leveraging these lessons to provide increased access to high-quality materials for students.

If you have further questions or require additional information, please contact Lindsay Sanders at (559) 457-3471.

Approved by Superintendent
Robert G. Nelson Ed.D.



Date: 05/01/2020