



Advanced Placement Access for All (APAA)

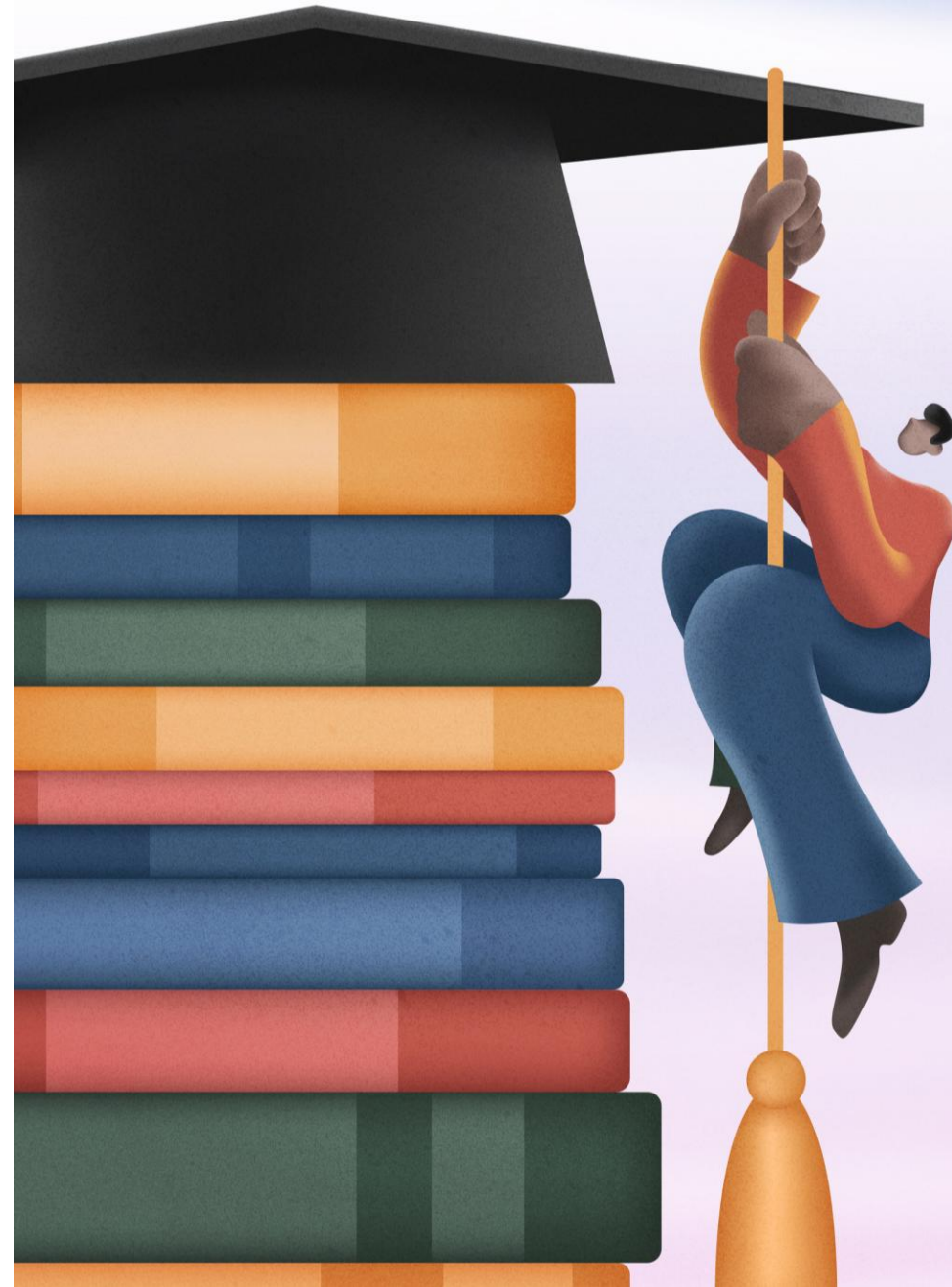
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DISCLAIMER

