How We’re Using AP Seminar to Grow Opportunities

Dennis Jutras, Coordinator of Gifted and Advanced Learning, Baltimore City Public Schools
Dr. Jesus Jara, Superintendent, Clark County School District
Dr. Brenda Larsen-Mitchell, Deputy Superintendent, Clark County School District
Jennifer Lile, Coordinator of College and Career Readiness, Clark County School District

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 the year account for 55% of the AP Seminar score.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance Task 1 (20%)</th>
<th>Performance Task 2 (35%)</th>
<th>AP Exam (45%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dec-Feb</strong></td>
<td><strong>Jan-Apr</strong></td>
<td><strong>May</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Individual</strong> Research Report (1200 words)</td>
<td><strong>Individual</strong> Written Argument (2000 words)</td>
<td><strong>End of Course Exam</strong> (three short-answer and one essay question)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Scientific</td>
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</table>

**Written Response**

- College Board Scored | Weight 50% of 20%
- College Board Scored | Weight 70% of 35%

**Multimedia Presentation**

- Team Multimedia Presentation and Defense (8–10 minutes, plus defense questions)
- Individual Multimedia Presentation and Defense (6–8 minutes)

- Teacher Scored | Weight 50% of 20%
- 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

**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 fulfills
- **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.

**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**

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

- 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*
Baltimore City Public Schools
Converted AP Seminar offering from an elective to a core English course to expand access to more students.

Clark County School District
Embedded AP Seminar in strategic plans and currently offers it as an elective in 13 high schools.

College Board
Next steps and tools available to support AP Seminar adoption.
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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Thank You!