



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Philip C. Cleveland, Ed.D.
Interim State Superintendent
of Education

August 16, 2016

Alabama
State Board
of Education

MEMORANDUM

Governor
Robert Bentley
President

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

Matthew S. Brown, J.D.
District I

FROM: Philip C. Cleveland *PCC*
Interim State Superintendent of Education

Betty Peters
District II

RE: Alabama State Department of Education/A+ College Ready Program,
2017-2018 Cohort X Applications

Stephanie Bell
District III

I am pleased to announce the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE)/A+ College Ready Program's Request for Proposals (RFP) for 2017-2018, which is issued by the ALSDE in partnership with A+ College Ready. A+ College Ready, a division of the A+ Education Partnership, is a non-profit organization that partners with the ALSDE and private sector contributors to maximize college readiness and AP success in schools across the state.

Yvette M.
Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV
Vice President

The primary goals of the ALSDE/A+ College Ready Program are to build a pipeline of students prepared for the rigor of college; strengthen the teaching of AP mathematics, science, English, social studies, and computer science courses; build enrollment in these courses; and increase the number of students taking and earning qualifying scores on AP exams. Approximately 20 new program schools will be selected through this competitive RFP with participation beginning in the 2017-2018 school year.

Ella B. Bell
District V

The attached RFP details the components of the ALSDE/A+ College Ready Program, preliminary selection criteria, categories of funding available, and expected school/school district commitment. A Webinar to discuss the program will be hosted by the A+ College Ready Program. School districts with an interest in applying are encouraged to participate in the Webinar. For the date and time of the scheduled Webinar, please visit the following Web site: www.apluscollegeready.org.

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.
District VI

Jeff Newman
District VII

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Teri Thompson, A+ College Ready Chief Program Officer, by telephone at (334) 354-4528 or by e-mail at teri@aplusala.org.

Mary Scott Hunter, J.D.
District VIII
President Pro Tem

PCC/MR/LM

Philip C. Cleveland, Ed.D.
Interim Secretary and
Executive Officer

Attachment

cc: Mrs. Mary Boehm; Mrs. Teri Thompson; LEA Chief School Financial Officers;
Applicable ALSDE Personnel

FY16-2090



The Alabama State Department of Education/A+ College Ready Request for Proposals

A+ College Ready, in partnership with the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), is issuing a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) for participation in the ALSDE/A+ College Ready Program. This program works with Alabama's public schools to increase the number of students who are taking challenging Pre-AP/College Readiness (CR) and AP[®] courses, who are meeting college-ready assessment benchmarks, who are college- and career-ready, and who are attending and graduating from college.

A+ College Ready is a Division of the A+ Education Partnership, a non-partisan, non-profit organization that works with Alabama schools, the ALSDE, and public and private sector funders to maximize the number of students who are college- and career-ready. The Alabama schools that have implemented the program over the last seven years have, on average, seen an increase of 95% in the number of qualifying scores on mathematics, science, and English AP exams. The original goal of the program was to strengthen the teaching of AP mathematics, science, and English courses, to build enrollment in these courses, and to increase the number of students taking and earning qualifying scores on AP exams in Alabama public schools. In the 2015-2016 school year, AP U.S. History, AP Government and Politics were added and in the 2016-2017 school year and AP Computer Science Principles will be added to the list of AP courses that are supported.

This training and incentive program is designed to help implement Alabama's College- and Career-Ready Standards (CCRS). To further that goal, we are increasing our focus on preparing students for the challenges of college and beyond by providing training and support for the implementation of the National Math and Science Initiative's (NMSI) Laying the Foundation (LTF) - infused curricula in Grades 6-11 in mathematics, science, and English as well as A+ College Ready's Social Studies and Civics (SSC3) teacher training in Grades 6-10.

