A+ College Ready Middle School Training and Incentive Program Pilot (MSTIP)

Application Due November 15, 2019

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:

- Enrolled in challenging courses in Grades 6-10 and Pre-Calculus as well as Advanced Placement (AP®) courses in Grades 11 and 12.
- Taught by well-trained teachers with strategic resources.
- Meeting or exceeding annual academic growth metrics.
- Prepared to access college, career, or other post-secondary opportunities with no need for remediation following high school graduation.
- 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 twelve 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 Advanced Placement. Additionally, the menu of AP 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.

The Middle School Training and Incentive Program (MSTIP) is modeled after the Advanced Placement Training and Incentive Program (APTIP) that has dramatically increased student access and success in Advanced Placement math, science, English, social studies and Computer Science in Alabama. Components of the program include teacher training, administrator training and support, teacher empowerment through equipment/materials/supplies, and teacher, leader, and student incentives based upon student achievement and growth as measured by the Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program (ACAP). The goal of the program is to raise the expectations and rigor in classrooms, and to build a pipeline of students prepared for any pathway they choose in high school, including participation in Advanced Placement coursework.

The middle school courses listed below are supported by A+ College Ready.

Math	Science	English	Social Studies	Computer Science
Math 6	Earth/Space Science	English 6	American Studies	Computer Science Discoveries

(can be offered from a semester in a single grade to all three years) |
Math 7 (Adv/Reg)	Life Science	English 7	Civics/Geography	
Math 8	Physical Science	English 8	U. S. History I	
Algebra I				

ALSDE/A+ College Ready MSTIP Program features include:

- Voluntary participation on the part of districts, schools, teachers, and students.
- Two years of rigorous content, and pedagogical training (E3) for teachers in the supported courses based on the Alabama courses of study.
- Equipment/supplies/materials for teachers who commit to FULL participation in and implementation of the A+ College Ready MSTIP program.
- Teacher support provided by A+ College Ready content staff.
- Consumable materials allowance and potential for earning stipends for middle school teachers who attend required training(s) and sign an annual Letter of Agreement(LOA).
- Ambitious goal setting for student access, growth, and achievement for supported courses.
- Annual financial incentives/stipends for teachers and their students based on ACAP score growth and achievement.

District/School Responsibilities:

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

- Holding high expectations for ALL administrators, teachers, and students.
- Promoting appropriate course pathways that maximize opportunities for ALL STUDENTS to participate in rigorous, grade-level coursework.
- Providing necessary facilities, textbooks (when needed), and resources for full access and participation in all program components.
- Providing leadership and the local expectation that 100% of teachers in math, science, English, social studies and computer science will attend three years of A+ College Ready E3 summer training and implement the lessons/strategies/assessments associated with the training. *NOTE: While situations arise preventing some teachers from attending training, a school's participation in the program will be discontinued if fewer than 80% of supported teachers do not attend training and sign the Letter of Agreement.*
- Sharing enrollment data, standardized test data, and other pertinent information with A+ College Ready staff for program analysis and progress monitoring.
- **Providing support and travel costs and approving professional leave for teachers** to attend A+ College Ready professional development (E3 training during summer, 4 days; one-day fall workshops in Oct/Nov).
- Coordinating the receipt, distribution, and document organization associated with materials supplied to the school/teachers.
- Working with local community stakeholders, including parents, to support high expectations through rigorous coursework in order to improve student growth
- Understanding that teachers and students will be eligible for stipends and incentives based on growth and/or achievement.
- Attending a day-long Leadership Launch to describe the program and leadership responsibilities in spring, 2020.
- Appointing an A+ Coordinator who will serve as the liaison between A+ College Ready and the school and who will manage the A+ College Ready Data Reporting System on behalf of the school.

Teacher Responsibilities:

- Participating schools **MUST HAVE** a minimum of 80% of all teachers in supported courses attend summer training and commit to signing a Letter of Agreement (LOA) each of the years of the program. While it is expected that 100% of the teachers will attend, if fewer than 80% of a school's teachers attend all four days of training and/or sign a Letter of Agreement (LOA), the partnership will be discontinued for that and subsequent years.
- Teachers commit to holding ALL STUDENTS to high academic expectations and providing the scaffolding and support to foster students' attainment of the high expectations.
- Teachers will attend and actively participate in four-day E3 summer training during each year of the program.
- Teachers will attend and actively participate in the annual one-day fall workshop for their course during each year of the program.
- Each year, teachers will work to increase the number of students meeting significant benchmarks and showing significant growth on the ACAP assessment in their discipline, with special attention to achievement and improvement of students in underserved populations.
- Teachers will use the A+ College Ready curricular materials and will commit to teaching all of their course standards during the school year.
- Teachers will submit all required program documentation/records, including the A+ College Ready Data Reporting System (DRS) requirements in a timely manner.

