



STATE OF ALABAMA  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.  
 State Superintendent of Education

August 21, 2019

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** City and County Superintendents of Education

**FROM:** Eric G. Mackey *EGM*  
 State Superintendent of Education

**RE:** Alabama State Department of Education/A+ College Ready Program,  
 2020-2021 Cohort XIII Applications

I am pleased to announce the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE)/A+ College Ready Program's Request for Proposals (RFP) for 2020-2021, 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.

The primary goals of the ALSDE/A + College Ready Program are to prepare students for the rigor of college and/or career in Grades 6-12; 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. New program and pipeline schools will be selected through this competitive RFP with participation beginning in the 2020-2021 school year. Please visit the A+ College Ready website for additional information about the program at: [www.aplusala.org](http://www.aplusala.org).

The attached RFP details the components of the ALSDE/A+ College Ready Program, preliminary selection criteria, and expected school/school district commitment. This year, a middle school may apply and submit an application without its feeder high school.

Applications are to be submitted **ELECTRONICALLY ONLY** this year. [Please click here to be directed to the form.](#)

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mrs. Teri Thompson, Vice-President, Operations, A+ College Ready, by telephone at (334) 354-4528 or by email at [teri@aplusala.org](mailto:teri@aplusala.org) or Dr. Michal G. Robinson, AP Program Manager, ALSDE, by telephone at (334) 694-4768 or by email at [apib@alsde.edu](mailto:apib@alsde.edu).

EGM/MGR/LM

Attachment

cc: Mrs. Teri Thompson; Mrs. Tammy Dunn; LEA Chief School Financial Officers;  
 Applicable ALSDE Personnel

**FY19-2122**

Alabama  
 State Board  
 of Education

Governor Kay Ivey  
 President

Jackie Zeigler  
 District I  
 President Pro Tem

Tracie West  
 District II

Stephanie Bell  
 District III

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.  
 District IV

Ella B. Bell  
 District V

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.  
 District VI

Jeff Newman  
 District VII  
 Vice President

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.  
 District VIII

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.  
 Secretary and  
 Executive Officer



# Alabama State Department of Education A+ College Ready College Readiness Program Request for Proposals



## Instructions:

1. Download this document using the download button in the upper right corner of the screen.
2. Open the file and complete the document on your computer using Adobe Acrobat.
3. Once the form is complete, "Save As" \*2019-2020 *SCHOOL NAME* High School RFP\* and email the file to [both teri@aplusala.org](mailto:teri@aplusala.org) and [mrobinson@alsde.edu](mailto:mrobinson@alsde.edu).



A+ College Ready, in partnership with the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), is issuing a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) for participation in the ALSDE/A+ College Readiness Program. A+ College Ready, on behalf of the Alabama State Department of Education, partners with Alabama's public schools to increase the number of students who:

- Are enrolled in challenging courses in Grades 6-10 and Pre-Calculus as well as Advanced Placement (AP<sup>®</sup>) courses in Grades 11 and 12.
- Are taught by well-trained teachers with strategic resources.
- Are meeting or exceeding annual academic growth metrics.
- Are prepared to access college, career, or other post-secondary opportunities with no need for remediation following high school graduation.
- Are attending and graduating from college.

A program of the A+ Education Partnership, A+ College Ready is a non-partisan, nonprofit organization that works with Alabama schools, the ALSDE, and public and private funders to maximize the number of students who are prepared for college or any other pursuit upon graduation from high school. There are currently 189 Alabama high schools represented in 12 cohorts. 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. However, the work has evolved in the last 12 years and concentrates equally on the preparation of a robust and diverse pipeline of students in Grades 6-10 who will be prepared for the rigorous coursework in high school, including AP, and support for Advanced Placement teachers and students. Additionally, the menu of courses supported by the A+ College Ready program now includes AP U. S. History, AP Government and Politics (added in 2015-2016), AP Computer Science Principles (added in 2016-2017) and AP Macroeconomics (to be added in 2020-2021).

The A+ College Ready training and incentive program is designed to support the implementation of Alabama's College- and Career-Ready Standards (CCRS) in all four core disciplines as well as the Digital Literacy and Computer Science (DLCS) Standards in Grades 6-12. To further that goal, A+ College Ready has expanded its original focus on preparing students for the challenges of college and career to include training and support for the implementation of teacher-developed A+ College Ready curricula in Grades 6-10 (Grade 11 in mathematics) in English, mathematics, science, social studies, and computer science. Course-specific curricula will be available in the following subjects for this grant cycle:



**Alabama State Department of Education**  
**A+ College Ready**  
**College Readiness Program**  
**Request for Proposals**