Program features include:

- Voluntary participation on the part of students, teachers, and schools.
- Annual financial incentives for teachers, students, and schools based on AP exam results.
- Equipment and supply incentives for Grades 6-11 teachers who commit to implement the LTF-infused courses and the SSC3 strategies while maintaining the integrity of the curricular design.
- Administrative support for Pre-AP/CR and AP teachers through vertical team meetings held in each discipline.
- Goals and expectations set at the district, school, and classroom level.
- Advanced-level, content-focused training for teachers of Pre-AP/CR and AP mathematics, science, English, social studies, and computer science courses.
- More time on task for AP students, including two Saturday study sessions and one mock exam administration per year in each discipline.
- Measurement and accountability for results managed by A+ College Ready.

Participation in the ALSDE/A+ College Ready program will require some investment and policy considerations on the part of participating schools/districts. Some of those investments and considerations include:

- Considering scheduling options that maximize opportunities for year-round AP courses and teacher workloads/class sizes.
- Promoting appropriate course pathways that maximize students' opportunities to participate in AP mathematics, science, English, social studies, and computer science.
- Using appropriate standardized test data (Aspire, ACT, AP, etc.) to identify potential students for the Pre-AP/CR and AP courses offered.
- Providing necessary facilities, textbooks, buses, and resources for full access and participation in Pre-AP/CR and AP courses.
- Implementing LTF-infused Pre-AP/CR courses in earth and space science (6th grade), life science (7th grade), physical science (8th grade), biology, chemistry, English 6, English 7, English 8, English 9, English 10, mathematics 6, advanced mathematics 7, Algebra 1 (8th grade), geometry, Algebra II with Trigonometry, and Pre-Calculus.
- Implementing the social studies strategies introduced in SSC3 for U. S. Studies (6th grade), geography (7th grade), World History to 1500 (8th grade), World History 1500 to Present (9th grade), and U. S. History I (10th grade.)
- Coordinating equipment orders by school and discipline for A+ College Ready approval.
- Coordinating with bookkeeper and/or account manager to ensure timely requests for funds from A+ College Ready.
- Providing academic incentives for students taking Pre-AP/CR and AP courses (e.g., extra GPA boost, exemption from spring semester exams for AP students taking the AP exam).
- Sharing appropriate standardized test and course data with A+ College Ready staff for program analysis and progress monitoring.
- Providing travel and substitutes for teachers attending A+ College Ready professional development.

A completed RFP must be submitted by Friday, September 23, 2016. Site visits to select schools will then be scheduled October through January 2017, and schools will be notified of the outcome of the selection process by February 6, 2017. Invitations to schools to participate in the program will be contingent on the availability of public and private implementation funds.

This RFP includes:

I. Applicant Signatures

II. Applicant Information

III. Statement of Interest (to be completed by any designated party)

IV. Administration and Faculty Reflections

- Teacher Section** (to be completed by Pre-AP/CR and AP teachers or prospective teachers)
NOTE: Be sure to include a brief biography of all current/potential Pre-AP/CR and AP teachers.
- School and District Section** (to be completed by the principal, program coordinator, or curriculum coordinator)

V. Submission information

I. Applicant Signatures – Add additional signature lines as needed.

_____ is pleased to submit this request to A+ College Ready to be selected
(school)
for the ALSDE/A+ College Ready Program. We understand the level of dedication necessary to implement this program. We will approach this exciting opportunity with the goal of building our college readiness program by increasing the number of students enrolled in challenging courses in Grades 6-11 who take and earn qualifying scores on the College Board AP exams. We understand that invitations to join the program will only be issued if funds are available.

