

ONE PAGER – AP vs. College in the High School

AP

College in the High School

Eligibility: Grades 9-12

Instruction: Students in high school choose to enroll in a class that is specifically designated an “Advanced Placement” course. Courses and curriculum are vetted by College Board. External validated test in early May determines if students earn college credit.

Cost: Free to take class. To take test (which is expected if student enroll in AP class), the test is \$94 per test, and \$15 for those identified as F/R lunch.

For this year, the price is free for students identified as F/R lunch and \$47 for all others. We hope this continues in future years.

Selling Point to families:

- Consistent rigor (you know what you get)
- Understood across the world
- External validity
- Significant cost savings for students who earn college credit
- Admission counselors look favorably on AP over other college credit options

Potential Drawbacks:

- Colleges are inconsistent in regards to granting college credit for AP classes.
- Perceived to be “test-driven” or be “content-heavy” by some.

Eligibility: 10th, 11th, and 12th graders

Instruction: Students in high school enroll in a class that is specifically designated a “College in the High School” course. High school teacher is trained by partnering higher education institution. Teacher uses curriculum, grading scale, and rigor from partnering institutions but teaches in the high school.

Cost: Students pay tuition that is a fraction of the cost of full-time university student, which ranges from \$125 to \$370 per semester, depending on partnering institution.

Selling Point to families:

- Students stay in Bellingham high schools
- Students are taught by high school teachers
- Students obtain college credit for a fraction of the cost of a college student

Potential Drawbacks:

- Class reserved for students who can pay, raising questions about equity and fairness
- Variability in rigor of classes. No external validated assessment to illustrate learning.
- Teacher dependent: Must have content specific Masters degree to teach