

**DATE:** June 4, 2025

**TO:** Kristen Quesada, Churchill High School  
Andrew Pesci, Franklin High School  
Pete Mazzoni, Stevenson High School

**FROM:** Lindsay Rousseau, 7-12 ELA & Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator

**SUBJECT:** Textbook Recommendation for the Advanced Placement (AP) Microeconomics and Advanced Placement (AP) Macroeconomics Courses

This memo recommends the adoption of the physical copy and digital platform licenses for *Krugman's Economics for the AP Course, Fourth Edition (BFW Publishers)*, *Strive for a 5: Preparing for the AP Macroeconomics Exam (BFW Publishers)*, and *Strive for a 5: Preparing for the AP Microeconomics Exam (BFW Publishers)* for the Advanced Placement (AP) Microeconomics and Advanced Placement (AP) Macroeconomics courses. The details below provide more information about the adoption process and information to support the recommendation.

#### **Committee Members**

Franklin: Pat Koelzer

Stevenson: Rick Mestdagh

#### **Recommended Materials for Adoption**

- *Krugman's Economics for the AP Course (Fourth Edition)*, BFW Publishers, Copyright 2023
- *Krugman's Economics for the AP Course (Fourth Edition)*, BFW Publishers digital platform licenses/access
- *Strive for a 5: Preparing for the AP Macroeconomics Exam to accompany Krugman's Economics for the AP Course (Fourth Edition)*, BFW Publishers, Copyright 2023
- *Strive for a 5: Preparing for the AP Microeconomics Exam to accompany Krugman's Economics for the AP Course (Fourth Edition)*, BFW Publishers, Copyright 2023

Cost proposal is attached.

#### **Summary of Course(s)**

*AP Microeconomics* is a college-level course that introduces students to the principles of economics that apply to the functions of individual economic decision-makers. The course also develops students' familiarity with the operation of product and factor markets, distributions of income, market failure, and the role of government in promoting greater efficiency and equity in the economy. Students learn to use graphs, charts, and data to analyze, describe, and explain economic concepts. AP Microeconomics is equivalent to a one-semester introductory college course in economics.

*AP Macroeconomics* is a college-level course that introduces students to the principles that apply to an economic system as a whole. The course places particular emphasis on the study of national income and price-level determination. It also develops students' familiarity with economic performance measures, the financial sector, stabilization policies, economic growth, and international economics. Students learn to use graphs, charts, and data to analyze, describe, and explain economic concepts. AP Macroeconomics is equivalent to a one-semester introductory college course in economics.

#### **Overview**

The current textbook used in the AP Micro/Macroeconomics courses is *Principles of Economics* (Gregory Mankiw - Cengage, copyright 2008). Because of the nature of the social studies content area and the rigor of the AP Micro/Macroeconomics courses, it is imperative that updated materials be used, as much has changed in the United States

and global economies since this book was published 17 years ago. Also, College Board updated their AP Micro/Macroeconomics course descriptions in 2022 so our current resource is no longer aligned to the College Board curriculum or AP exams for both AP Microeconomics and AP Macroeconomics. In order for our students to have the best chance at attaining college credit through a passing score on the AP Micro/ Macroeconomics exam(s), we must have updated and aligned resources for students and staff to use.

### **Evaluation Process**

The committee created their shared vision for the course, examined the textbooks and online platforms, completed a rubric for each text and online platform, checked the texts for standard alignment, and had their students evaluate the texts and online platforms. The committee then came back together after the materials were piloted to discuss how the pilot went with staff and students for each text and online resource. They used the student and staff data and feedback to make the determination for which of the piloted texts/resources to adopt.

