



How We're Using AP Seminar to Grow Opportunities

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CGCS Conference
October 2023

Agenda



1

About AP Seminar

2

Baltimore City Adopts AP Seminar
as an English 10 Course

3

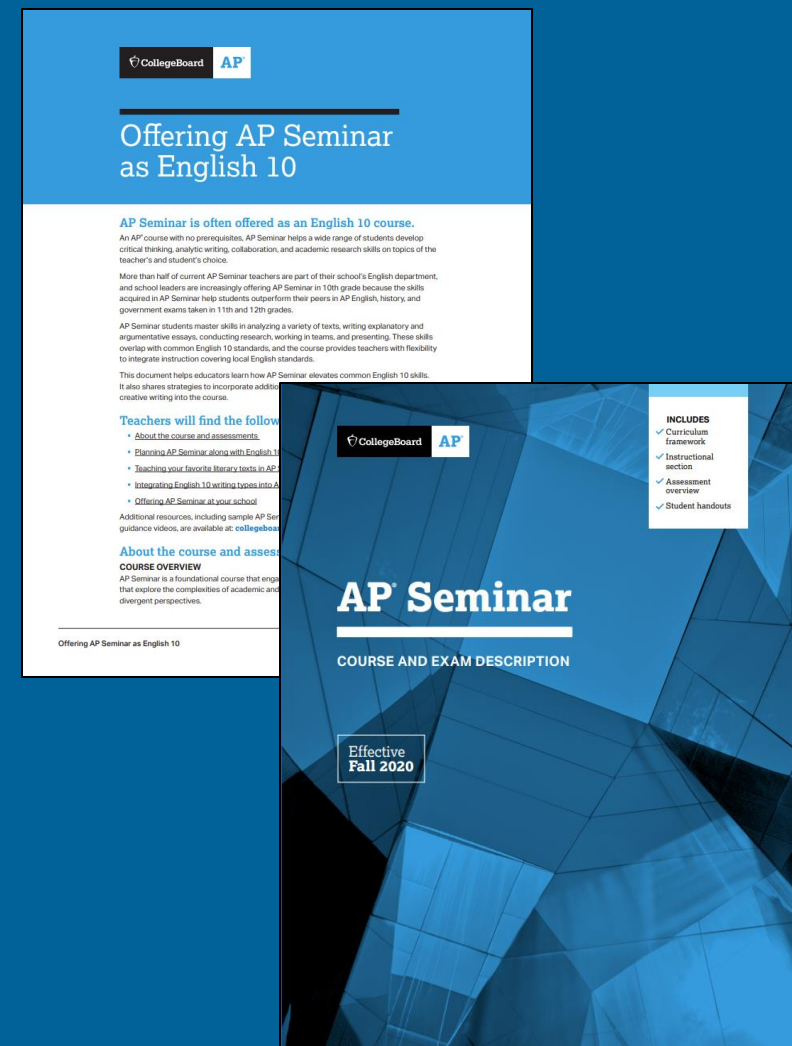
Clark County Prioritizes AP Seminar
in Strategic Planning in Grade 10

4

Q&A and Next Steps

About AP Seminar

- AP Seminar is an **interdisciplinary course** that focuses on developing students' foundational skills in research, analysis, collaboration, writing, and presenting.
- **Students learn how to:**
 - Investigate **academic and real-world topics** from multiple perspectives.
 - Gather and analyze information from **various sources**.
 - Develop credible and valid **evidence-based arguments**.
 - **Collaborate** in teams.
 - **Communicate** using appropriate media.
- AP Seminar can be offered in any grade and can be taught by teachers from any disciplinary background—38 states allow the course to fulfill their English 10 requirements.



AP Seminar's approach to scoring

Performance tasks completed throughout year account for 55% of the AP Seminar score.

Written Response

Performance Task 1 (20%)

Dec–Feb

Individual Research Report
(1200 words)

Cultural

Economic

Scientific

College Board Scored | Weight 50% of 20%

Performance Task 2 (35%)

Jan–Apr

Individual Written Argument
(2000 words)

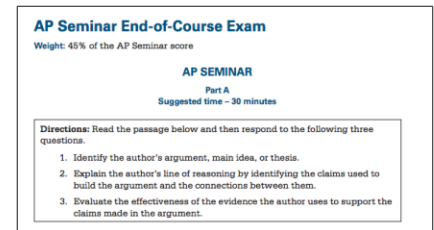


College Board Scored | Weight 70% of 35%

AP Exam (45%)

May

End of Course Exam
(three short-answer and one essay question)



Multimedia Presentation

Team Multimedia Presentation and Defense
(8–10 minutes, plus defense questions)



Teacher Scored | Weight 50% of 20%

Individual Multimedia Presentation and Defense (6–8 minutes)



Teacher Scored | Weight 50% of 20%

Why We're Recommending AP Seminar in Grade 10

1. **Engages more students:** Includes a series of projects on topics of a student's and teacher's choice, making the course more relevant for a diverse group of students.
2. **Builds skills for the future:** Students build relevant skills foundational to success in all majors and careers.
3. **Results in powerful outcomes:** Taking AP Seminar in grade 10 sets students up for future high school success.
4. **Helps students be recognized:** Helps students stand out in the college admission process and graduate more quickly.

