

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OKALOOSA COUNTY

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
MARCUS D. CHAMBERS

ATTORNEY TO THE BOARD
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Parent/Guardian,

You are receiving this letter because your student is currently enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) Psychology for the upcoming school year. As a district, based on the information we have at this time from the Florida Department of Education and the College Board, the teaching of AP Psychology, in its entirety, as mandated by College Board, may not comply with Florida Law. As you know, receiving passing scores on AP exams may earn a student college credit and AP courses come with a higher weighting for a student's GPA. College Board issued a statement that included the following: *"We cannot modify AP Psychology in response to regulations that would censor college-level standards for credit, placement, and career readiness. Our policy remains unchanged. Any course that censors required course content cannot be labeled AP or Advanced Placement, and the AP Psychology designation cannot be utilized on student transcripts."* With this being the case, most, if not all districts throughout Florida are switching from AP Psychology to other alternatives in order to ensure students are not negatively impacted.

Our primary goal throughout this statewide issue is to ensure that your student is provided with viable alternatives with minimal impact to their academic achievement. We have approximately 340 students currently enrolled in AP Psychology. Here's what we plan to do.

In Okaloosa County, the AP Psychology course will be replaced with AICE Psychology at Fort Walton Beach High School, Crestview High School and Niceville High School and either AICE Psychology or IB Psychology at Choctawhatchee High School.

For those who may not know, AICE stands for Advanced International Certificate of Education and is a recognized course of study at the collegiate level that allows students to take an exam at the end of a course with an opportunity to earn college credit, much like Advanced Placement does. High schools in Okaloosa County have long offered AICE courses, and your student may have taken AICE General Paper, AICE Thinking Skills, or others in the past. Teachers who are teaching the new AICE Psychology course will receive additional training at the beginning of the school year to ensure they are proficient with the AICE Psychology curriculum.

What are the options for my student?

- 1. If you take no action, your student will be enrolled in AICE Psychology this year and participate in a standardized exam at the end of the year that could lead to college credit based on the outcome. AICE Psychology carries a 5.0 weighting towards a student's GPA, the same as Advanced Placement.**
- 2. You may request a schedule change out of AICE Psychology into another course by contacting your child's guidance counselor. This can be done before school begins or in accordance with the school's drop/add procedures after the year begins.**
- 3. You may discuss with your school's staff other options that best fit your individual circumstances.**

We hope that all of our students are excited about the upcoming year and are ready to take on the challenging coursework that lies ahead. Please know that your school's administrators, teachers, and counselors stand ready to support your student in the coming months.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marcus D. Chambers".

Marcus D. Chambers
Superintendent

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