Mathematics	Science	English	Social Studies	Computer Science
Math 6	Earth and Space Science 6	English 6	U. S. Studies 6	Middle School Computer Science Discoveries
Math 7	Life Science 7	English 7	Geography/Civics 7	
Math 8	Physical Science 8	English 8	World History 8	
Algebra I	Biology	English 9	World History 9	
Geometry	Chemistry	English 10	U. S. History 10	
Algebra II with Trigonometry				
Pre-Calculus				

**ALSDE/A+ College Ready Program features include:**

- Voluntary participation on the part of districts, schools, teachers, and students.
- Three years of advanced-level, content and pedagogical training for teachers in Grades 6-10 and Pre-Calculus and AP mathematics, science, English, social studies, and computer science courses.
- Equipment/supplies/materials for schools that commit to **full** participation in the A+ College Ready program and all program components.
- Additional time on task for AP students, including two Saturday study sessions and one mock exam administration per year in each discipline.
- Teacher support provided by A+ College Ready content staff.
- Administrator training and support for leading and implementing the A+ College Ready program.
- Administrator leadership development program resulting in an Alabama Council for Leadership (ACLD)-approved professional learning unit (PLU) for leading and implementing an instructional plan focusing on Marzano Research Instructional Elements from *The New Art and Science of Teaching* that are integrated in the E3 training curricula for teachers.
- Consumable materials allowance and potential for earning stipends for Grades 6–10 (11 in mathematics) and AP teachers who attend required training(s) and sign an annual Letter of Agreement (LOA).
- Ambitious goal setting for student growth and achievement for supported courses in Grades 6-12.
- Funding for the PSAT 8/9 to be given to 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students.
- Funding to ensure that **all** AP students will be able to take the national exam without a financial burden.
- Annual financial incentives/stipends for teachers, students, and coordinators based on AP exam and/or PSAT 8/9 results.

<sup>®</sup>AP and Pre-AP are registered trademarks of the College Board.



# Alabama State Department of Education A+ College Ready College Readiness Program Request for Proposals



## District/School Responsibilities

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

- Scheduling options that maximize opportunities for year-round AP courses and teacher workloads/class sizes.
- Promoting appropriate course pathways that maximize student opportunities to participate in rigorous coursework including AP mathematics, science, English, social studies, and computer science.
- Providing necessary facilities, textbooks, buses, and resources for full access and participation in all program components.
- Providing leadership at the local level with the expectation that 100% of teachers of core courses in Grades 6-10 and Pre-Calculus will attend three years of A+ College Ready E3 and/or AP summer training and implement the lessons/strategies/assessments associated with the training.
- Providing support, **including travel costs**, that allows teachers in Grades 6-12 to attend all A+ College Ready training events to further their professional learning.
- Providing all required information and documentation including the equipment/materials inventory surveys to ensure A+ College Ready can provide all appropriate support to the school and the teachers.
- Coordinating with the CSFO and school bookkeeper to make timely requests for documentation including receipts, invoices, packing slips, and other documentation for items purchased with grant funds.
- Providing academic incentives for students taking AP courses (e.g., extra quality points, exemption from spring semester exams for AP students taking the national exam).
- Sharing enrollment data, standardized test data, and other pertinent information with A+ College Ready staff for program analysis and progress monitoring.
- Providing travel costs for teachers attending A+ College Ready professional development (APSI, E3 training, Fall Workshops, AP Conferences, Mock Reading, etc.).
- Working with local community stakeholders, including parents, to support high expectations through rigorous coursework in order to improve student growth and achievement and to ultimately increase student opportunities for postsecondary education.



**Alabama State Department of Education  
A+ College Ready  
College Readiness Program  
Request for Proposals**



**The deadline for RFP submission is Wednesday, September 25, 2019.** An introductory site visit will be scheduled between October 2019 and January 2020. Schools will be notified of the outcome of the selection process by February 2020. Invitations to schools to participate in the program will be contingent on the availability of funds.

The RFP may be submitted on behalf of:

- **A high school and its feeder** pattern schools.
- **A single high school.**
- **A single middle/junior high school.**

Please check the appropriate box indicating the school level for which you are applying.

Please check one of these boxes	Potential Participating School(s)	Required Application Components
	High School and Feeder Pattern Schools (all schools Grades 6–12)	Complete entire application.
	High School only	Complete HIGH SCHOOL section only.
	Middle/Junior High School only (Grades 6, 7, 8 - any combination)	Complete MIDDLE/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL section only.

