

Whereas, to help accomplish this goal, it is the intent of the General Assembly to provide incentives that encourage high school students to enroll in Advanced Placement courses as appropriate and to take Advanced Placement tests for college credit; and

Whereas, greater use of Advanced Placement courses and Advanced Placement tests will help with the management of growing enrollments in institutions of higher education and will also benefit the State and its citizens by using existing physical space and currently employed staff to ease the transition required by the increasing demands in higher education; and

Whereas, it is less expensive to offer college courses through the community college system than the University system; and

Whereas, it is more economical and a better use of State funds to provide general education courses to interested and eligible students through the community college system rather the University system; and

Whereas, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the State Board of Education, the State Board of Community Colleges, and the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina to in turn encourage high school students to complete their first two years of general education work through the community college system where feasible and to cooperate in creating curricula that facilitate interested students in achieving that goal; Now, therefore,

1 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

2 Section 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the State Board of
3 Education the sum of four million six hundred eighty-seven thousand two hundred twelve
4 dollars (\$4,687,212) for the 1997-98 fiscal year and the sum of four million nine hundred
5 seventy-four thousand six hundred forty dollars (\$4,974,640) for the 1998-99 fiscal year
6 to assist with the costs of taking the Advanced Placement tests, including the costs of the
7 exams, materials and supplies for the exam, and the education of teachers who instruct
8 and prepare students for the exam.

9 Section 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the State Board of
10 Education the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for the 1998-99 fiscal year to be
11 allocated as financial incentives to local education agencies that: (i) have a higher
12 number of students taking the Advanced Placement test than the State average, and (ii)
13 whose students attain an Advanced Placement test score equal to or greater than the score
14 designated by the State Board of Education.

15 Section 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
16 Community Colleges the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for the 1998-99 fiscal
17 year for the purpose of rewarding colleges for increasing access for appropriate high
18 school students to college level courses. The State Board of Community Colleges shall
19 allocate these funds on a pro rata basis to colleges whose percentage of high school
20 students served in cooperative programs exceeds the State average.

21 Section 4. Advanced Placement tests are taken by many high school students
22 who are seeking college credit for coursework completed in high school. The Board of
23 Governors of The University of North Carolina is encouraged to develop a standardized

1 system of credit for the Advanced Placement test scores to ensure that college credit
2 granted for advanced courses is equitable.

3 Section 5. The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina shall
4 encourage the University system to assist the public school systems of the State to
5 provide education for teachers who are instructors of Advanced Placement courses.

6 Section 6. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the State Board of
7 Community Colleges shall allow a college to earn regular budget FTEs for a college level
8 course taught to high school students even though the course instructor is a local high
9 school teacher under contract, provided the following criteria are met:

- 10 (1) The course does not duplicate or supplant the Advanced Placement
11 courses or the other college level course offerings of the high school.
- 12 (2) The contractual responsibilities of the high school teacher employed as
13 an instructor for the course do not supplant the regular classroom and
14 teaching responsibilities of the teacher.
- 15 (3) The State Board of Community Colleges is satisfied that the substance,
16 quality, and level at which the course is taught merits its being
17 considered a college level course.

18 Section 7. The State Board of Education and the State Board of Community
19 Colleges shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by March 1,
20 1997, and annually thereafter regarding the cooperative effort being made to encourage
21 high school students to complete general education courses through the community
22 college system. The report shall include information about the curricula designed to
23 encourage this effort, the number of students enrolled in college courses, and the fiscal
24 impact of these efforts.

25 Section 8. This act becomes effective July 1, 1997.