Superintendent Signature

Date

High School Principal Signature

Date

Middle School Principal Signature

Date

AP Coordinator Signature

Date

AP Mathematics Teacher Signature

Date

AP Science Teacher Signature

Date

AP English Teacher Signature

Date

AP Social Studies Teacher Signature

Date

AP Computer Science Teacher Signature

Date

President of Parent/Student Organization Signature

Date

Bookkeeper/Account Manager/CSFO Signature

Date

II. Applicant Information

School Name: _____
 District Name: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 City, State, Zip Code: _____

	Name	Telephone	E-mail
Superintendent			
District Contact Responsible for AP and/or College Readiness			
High School Principal			
High School College Readiness Program Coordinator			
School-Based Testing Coordinator			
Current and/or Potential Pre-AP/CR and AP Teachers			
<i>Advanced/Honors courses may be counted as Pre-AP/CR for this purpose.</i>			
AP English Language Teacher(s)			
AP English Literature Teacher(s)			
AP Calculus Teacher(s)			
AP Statistics Teacher(s)			
AP Computer Science A Teacher(s)			
AP Computer Science Principles Teacher(s)			
AP Biology Teacher(s)			
AP Chemistry Teacher(s)			
AP Physics Teacher(s)			
AP Environmental Science Teacher(s)			
AP U.S History Teacher(s)			
AP Government and Politics Teacher(s)			

Pre-AP/CR English 6 Teacher(s)			
Pre-AP/CR English 7 Teacher(s)			
Pre-AP/CR English 8 Teacher(s)			
Pre-AP/CR English 9 Teacher(s)			
Pre-AP/CR English 10 Teacher(s)			
Pre-AP/CR Earth Science Teacher(s)			
Pre-AP/CR Life Science Teacher(s)			
Pre-AP/CR Physical Science Teacher(s)			
Pre-AP/CR Biology Teacher(s)			
Pre-AP/CR Chemistry Teacher(s)			
Pre-AP/CR Math 6 Teacher(s)			
Pre-AP/CR Math 7 Teacher(s)			
Pre-AP/CR Algebra I Teacher(s)			
Pre-AP/CR Geometry Teacher(s)			
Pre-AP/CR Algebra II with Trigonometry Teacher(s)			
Pre-Calculus Teacher(s)			
Pre-AP/CR U.S. Studies 6 Teacher(s)			
Pre-AP/CR Geography & Civics Teacher(s)			
Pre-AP/CR World History I Teacher(s)			
Pre-AP/CR World History II Teacher (s)			
Pre-AP/CR U.S. History Teacher (s)			

Course Information

Mathematics:

- In what grade does your school/system first offer Algebra I to students?
- What percentage of your students complete Algebra I before 9th grade?
- Does your school offer Algebra IA/Algebra IB? How many sections of Algebra IA/IB are currently offered compared to the number of regular Algebra I sections offered?
- Are students ever allowed to “double up” on mathematics in any given year of school?
- How many juniors are taking Pre-Calculus in your school this year?

Science:

- What percentage of freshmen are taking biology (General and/or Advanced/Honors/Pre-AP/CR) in your school this year?
- In what grade(s) does your school offer physical science to high school students?
- What percentage of students in an average class take high school physical science?
- What percentage of sophomores are taking chemistry (General and/or Advanced/Honors/Pre-AP) in your school this year?

English:

- How many levels of English do you offer for each grade level in Grades 9-12? For instance, do you offer General English, Advanced/Honors English, and AP English in 11th grade?
- If you offer MORE THAN two levels at any grade level, please explain why.

Social Studies:

- If AP U. S. History is offered, is the AP course split between the sophomore and junior years and offered solely in Grade 10 or solely in Grade 11?

Dual Enrollment/Early College:

- Do you offer dual enrollment or other early college opportunities for students?
- If so, which courses do you offer (please include academic as well as career technical education courses)?
- How are these courses delivered (online, at the community college by community college faculty, on high school campus taught by qualified high school teacher, etc.)?

School Bell Schedule:

- Please describe your school’s instructional schedule (block, modified block, 7-period day, etc.)
- **If your school uses an instructional schedule in which new courses are offered each semester, do your AP courses run all year long? Please describe how this works for your school.**

Assessments

- In what grades and disciplines, i.e., language, mathematics, reading, science reasoning, and writing, do you currently administer ACT Aspire (please include information for Grades 6-10)?
- Does your school use any other assessments to determine yearly student growth? (e.g., Scantron/Global Scholar, STAR)
- Are all students in AP courses expected to take the exam?