**This RFP includes:**

**High School and Feeder Pattern Applications**

- A. Applicant Signatures
- B. Applicant Information
- C. Statement of Interest (to be completed by any designated party)
- D. Submission Information



**Alabama State Department of Education  
A+ College Ready  
College Readiness Program  
Request for Proposals**



**A. Applicant Signatures-** Add additional signature lines as needed.

\_\_\_\_\_ School is pleased to submit this request to be considered for the ALSDE/A+ College Ready Program beginning June 1, 2020. We understand the level of commitment and the district/school responsibilities necessary to implement this program. We will approach this exciting opportunity with the goal of building our college readiness program by increasing the academic rigor for **all** students and thus increasing the number of students who take AP and other rigorous courses and earn qualifying scores on the College Board AP Exams. We understand that invitations to join the program will be issued only if funds are available.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
High School Principal Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Middle/Junior High School Principal

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
A+ Coordinator Signature (High School)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
A+ Coordinator Signature (Middle School)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
District CSFO Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
High School Faculty Representative Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Middle School Faculty Representative Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



**Alabama State Department of Education  
A+ College Ready  
College Readiness Program  
Request for Proposals**



**B. Applicant Information**

**High School Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

District Name: \_\_\_\_\_

High School Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

GPS Address if different from above: \_\_\_\_\_

**Middle/Junior High School Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

District Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle/Junior High School Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

GPS Address if different from above: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Email</b>
Superintendent			
District Contact Responsible for AP/College Readiness			
High School Principal			
Middle/Junior High Principal			
High School A+ Coordinator			
Middle/Junior High School A+ Coordinator			



**Alabama State Department of Education  
A+ College Ready  
College Readiness Program  
Request for Proposals**



If you are applying for an **entire feeder pattern (Grades 6–12)**, please list the school(s) in the feeder pattern that will be participating in the grant program. Please include the grade levels each school serves. The grant serves Grades 6-10 and Pre-Calculus and Advanced Placement in Grades 11 and 12.

School Name	Grade Level(s)

Please indicate how many teachers you have per school for each discipline.

Discipline	High School	Middle/Junior High	Elementary (Gr. 6)
Math			
Science			
English			
Social Studies			
Computer Science			

**Course Information–Answer only the questions that apply to your school.**

**Mathematics:**

1. Is Algebra I offered in the 8th grade? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What percentage of 8th graders will complete Algebra I this year and move to Geometry in Grade 9? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Are Algebra IA and IB offered? \_\_\_\_\_  
How many sections of each? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What percentage of an average class of students takes Algebra II with Trigonometry versus Algebra II without Trigonometry or an Algebra II equivalent? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How many **JUNIORS** are currently taking Pre-Calculus? \_\_\_\_\_

® AP and Pre-AP are registered trademarks of the College Board.





**Alabama State Department of Education  
A+ College Ready  
College Readiness Program  
Request for Proposals**



**Science:**

1. What percentage of 9th graders are taking Biology this year? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What percentage of 10th graders take Physical Science? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How many sections of 10th grade Physical Science do you have? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What percentage of 10th graders are taking Chemistry? (General or Advanced) \_\_\_\_\_
5. Do you currently offer Physics? \_\_\_\_\_ AP Physics? \_\_\_\_\_  
On average, what percentage of graduates have taken a physics course? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What science electives are offered?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**English:**

1. How many levels of English are offered for students in Grades 6-12? For instance, if you offer general English, Advanced/Honors English, and AP English in Grade 11, you offer **three** levels of English in that grade. Give the number of levels for each grade.

Grade	Number of Levels
6th	
7th	
8th	
9th	
10th	
11th	
12th	

2. If you offer more than two levels of English at any grade level, please explain why.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Social Studies:**

1. Do you offer AP U. S. History? \_\_\_\_\_  
If so, do you split it between two years—Grades 10 and 11—or offer it only in the 11th grade?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Does the same teacher teach AP History and U. S. History 10? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you offer AP Government and/or AP Macroeconomics? \_\_\_\_\_. If yes, does the same teacher teach both courses? \_\_\_\_\_. If no, which, if either, do you offer? \_\_\_\_\_

®AP and Pre-AP are registered trademarks of the College Board.



**Alabama State Department of Education  
A+ College Ready  
College Readiness Program  
Request for Proposals**



**Dual Enrollment/Early College:**

1. Do you offer Dual Enrollment or Early College opportunities for your students? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Which courses? Please list academic courses as well as Career Tech courses.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How are these courses delivered? Check all that apply.  
\_\_\_\_ On local school campus  
\_\_\_\_ At community college campus  
\_\_\_\_ Online
4. How many of these courses are taught by local school faculty? \_\_\_\_\_  
Community College Faculty? \_\_\_\_\_

**School Bell Schedule:**

1. Please tell us about your school's instructional schedule (7-period day, traditional block, modified block, etc.)
2. If you offer any AP courses now, do they run all year?

