

## 2018-19 Early Postsecondary Exam Fee Assistance Program for Economically Disadvantaged Students

### Cambridge International Examination

#### OVERVIEW

The department will provide funds to maintain the subsidized fees for exams taken during fiscal year 2019. Through the Early Postsecondary Exam Fee Assistance Program, the department will cover \$75.80 for each eligible AS Level exam, and \$130.71 for each eligible A Level exam, for economically disadvantaged students. **This means that schools will only pay \$23.00 for each exam for economically disadvantaged students.**

<b>Cost Per Cambridge AS Level Exam</b>	
Cambridge International AS Level Exam	\$ 98.80
Early Postsecondary Exam Fee Assistance Per AS Level Exam	\$ 75.80
Final Cost Per Cambridge AS Level Exam For Economically Disadvantaged Students	\$ 23.00
<b>Cost Per Cambridge A Level Exam</b>	
Cambridge International A Level Exam	\$ 153.71
Early Postsecondary Exam Fee Assistance Per A Level Exam	\$ 130.71
Final Cost Per Cambridge A Level Exam For Economically Disadvantaged Students	\$ 23.00

#### REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOLS

Schools must complete the following requirements in order to be eligible for the reimbursement provided through the program. All information requested will be collected and retained in secure locations to ensure the integrity of this sensitive data is not compromised. This information is collected in order to ensure that students receiving funds meet the eligibility requirements for exam fee assistance.

1. **Complete the required Cambridge exam fee reimbursement forms.**

Each form listed below is provided as a separate worksheet in the [2019 Cambridge Exam Reimbursement Excel document](#).

- Request for Reimbursement
- Cambridge AS/A Summary and Student Roster
- Assurances

2. **Submit payments to Cambridge International Examinations** and obtain receipt/proof of payment.

Please contact [Early.Postsecondary@tn.gov](mailto:Early.Postsecondary@tn.gov) with questions about the Early Postsecondary Exam Fee Assistance Program.

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Disadvantaged Students  
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3. **Compile and submit all required documents.** Mail a signed hard-copy of the Cambridge exam fee reimbursement forms **AND** a copy of the school's 2019 Cambridge International Examinations invoice and proof of payment to:

**Sarah Cook, Program Manager, Office of Early Postsecondary Coordination and  
Alignment**

Tennessee Department of Education  
11<sup>th</sup> Floor, Andrew Johnson Tower  
710 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, TN 37243-0383

4. **Retain Cambridge Exam Reimbursement Forms:** Retain all information documenting student participation and supporting documentation for eligibility for the Early Postsecondary Exam Fee Assistance program for at least five years.

**STUDENT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

Prior to the 2018-19 school year, student enrollment in the Federal Free or Reduced-Price Lunch Program could be used as a proxy to determine eligibility for the Early Postsecondary Exam Fee Assistance Program. However, under the new Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), all students at a participating school receive free meals through the Federal Free or Reduced-Price Lunch program regardless of their individual economic status. Adjustments have been made to the list of criteria used to determine student eligibility for exam fee assistance program to account for CEP participation. Please review the information provided below to determine an individual student's eligibility.

**For schools/districts that are NOT participating in CEP,** the following criteria can be used to determine eligibility for the Early Postsecondary Exam Fee Assistance Program:

The student is enrolled or eligible for the Federal Free or Reduced-Price Lunch Program during the 2018-19 school year. Students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches if:

- their family's income is at or below 185 percent of the poverty level issued annually by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, or
- the students are directly certified without application for free school meals because they are:

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- in foster care or Head Start, or
- homeless or migrant, or
- living in households that receive SNAP/Food Stamps, TANF cash assistance, or the Food Distribution on Indian Reservation benefits.

**For schools/districts that ARE participating in CEP,** the following criteria can be used to determine eligibility for the Early Postsecondary Exam Fee Assistance Program:

- The student's family's income is at or below 185 percent of the poverty level issued annually by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, or
- The student qualifies as an "identified student" because he or she is:
  - in foster care or Head Start, or
  - homeless or migrant, or
  - living in households that receive SNAP/Food Stamps, TANF cash assistance, or the Food Distribution on Indian Reservation benefits.

**All schools/districts, regardless of CEP participation,** can use any of the following criteria to determine which students qualify for the Early Postsecondary Exam Fee Assistance Program:

- The student's family's income is at or below the Census Bureau's "poverty threshold." The Census "poverty threshold" varies by family size and the ages of family members, but it is not adjusted for differences in the cost of living, including the higher costs of living in Alaska and Hawaii. If your school chooses to use the Census Bureau's "poverty threshold" to determine a student's economically disadvantaged status and eligibility, it should use the 2019 "poverty threshold" information available at the [Poverty Guideline ASPE](#).
- The student's family receives assistance under Part A of Title IV of the Social Security Act.
- The student is eligible to receive medical assistance under the Medicaid program under Title XIX of the Social Security Act.