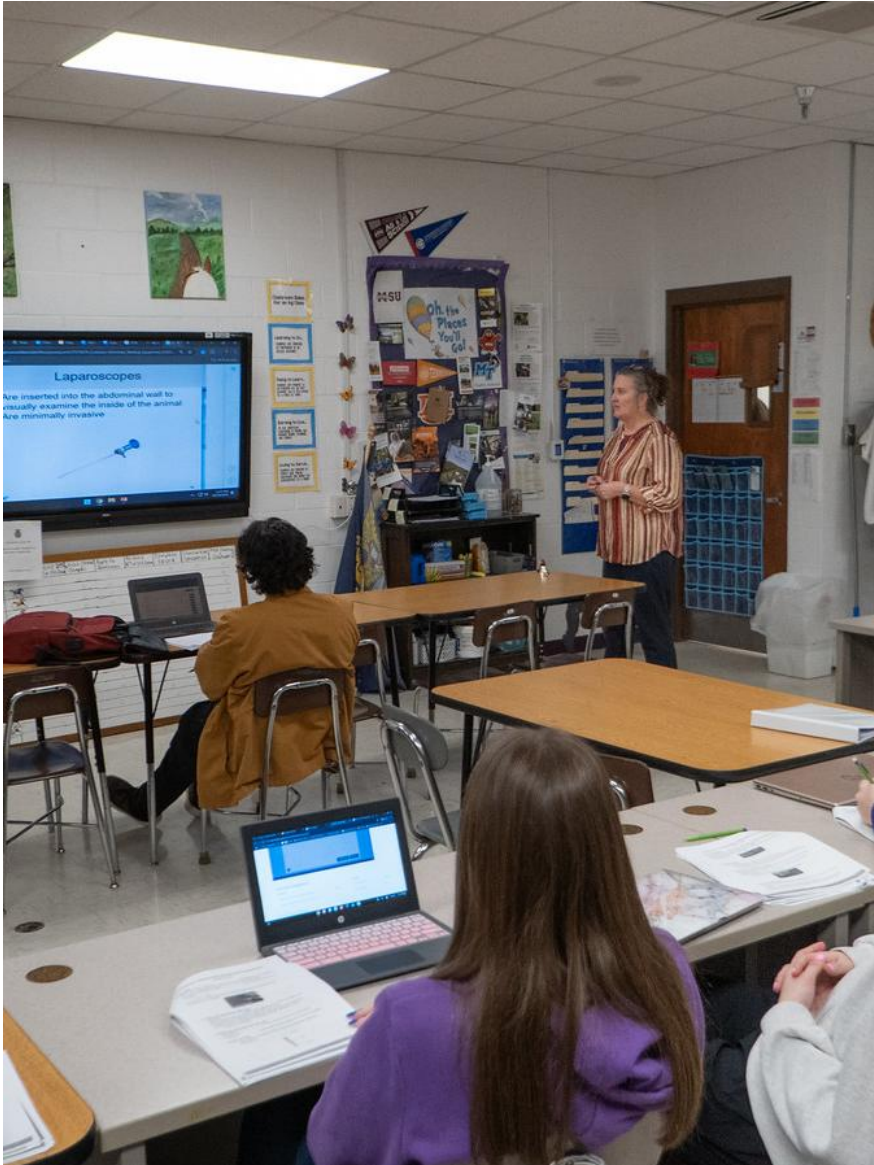
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- Overview of APAA
- APAA Vision and Mission
- AP Benefits and Trends
- APAA Program Structure
- APAA Program Outcomes
- Challenges and Opportunities
- CLEP Second Chance Pilot
- Resources



Overview of APAA

- Launched in 2021 by the department in partnership with the Niswonger Foundation
 - Provides 22 free online Advanced Placement (AP) courses statewide
 - Builds district capacity through in-house AP teacher training
 - Offers mini-grants to support AP classrooms
- TN is one of 13 states nationwide that offer a fully funded AP program



APAA Vision and Mission

- **Vision:** All students have meaningful opportunities to engage in Advanced Placement coursework that challenges, prepares, and empowers them to reach their highest aspirations.
- **Mission:** Expand access to Advanced Placement (AP) opportunities and provide the guidance, support, and resources students need to thrive in rigorous academic experiences.
- APAA is the "next best option" when traditional AP courses are not available.



Why Advanced Placement Matters

- **College Readiness:** AP builds college-level skills
- **Postsecondary Success:** Scores of 2+ have been shown to boost enrollment and persistence
- **Credit Acceleration:** Scores of 3+ can earn college credit
- **Expanded Opportunity:** Broader access increases participation

Source: *College Board 2025 State and District Integrated Report & AP Cohort Data Report*



Statewide AP Trends

- **Rising Participation:** +8.2 pts in graduates taking AP (10-year growth) with continued statewide expansion across all student groups
- **Strong Performance:** 63.2% of exams scored 3+; 48,530 qualifying scores (+14.8%), with gains outpacing national trends
- **College Credit Impact:** Last year, ~184,000 credits earned, potentially saving students and families millions of dollars