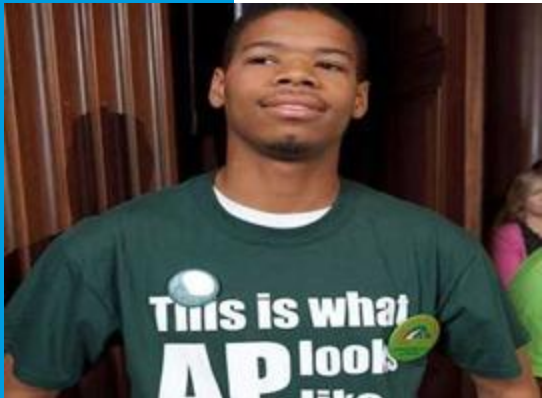




Baltimore City Public Schools



Baltimore City Public Schools



- **District Overview**
 - **Location:** Baltimore City, Maryland
 - **High Schools:** 29
 - **Demographic:**
 - 72.6% Black/African American, 18.6% Hispanic/Latino
 - 13.2% English Learners
 - 14.1% Special Education
- **AP Seminar:**
 - 1st course of AP Capstone, stand alone elective, or English 10 graduation fulfiller
 - **Schools offering AP Seminar:** 19*
 - **Number of AP Seminar teachers trained:** 60+ since 2020

**2021/2022 Academic year*



Baltimore City Chose AP Seminar

Equity and Excellence Matter

- **Codified AP courses** into a more cohesive **AP Program Plan** 5+ years ago requiring ALL high schools to offer AP courses
- Non-negotiable course options and a **6-course minimum** goal per school to promote equity of access
- **AP Seminar (Capstone) and Gifted intersection**
 - Content agnostic
 - Student choice/voice
 - Deeper dive
 - Real world skills
 - Professional presentations to topic experts

How Baltimore City Got Started With AP Seminar

AP Seminar Launch

Pilot across 2 schools (both were selective entrance schools and initiated by the schools).

Teacher Training Cohort 1

District created an AP Seminar cohort training consisting of 25+ teachers and central staff.

English 10: AP Seminar

Pilot of AP Seminar as the English 10 course in 2 schools with a plan to expand to all schools.

2018

2019

2020

2021

2023

District AP Program Plan

Strategic expansion of course to 2 neighborhood schools and 1 public charter school.

Teacher Training Cohort 2

Additional teachers were identified and trained.

Our AP Seminar Growth Reflects AP Expansion

Year	# of Schools	# of 10 th Graders	Total # of Students	% Black or Latinx	% of Maryland
2018-2019	2	3	43	87	7.6
2019-2020	5	17	77	86	11.8
2020-2021	18	38	204	90	19.7
2021-2022	19	221	458	93	37.2
2022-2023	13	131	318	88	26.2
2023-2024	12	368	584	?	?

Baltimore City AP enrollment increased from 1,654 students in 2018 to 3,115 students in 2022.

Baltimore City Public Schools

Best Practices and Highlights

- **Student Readiness**
 - AP Summer Academy – 5 weeks and students are paid to participate.
 - Student created video about why AP classes matter.
- **Teacher Support**
 - Quarterly AP Capstone PLC opportunities on systemic Professional Learning days
 - Virtual Mentors for new AP Seminar teachers
 - AP training cost covered by the district, \$1,500 stipend provided to teachers, and 3 CPDs conferred.
- **Media Specialist Support and Technology Stipends**
 - Librarians/Media Specialists recruitment to teach and support AP Seminar and AP Research courses.
 - Professional Learning for Librarians/Media Specialists led by former AP Seminar teacher.
 - District supplied iPads, tripods, and approximately \$2,000 of resource texts per school.