**Assessments:**

1. Other than the required Scantron assessment, what additional district/school assessments do you use to determine yearly growth for students? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Do you require ALL students enrolled in an AP course to take the exam? \_\_\_\_\_
3. If not, how do you determine who does and does not take the exam?  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Alabama State Department of Education  
A+ College Ready  
College Readiness Program  
Request for Proposals**



**High School Demographic Data:**

2019-2020 High School Enrollment: 9th \_\_\_\_\_ 10th \_\_\_\_\_ 11th \_\_\_\_\_ 12th \_\_\_\_\_

Percentage of students receiving free or reduced lunch (2019-2020): \_\_\_\_\_%

Student population by ethnicity (% values please):

Black	Hispanic	Asian	White	Other

Percent of 2019 graduates who attend a four-year college/university: \_\_\_\_\_%

Percent of 2019 graduates who attend a two-year college: \_\_\_\_\_%

**Test Data:**

ACT Score Averages for Junior Class in Spring 2019					
<i>Mathematics</i>	<i>Reading</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Science</i>	<i>Writing</i>	<i>Composite</i>

**High School Advanced/Honors Course Data:**

Enter the title of the course, teacher name, and enrollment for 2019-2020 into the table below. Include only core subjects.

Course Title	Teacher Name	Enrollment for 2019-2020



**Alabama State Department of Education  
A+ College Ready  
College Readiness Program  
Request for Proposals**



**Historical AP Data:**

AP Course Title and Teacher	Number of Students Enrolled			
	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019

AP Course Title	T= Test Takers 3+ =a Qualifying Score of 3 or higher							
	2016		2017		2018		2019	
	T	3+	T	3+	T	3+	T	3+

<sup>®</sup>AP and Pre-AP are registered trademarks of the College Board.



**Alabama State Department of Education  
A+ College Ready  
College Readiness Program  
Request for Proposals**



**Projected AP Course Offerings for 2019-2020:**

AP Course	Yes	Maybe	No	Projected Enrollment (If yes or no)	
AP Calculus					
AP Statistics					
AP Biology					
AP Chemistry					
AP Physics					
AP Environmental Science					
AP Language and Composition (Grade 11)					
AP Literature and Composition (Grade 12)					
AP U. S. History (Grade 11)					
AP Government and Politics (Grade 12)					
AP Computer Science Principle					
AP Computer Science A					



**Alabama State Department of Education  
A+ College Ready  
College Readiness Program  
Request for Proposals**



**Middle/Jr. High School Demographic Data:**

*Please complete this section for each middle or junior high school that feeds to applicant high school.*

2019-2020 Middle/Junior High School Enrollment: 6th \_\_\_\_\_ 7th \_\_\_\_\_ 8th \_\_\_\_\_

What percentage of students receive free or reduced lunch? \_\_\_\_\_

Percentage student population by ethnicity:

<b>Black</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>Asian</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Other</b>

<b>Scantron READING Summary from Spring 2019</b>				
<i>Grade Level</i>	<i>% in Level 4</i>	<i>% in Level 3</i>	<i>% in Level 2</i>	<i>% in Level 1</i>
6th				
7th				
8th				

<b>Scantron MATH Summary from SPRING 2019</b>				
<i>Grade Level</i>	<i>% in Level 4</i>	<i>% in Level 3</i>	<i>% in Level 2</i>	<i>% in Level 1</i>
6th				
7th				
8th				

Have you ever administered the PSAT 8/9 to your students? \_\_\_\_\_



**Alabama State Department of Education  
A+ College Ready  
College Readiness Program  
Request for Proposals**



**Middle/Junior High School Advanced/Honors Course Data:**

Enter the title of the course, teacher name, and enrollment for 2019-2020 into the table below. Include only core subjects.

Course Title	Teacher Name	Enrollment for 2019-2020

**C. 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., teacher, district administrator, or building administrator).

Points to Consider:

- How do you think the A+ College Ready Program could benefit your school community?
- What is your faculty’s overall interest in pursuing the A+ College Ready program?
- What are the opportunities for expansion of AP courses and/or AP enrollment?
- Is there a need for higher expectations and more rigorous instruction in Grades 6-10?
- What are some barriers that will need to be addressed to embrace this type of program in your school?
- What is the relationship between the high school and its feeder middle/junior high school(s)?

*Please provide the name and position of the person(s) completing Section C of the RFP.*



**Alabama State Department of Education  
A+ College Ready  
College Readiness Program  
Request for Proposals**



**D. Submission Information**

Submit the completed RFP electronically by September 27, 2019, to **BOTH:**

Dr. Michal G. Robinson  
AP Program Manager  
Alabama State Department of Education  
[mrobinson@alsde.edu](mailto:mrobinson@alsde.edu)

Mrs. Teri Thompson  
Vice-President, Operations  
A+ College Ready  
[teri@aplusala.org](mailto:teri@aplusala.org)