Source: *College Board 2025 State and District Integrated Report & AP Cohort Data Report*



APAA Program Structure

- **Statewide Network:** TDOE oversight and support, Niswonger Foundation team, 4 Regional Relationship Specialists, 250+ AP Liaisons, 140+ APAA Adjunct Teachers
- **Dedicated School Support:** Specialists partner with district/school leaders; AP Liaisons lead recruitment, enrollment, and exam coordination
- **Highly Qualified Educators:** All TN-licensed, trained through College Board and Niswonger pedagogy/course development
- **Experienced Faculty:** Avg. 18 years teaching; 88% hold graduate degrees; extensive AP Reader experience



Instructional Model and Student Support

- **Structured Instructional Model:** Lead teachers maintain course blueprint, provide announcements, support section teachers, and host monthly drop-ins
- **Section Teacher Role:** Daily instruction, ongoing communication, collaboration, feedback, and virtual office hours beyond the school day
- **Consistent & Personalized Learning:** Standardized statewide content with small class sizes (max 20 students)
- **Student-Centered Support:** Frequent feedback, accessible teacher support, and built-in structures to promote engagement and success



APAA Impact-Teacher Perspective



*Mr. Josh Barry, Science Hill
High School, AP Precalculus*

“Most of all, I like the motivation and vision behind AP Access for All. I love the fact that this program offers college level classes to EVERY student across the state. Enrolling in AP classes in high school is an investment that will pay great dividends in the future.”





APAA Program Outcomes

Participation Growth and Access Expansion

- **Enrollment Growth:** 2,498 students currently enrolled, a 104% increase since Year 1 (1,225 students)
- **Exam Participation:** 6,469 AP exams taken (Years 1–4)
- **Rural Access:** 1,581 students served, expanding opportunity in rural communities

Academic Outcomes and Postsecondary Impact

- **Student Performance:** 49% earned a qualifying score (3+) compared to 63% statewide
- **College Readiness:** 77% earned a college-ready score (2+) compared to 83% statewide
- **Credit Attainment:** Over 9,700 potential college credits earned
- **Financial Impact:** Over \$500,000 in AP exam fee savings and nearly \$4 million in potential tuition savings

Source: *2025 College Board State and District Integrated Report*

Statewide Participation and Program Reach

- **Statewide Access:** 99 percent of districts have signed MOUs to participate in APAA
- **High School Participation:** 57 percent of schools in partner districts are actively participating
- **Rural Participation:** 48 percent of eligible rural schools are actively participating
- **Program Growth:** expanded from 179 schools (Year 1) to 248 schools (Year 5)

Teacher Development and System Capacity Building

- **Teacher Investment:** 1,516 Tennessee educators trained through AP Summer Institute scholarships ranging from \$500-\$900 on average.
 - Total of \$502,815 invested in APSI scholarships.
- **Classroom Support:** 568 APAA mini-grants awarded since 2021.
 - Total of \$236,761 invested in supporting AP classrooms.

APAA Impact: Peyton's Journey



*Peyton Carroll-Cook, Campbell
County High School*

- Encouraged and supported by teachers and counselor from early high school
- Accelerated math pathway in 8th grade through Niswonger Foundation support
- Accessed rigorous AP coursework via **AP Access for All**
- Developed academic confidence and college readiness
- Achieved full-ride QuestBridge scholarship to **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)**



Challenges and Opportunities in APAA

- Teacher shortage remains the primary limitation, restricting the number of students served.
 - A total of 113 students could not be served this school year
 - Most impacted courses include AP Psychology, AP Art History, and AP Computer Science
- Fluctuating enrollment demand influenced by:
 - Growth of in-house AP programs, a direct success of APAA investments in teachers
 - Year-to-year changes in student populations and needs
- Local logistical barriers, including limited computer lab access and reliance on completing coursework independently outside of school without in-person support.



Looking Ahead: CLEP Second Chance Pilot

- This summer, APAA will launch a targeted pilot for students who passed AP coursework but narrowly missed earning credit (score of 2)
- Eligible students will receive targeted outreach and be guided into a fast-track CLEP pathway through Modern States Education Alliance, including free prep and exam vouchers
- Students complete 2–6 weeks of online preparation, then take a CLEP exam for potential college credit
- Pilot is implemented within existing APAA structures and requires no additional state funding



APAA Resources



- [Advanced Placement, Tennessee Department of Education, *FutureReady TN* website](#)
- [AP Access for All, APAA website](#)





Questions?

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