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**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 APmathematics, 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:**

1. **Applicant Signatures**
2. **Applicant Information**
3. **Statement of Interest** (to be completed by any designated party)
4. **Administration and Faculty Reflections**
	1. **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.
	2. **School and District Section** (to be completed by the principal, program coordinator, or curriculum coordinator)
5. **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**

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**Middle School Principal Signature Date**

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**AP Coordinator Signature Date**

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**AP Mathematics Teacher Signature Date**

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**AP Science Teacher Signature Date**

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**AP English Teacher Signature Date**

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**AP Social Studies Teacher Signature Date**

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**AP Computer Science Teacher Signature Date**

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**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: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **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** |
| ***Advanced/Honors courses may be counted as Pre-AP/CR for this purpose.*** |
| 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 8Teacher(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: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |
| ***Mathematics*** | ***Reading*** | ***English*** | ***Science*** | ***Writing*** | ***Composite*** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

**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**

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|  **ACT Aspire-10th 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) |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **ACT Aspire-8th 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) |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **ACT Aspire-7th 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) |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **ACT Aspire-5th 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**

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| **ACT Aspire-10th 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) |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **ACT Aspire-8th 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) |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **ACT Aspire-7th 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) |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **ACT Aspire-5th 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**

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| **ACT Aspire-10th 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) |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **ACT Aspire-8th 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) |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **ACT Aspire-7th 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) |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **ACT Aspire-5th 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) |  |  |  |  |  |

**Middle (or Junior High) School(s) Information**: Enter your feeder Middle (or Junior High) School(s) with contact information into the table below: If you have specific data about Advanced/Honors courses in these feeder schools, include that also.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Middle (or Junior High) School**  | **Grade Levels** | **Principal** | **Mailing Address** | **E-mail Address** | **Enrollment** |
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| **Middle and/or Junior High School Advanced/Honors Course Titles** | **Number of Students Enrolled** **2016-2017** |
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**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.

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| **Elementary School (Feeder for Grade 6)** | **Principal** | **Mailing Address** | **E-mail Address** | **Enrollment** |
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| **Elementary/Intermediate School 6th Grade Advanced/Honors Course Titles**  | **Number of Students Enrolled 2016-2017** |
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**AP DATA**

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

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| --- | --- |
| **AP Course Title and Teacher** | **Number of Students Enrolled** |
| **2013-2014** | **2014-2015** | **2015-2016** | **2016-2017** |
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Enter the AP course title, the number of students taking an AP exam (T), and the number of students earning a Qualifying Score of 3 or greater (3+) in that course into the table below:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **AP Course Title** | **2013-2014** | **2014-2015** | **2015-2016** |
|  | **T** | **3+** | **T** | **3+** | **T** | **3+** |
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**High School Advanced/Honors Course Data**

Enter the Advanced/Honors course title and number of students enrolled into the table below: Please include any Honors and/or Advanced Courses offered at your high school that would prepare students for participation in AP Courses.

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| --- | --- |
| **Advanced/ Honors Course Title & Teacher** | **Number of Students Enrolled 2016-2017** |
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**Projected AP Course Offerings for 2017-2018**

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

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **AP Mathematics, Science, English, Social Studies, or Computer Science**  | **Teacher** | **Projected Enrollment** |
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**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** |
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**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.**