Demographic Data

Please use the most up-to-date information for this section.

School enrollment _____ 9th _____ 10th _____ 11th _____ 12th

What grade levels are offered at the applying school (e.g., 9-12 or 7-12)?

- Percent of students receiving free or reduced lunch: _____ %
- Percent of student population by ethnicity (please answer in table below):

Black	Hispanic	Asian	White	Other

- Percent of seniors who attend four-year colleges or universities: _____ %
- Percent of seniors who attend two-year colleges: _____ %
- Average SAT score (*composite*): _____
- Number of students participating in SAT: _____ 11th _____ 12th

Most Recent Average ACT Scores					School Year: _____
<i>Mathematics</i>	<i>Reading</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Science</i>	<i>Writing</i>	<i>Composite</i>

ACT ASPIRE Data

Please complete the following tables. If you do not already have this information for your school, it can be found on the ALSDE Web site under the School-Level Reports Section of the Data Center tab.

Mathematics

ACT Aspire-10 th Grade Mathematics					
		% of Students in Each Achievement Level			
Group	% Tested	Level I Does Not Meet	Level II Partially Meets	Level III Meets	Level IV Exceeds
All Students (2015-2016)					
All Students (2014-2015)					

ACT Aspire-8 th Grade Mathematics					
		% of Students in Each Achievement Level			
Group	% Tested	Level I Does Not Meet	Level II Partially Meets	Level III Meets	Level IV Exceeds
All Students (2015-2016)					
All Students (2014-2015)					

ACT Aspire-7 th Grade Mathematics					
		% of Students in Each Achievement Level			
Group	% Tested	Level I Does Not Meet	Level II Partially Meets	Level III Meets	Level IV Exceeds
All Students (2015-2016)					
All Students (2014-2015)					

ACT Aspire-5 th Grade Mathematics					
		% of Students in Each Achievement Level			
Group	% Tested	Level I Does Not Meet	Level II Partially Meets	Level III Meets	Level IV Exceeds
All Students (2015-2016)					
All Students (2014-2015)					

Science

ACT Aspire-10 th Grade Science					
		% of Students in Each Achievement Level			
Group	% Tested	Level I Does Not Meet	Level II Partially Meets (close)	Level III Meets	Level IV Exceeds
All Students (2015-2016)					
All Students (2014-2015)					

ACT Aspire-8 th Grade Science					
		% of Students in Each Achievement Level			
Group	% Tested	Level I Does Not Meet	Level II Partially Meets (close)	Level III Meets	Level IV Exceeds
All Students (2015-2016)					
All Students (2014-2015)					

ACT Aspire-7 th Grade Science					
		% of Students in Each Achievement Level			
Group	% Tested	Level I Does Not Meet	Level II Partially Meets (close)	Level III Meets	Level IV Exceeds
All Students (2015-2016)					
All Students (2014-2015)					

ACT Aspire-5 th Grade Science					
		% of Students in Each Achievement Level			
Group	% Tested	Level I Does Not Meet	Level II Partially Meets (close)	Level III Meets	Level IV Exceeds
All Students (2015-2016)					
All Students (2014-2015)					

Reading

ACT Aspire-10 th Grade Reading					
		% of Students in Each Achievement Level			
Group	% Tested	Level I Does Not Meet	Level II Partially Meets (close)	Level III Meets	Level IV Exceeds
All Students (2015-2016)					
All Students (2014-2015)					

ACT Aspire-8 th Grade Reading					
		% of Students in Each Achievement Level			
Group	% Tested	Level I Does Not Meet	Level II Partially Meets (close)	Level III Meets	Level IV Exceeds
All Students (2015-2016)					
All Students (2014-2015)					

ACT Aspire-7 th Grade Reading					
		% of Students in Each Achievement Level			
Group	% Tested	Level I Does Not Meet	Level II Partially Meets (close)	Level III Meets	Level IV Exceeds
All Students (2015-2016)					
All Students (2014-2015)					

ACT Aspire-5 th Grade Reading					
		% of Students in Each Achievement Level			
Group	% Tested	Level I Does Not Meet	Level II Partially Meets (close)	Level III Meets	Level IV Exceeds
All Students (2015-2016)					
All Students (2014-2015)					

Elementary School(s) Intermediate School(s) Information: If separate from previously listed, please enter the contact information of the feeder school which houses the 6th grade into the table below. If you have specific data about Advanced/Honors courses in these feeder schools, include that also.

