

# Cambridge International Exams OSPI Program Brief

## **Program description:**

The Cambridge Program offers an international, pre-university curriculum, and examination system that emphasizes the value of a broad and balanced education for academically able students. Students meet international standards in this academically rigorous course of study through the development of higher order critical and creative thinking skills. The curriculum aligns with that of Cambridge University in the United Kingdom.

Students may enroll in up to 13 distinct college-level courses within the program's three curriculum groups: 1) mathematics and science, 2) languages, and 3) arts and humanities. Just as with IB and AP, colleges and universities have recognition policies for the awarding of credit based on exam scores.

## **Participating WA schools:**

Currently, Federal Way High School (Federal Way Public Schools) and Juanita High School (Lake Washington School District) are the only two schools in Washington to have adopted this program.

## **Number of students currently participating:**

Nine hundred and sixty-four (964) students took Cambridge classes at Federal Way High School during 2012–13 classes over the same period. Juniors and seniors in these programs are enrolled in the Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Diploma program classes that are eligible for dual credit.

The Cambridge Program at Juanita High School is open to any student interested in an academic challenge. During the 2012-13 school year, five hundred and fifty-seven (957) students in grades – 9–11 were enrolled in Cambridge courses at Juanita High School. The 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders earned AS/A Level credit in Mathematics, US History, and English Language.

## **Student Responsibilities:**

- Students must be willing to work hard to meet the standards of the challenging course work.
- Students will be graded using rubrics created based on the Cambridge University curriculum, which will resemble that of a college course.
- Students must take the Cambridge exam(s) that correspond to their course(s) in May/June.

## **Costs to Students:**

During 2011-12, Federal Way School District paid all exam fees for students. Exam costs are underwritten by Federal Way School District and are approximately \$67/subject exam, plus a \$26 candidate fee per student. The district also underwrites the diploma cost of \$70 per student who has met the additional requirements for the diploma.

## **Findings:**

- The total number of students enrolled in Cambridge program courses has increased by 1246 (461.5 percent) between 2011 and 2013
- The total number of non-white students enrolled in Cambridge program courses has increased by 786 (883.3 percent) between 2011 and 2013
- The total number of Gifted students enrolled in Cambridge program courses has increased by 964 between 2012 and 2013
- The total number of Free/Reduced Meal program students enrolled in Cambridge program courses has increased by 89 (15.9 percent) between 2012 and 2013

**Web resource(s):**

Cambridge AICE Diploma Program website:

<http://www.cie.org.uk/qualifications/academic/uppersec/aice>

Federal Way High School Cambridge Program website:

<http://www.fwps.org/info/cambridge/>

Juanita High School Cambridge Program website:

<http://www.lwsd.org/school/jhs/Academics/Pages/CAMBRIDGEPROGRAM.aspx>

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