Baltimore City Public Schools

Question and Answer



*Dennis Jutras, Coordinator of Gifted and
Advanced Learning, Baltimore City Public
Schools*



Clark County School District



Clark County School District

- **Dr. Jesus Jara, Superintendent**

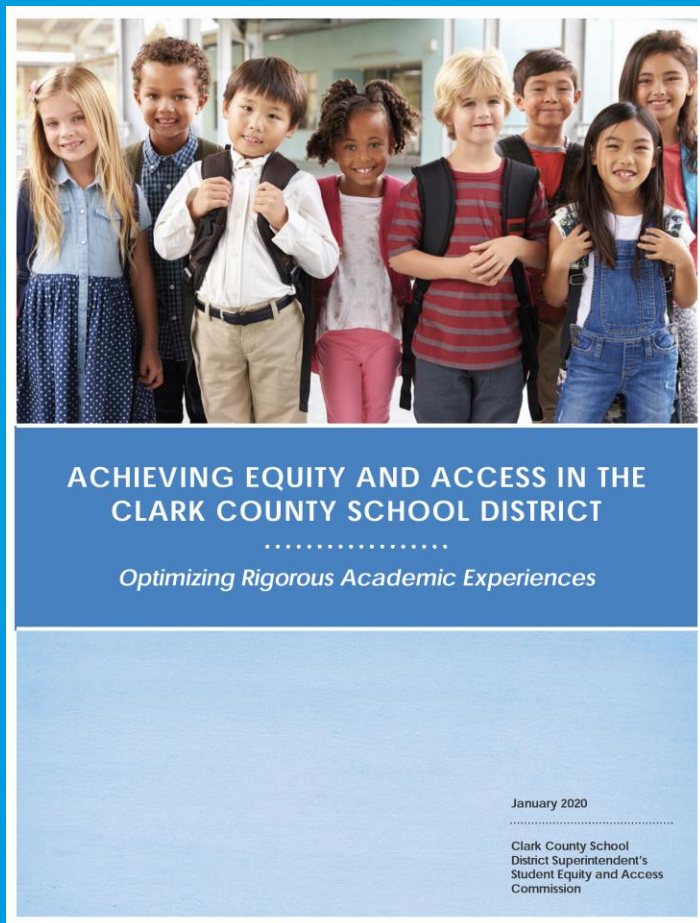


- **District Overview**
 - **Location:** Clark County, Nevada
 - **High Schools:** 53
 - **Demographic:**
 - 47.7% Hispanic/Latino, 15.8% Black/African American, 20.8% White/Caucasian, 7.7% Multi-racial, 6.0% Asian, 1.7% Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, 0.3% American Indian/Alaska Native
 - 15.6% English Language Learners
- **AP Seminar:**
 - Implementation: elective course
 - Schools offering AP Seminar: 13
 - Number of AP Seminar teachers: 14

Why We Chose AP Seminar

Dr. Jesus Jara, Superintendent

- [Achieving Equity and Access in the Clark County School District](#), *Equity Commission Report*
- **Barriers Leading to Cycles of Inequity include:**
 - Pre-kindergarten Access
 - Elementary Pathways: Magnet Programs and GATE
 - Accelerated Coursework in Middle School
 - High school Coursework: Advanced Placement (AP), Dual Credit, and Career and Technical Education (CTE)
- **AP Seminar as a Vehicle of Success**



Our Implementation Process

Dr. Brenda Larsen-Mitchell, Deputy Superintendent

- **Intentional Scheduling**
 - Professional Learning for Leadership
 - Accelerated Coursework in Middle School
 - Advanced Coursework Protocols
 - Master Scheduling Progress Monitoring
 - SMART Goals
- **Using Data for Advanced Course Enrollment**
 - System based Approach to Decrease Implicit Bias and Increase Access for All Students
 - MAP Growth/Smarter Balanced Assessment
 - AP Potential
 - PSAT 8/9 for All Grade 8 Students
 - PSAT/NMSQT for All Grade 10 Students



AP Seminar by the Numbers

Jennifer Lile, Coordinator, Innovative Programs, College and Career Readiness

- **AP Seminar Implementation Approach:**
 - School Choice to Opt-in
 - Elective Credit Option
 - Grades 10, 11, and 12
 - Open Access for Students and Teachers
- **Best Practices**
 - District Support for Professional Learning
 - AP Seminar Showcases
 - AP Seminar PLC
 - District Support for Student Performance Tasks

2014

AP Seminar Launch

13

High schools Offering AP Seminar

14

AP Seminar Teachers

538

Students Enrolled in AP Seminar

AP Seminar Resulted in Increased Access in AP

Increased Access in AP

AP Seminar students show stronger AP Exam performance on later AP Exams than their peers who didn't take AP Seminar.