### **Shared Vision**

In LPS, we have a vision for the AP Microeconomics and AP Macroeconomics courses where students will be engaged and actively involved in the learning process through rich resources and connecting the College Board standards to the ever-evolving global economic landscape. In AP Microeconomics, students will attain a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to the functions of individual decision makers, both consumers and producers, with the economic system and will learn about the nature and functions of product markets and includes the study of factor markets and of the role of government in promoting greater efficiency and equity in the economy. In AP Macroeconomics, students will gain a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole, with particular emphasis on the study of national income and price-level determination, as well as develop students' familiarity with economic performance measures, the financial sector, stabilization policies, economic growth, and international economics. Both AP Microeconomics and AP Macroeconomics courses will prepare students to take the College Board AP Microeconomics/AP Macroeconomics exam(s) and potentially earn college credit.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

We evaluated the textbooks using a rubric with the following criteria:

- Alignment to the C3 Framework, Inquiry Arc, and the College Board standards and topics
- Balance of skill development, conceptual understanding, and applicable tasks
- Reflect the needs and diversity of LPS students
- Offer reteaching and extensions opportunities
- Discourse, engagement, critical thinking
- Assessment (formative and summative)
- Digital platform

### **Textbooks/Resources Considered**

- *Krugman's Economics for AP Course (Fourth Edition)*, BFW Publishers, Copyright 2023
- *Strive For A 5: Preparing for the AP Microeconomics Exam*, BFW Publishers, Copyright 2023
- *Strive For A 5: Preparing for the AP Macroeconomics Exam*, BFW Publishers, Copyright 2023
- *AMSCO Microeconomics, Perfection Learning*, Copyright 2021
- *AMSCO Macroeconomics, Perfection Learning*, Copyright 2021
- *Economics (23rd Edition)*, McGraw-Hill Publishers, Copyright 2025
- *Principles of Microeconomics (Tenth Edition)*, Cengage Publishing, Copyright 2024
- *Principles of Macroeconomics (Tenth Edition)*, Cengage Publishing, Copyright 2024

### **Independent Evaluation**

The committee of AP Microeconomics and Macroeconomics teachers began by looking at the six textbook options and the additional supplemental and online resources listed above. They individually completed a horizontal trace summary form, which had them document their overall reactions to the textbooks and online platforms, had them complete the horizontal trace for the College Board standards where they documented the strongest evidence that best supported the development of the selected standard, their areas of concern related to each publisher and its horizontal trace to the standards, and any/all adaptations that teachers would need to make to the materials to increase their usability with all students. The last step of the horizontal trace summary process was for the committee members to rank each textbook/resource based on whether or not the text and materials matched our vision, as well as College Board's vision, for the AP Microeconomics and AP Macroeconomics courses. The committee members then came together to talk through their documentation of the horizontal trace to see where commonalities arose between the members. Through this process, the committee used their horizontal trace documentation and discussion and narrowed down the six possible

resources to two, which were the materials they piloted with their students during the second semester of the 2024-25 school year. The textbooks/resources that were piloted with students were *Krugman's Economics for AP Course (Fourth Edition)* by BFW Publishers and *AP Microeconomics/AP Macroeconomics* by Perfection Learning (AMSCO).

### **Evaluation Rubric Outcome**

The results of the committee-created rubric (created before the pilot of the three resources began) showed *Krugman's Economics for the AP Course (Fourth Edition)*, to be the frontrunner of the resources that were piloted in the classroom. This resource was chosen because the materials do an exemplary job of aligning the text/skills with the College Board skills and standards and they provide a large amount of practice lessons, with immediate feedback, for students to increase their skill and confidence with the material and AP exam test preparation.

### **Student Response**

After having students review the texts as to the explanations of concepts and terms, the graphs and their explanations, the amount of real word examples present in each text, the amount of practice questions included that are similar to AP exam questions, and the usability of both the physical textbook and online platform, students showed a high favorability for the Krugman textbook and online platform over the AMSCO text and online platform. Students said that while the AMSCO book would be nice for the compactness of the physical text and the ability to annotate within the book, the content of the Krugman text far outweighed any of the “pros” of the AMSCO text. Students reported that the Krugman text offered descriptions and explanations that were easy to understand, included practice AP exam questions that mirrored those the students would see on the actual AP exam, provided stronger real-world connections that helped the students relate abstract ideas to everyday economics, was easy to follow and would allow them to catch up on missed lessons or study independently, and the online platform was easy to use. Overall, 89% of the students said they would recommend the Krugman resources for future use in AP Economics classes, while only 32% of the students said they would recommend using the AMSCO resources.

### **Professional Development Needs**

- Online platform training
- Time as a district committee to go through the new materials

For additional information on the adoption recommendation, contact Lindsay Rousseau at x42594.

CC

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