The deadline for RFP submission is Wednesday, November 6, 2019. School site visits will be scheduled between that date and January 2020. Schools will be notified of the outcome of the selection process by February 2020. Five schools will be selected for the pilot program.

This RFP includes:

   I.   **Applicant Signatures**
  II.   **Applicant Information**
 III.   **Statement of Interest**
 IV.   **Submission Information**

**Alabama State Department of Education A+ College Ready
College Readiness Program Request for Proposals
MSTIP Application 2020-21**

I.   Applicant Signatures

_____ **School is pleased to submit this request to be considered for the ALSDE/A+ College Ready Middle School Training and Incentive Program. We understand the level of dedication and the district/school responsibilities necessary to implement this program. We will approach this exciting opportunity with the goal of increasing the academic rigor for ALL students and thus increasing the number of students prepared for any course pathway they choose in high school and beyond, including participation in Advanced Placement.**

_____   _____
Superintendent Signature   Date

_____   _____
Middle School Principal Signature   Date

_____   _____
Potential A+ Coordinator Signature   Date

_____   _____
District CSFO Signature   Date

_____   _____
Math Faculty Representative Signature   Date

_____   _____
Science Faculty Representative Signature   Date

_____   _____
English Faculty Representative Signature   Date

_____   _____
Social Studies Faculty Representative Signature   Date

_____   _____
Computer Science Faculty Representative Signature   Date

II.   Applicant Information

Middle School Name:_____

District Name:_____

Middle School Mailing Address:_____

City, State, Zip Code:_____

GPS Address i different from above:_____

To what high school(s) does your middle school
feed:_____

Position	Name	Telephone	E-mail
Superintendent			
District C & I Director			
Middle School Principal			
Potential A+ Coordinator			

Course Information

*Advanced may be advanced or honors

Course	Number of Sections	Current Student Enrollment
Math 6		
Advanced Math 6		
Math 7		
Advanced Math 7		
Math 8		
Algebra I		
Earth/Space Science 6		
Adv. Earth/Space Science 6		
Life Science 7		
Adv. Life Science 7		
Physical Science 8		
Adv. Physical Science 8		
English 6		
Advanced English 6		
English 7		
Advanced English 7		
English 8		
Advanced English 8		
American Studies 6		
Adv. American Studies 6		
Civics/Geography 7		
Adv. Civics/Geography 7		
World History I, grade 8		
Adv. World History I		
Computer Science Discoveries		

Schedule:

Describe your school schedule, number of periods/day, number of minutes/period, any interesting features of the schedule, etc.

School Demographic Data:

2019-20 Enrollment: 6th_____7th_____8th_____

Percentage of students receiving free or reduced lunch (2019-20):_____%

Student population by ethnicity:

Black	Hispanic	Asian	White	Other

Fall, 2019 Scantron Summary Data:

Enter the percentage of students in each of the four quartiles based on the fall, 2019 Scantron Assessment. Note: If fall, 2019 data are unavailable, please share the spring, 2019 data for these cohorts of students. For example, share the spring FIFTH GRADE data for the current 6th grade cohort, etc.

6th Grade			Number of Students Tested:				
Reading				Math			
Quartile 4	Quartile 3	Quartile 2	Quartile 1	Quartile 4	Quartile 3	Quartile 2	Quartile 1

7th Grade			Number of Students Tested:				
Reading				Math			
Quartile 4	Quartile 3	Quartile 2	Quartile 1	Quartile 4	Quartile 3	Quartile 2	Quartile 1

8th Grade			Number of Students Tested:				
Reading				Math			
Quartile 4	Quartile 3	Quartile 2	Quartile 1	Quartile 4	Quartile 3	Quartile 2	Quartile 1

Faculty Information:

Indicate the number of faculty members you have in each of the departments listed.

Department	Number of Faculty Members
Math	
Science	
English	
Social Studies	
Computer Science	

III.   Statement of Interest

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

Points to Consider:

- How do you think your school's participation in this pilot program could benefit your school community?
- Overall, how interested is your faculty, as a whole, interested in raising expectations for all students?
- What do you think will be the major barriers to implementation of the program, should your school be selected?

Please provide the name(s) and position(s) of the person(s) completing Section III.

IV.   Submission Information

Submit the completed RFP electronically by November 15, 2019.

Sean Stevens,
Alabama State Department of Education
sstevens@alsde.edu

Teri Thompson,
Vice-President of Operations
A+ College Ready
teri@aplusala.org