225

Students took AP Seminar in 10th Grade*

27%

Of those students, 27% are Black/African American or Hispanic/Latino

26%

Of those students, 26% are White/Caucasian

208

92% of those students continued on to additional AP exams and earned a 3 or higher

26%

Of those students, 26% are Black/African American or Hispanic/Latino

22%

Of those students, 22% are White/Caucasian

**Data from the 2022-23 school year.*

Clark County School District Best Practices and Highlights

- **Engaging All Students**
 - Diversifying AP Enrollment
 - Using Diaspora for Culturally-relevant Projects
- **Increasing Student Success**
 - Garrett Ordonez
 - AP Seminar
 - AP Environmental Science, *Studies Water and Terrestrial Pollution*
 - AP Research, “*Conservation Strategies on Xeriscaping in Single-Family Households*”
 - Internship, *Southern Nevada Water Authority*
 - Winner, *Stockholm Junior Water Prize*





Clark County School District

Question and Answer

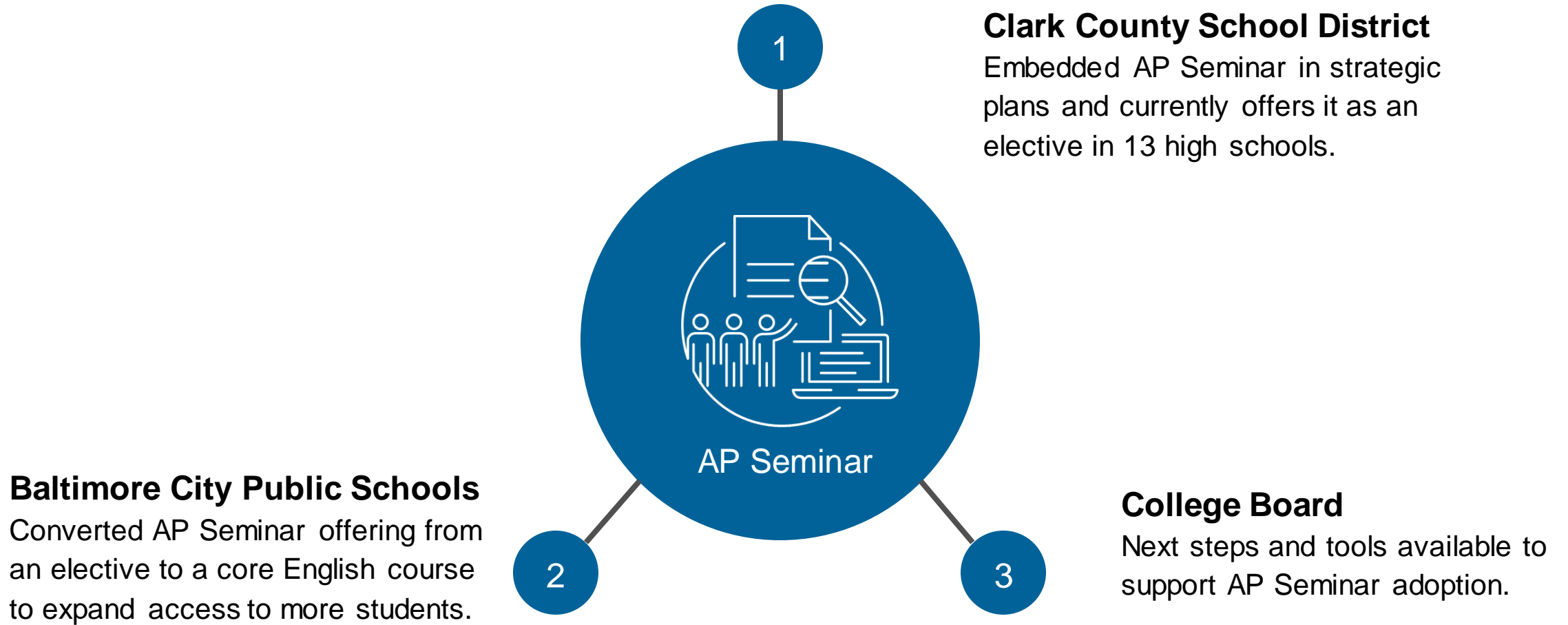


Jesus F. Jara, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Brenda Larsen-Mitchell, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent

Question and Answer



Steps to Offer AP Seminar at Your School

1

**Submit the AP Seminar
Sign-up Form**



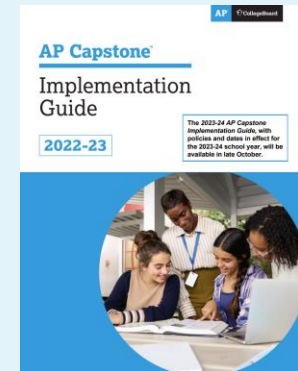
2

**Enroll Teachers in AP
Professional Learning**



3

**Develop an
Implementation Plan**



Contact Us With Questions About AP Seminar



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AP Seminar

Thank You!