Elementary School (Feeder for Grade 6)	Principal	Mailing Address	E-mail Address	Enrollment

Elementary/Intermediate School 6th Grade Advanced/Honors Course Titles	Number of Students Enrolled 2016-2017

AP DATA

Enter the AP course title, teacher, and the number of students enrolled into the table below.

AP Course Title and Teacher	Number of Students Enrolled			
	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017

Projected AP Course Offerings for 2017-2018

Please indicate below the AP courses you plan to offer during the 2017-2018 school year:

AP Mathematics, Science, English, Social Studies, or Computer Science	Teacher	Projected Enrollment

Projected Advanced/Honors Course Offerings for 2017-2018

Please indicate in the chart below the Advanced/Honors courses your school and/or your middle or junior high school plans to offer during the 2017-2018 school year:

Advanced/Honors Mathematics, Science, English, and Social Studies	Teacher	Projected Enrollment

III. Statement of Interest

Please provide a brief (not to exceed one page) statement of the school's interest in being selected for this grant. It may be written by anyone of your choosing (i.e., student, teacher, parent, administrator, or community member).

IV. Administration and Faculty Reflections

Attach a short biography (please limit to one page per teacher) of all of the current/potential AP mathematics, AP science, AP English, AP social studies, and AP computer science and teachers including:

- Advanced/Honors and AP courses they teach or have taught.
- Dates of recent College Board trainings they have completed.
- Dates of recent NMSI's LTF or A+ Pre-AP/CRSSC3 trainings completed.
- The status of the College Board's *AP Course Audit* for each teacher, if applicable.
- Any other involvement with the College Board.

***AP Teacher Section (to be completed by a committee of AP or potential AP Teachers)**

1. Briefly summarize your philosophy regarding the AP/College Readiness program, including your thoughts on how valuable the program is for students, teachers, and the school community.
2. Describe existing barriers at the school that hinder the growth of the current or proposed AP/College Readiness program.
3. Describe the potential opportunities for expansion of the AP/College Readiness program at the school. Your response should address the number of students that could be enrolled in the AP course you teach as well as the number of students having the potential to score 3 or higher on the corresponding AP exam.

**Please list names of teachers involved in completing this section of the RFP.*

***School and District Section (to be completed by the Principal, AP Coordinator, or Curriculum Coordinator)**

1. Briefly summarize your philosophy regarding an AP/College Readiness program, including your thoughts on how valuable the program is for students, teachers, and the school community.
2. Describe existing barriers at the school that hinder the growth of the current AP/ College Readiness program.
3. Do you have vertical team meetings with feeder schools? Please describe.

4. Describe the potential opportunities for expansion of the AP/College Readiness program at the school.
5. Describe your and your faculty's working relationship with the schools in your feeder pattern. Are they preparing students well for taking advanced coursework in high school? What opportunities and challenges exist in these relationships?
6. What percent of your sophomore and junior classes do you feel has the potential to take at least one AP class prior to graduating high school? What percent of these students do you feel has the potential to score a 3 or greater on at least one AP exam prior to graduating high school?

**Please provide name(s) of the administrator who completed this section of the RFP.*

V. Submission Information

Submit the **completed RFP electronically** by **Friday, September 23, 2016, to both:**

Dr. Michal Robinson, Ed. D., AP Program Manager, ALSDE
mrobinson@alsde.edu

Mrs. Teri Thompson, Chief Program Officer, A+ College Ready
teri@aplusala.org

Thank you for submitting a proposal for this valuable program. We look forward to reviewing your application.