



To: NYS ED PLAN Assessment Working Group

From: College Board

Date: October 3, 2023

RE: PROJECT BASED LEARNING AND PERFORMANCE BASED ASSESSMENT

The Advanced Placement Program is shifting the traditional model of AP to focus more extensively on project-based learning and performance-based assessment.

AP Seminar, AP Research, and AP Computer Science Principles have already moved to a through-course performance task model, and new courses in development, including AP African American Studies, will also use this model.

The AP Program has also piloted new project-based assessments for AP English and AP World Languages courses.

In parallel, the AP Program has partnered with PBLWorks to provide teachers with project-based curricula and professional development for two courses – AP Environmental Science and AP U.S. Government and Politics – based on the positive findings from a rigorous study from the Lucas Foundation that found increased student performance on AP Exams in those courses when taught using a project-based model.

Trevor Packer, head of the Advanced Placement Program at the College Board, will share data on the results of these changes to date and an overview of further research and analyses underway.

An overview of these various shifts to project-based learning and performance-based assessment is available here as additional background.

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/about-ap/start-expand-ap-program/build/project-based-ap-courses>