

# **A+ College Ready Selects High Schools to Tentatively Expand Advanced Placement Training and Incentive Program**

A+ College Ready's Advanced Placement Training and Incentive Program is set to welcome Cohort V, pending the approval of funding in the state budget.

Cohort V high schools that have been selected to participate if funding comes through include; Arab (Arab city system), Daphne and Fairhope (Baldwin County), Cullman (Cullman city system), Elmore County, Headland (Henry County), Francis Marion and Robert C. Hatch (both in Perry County), Montevallo and Vincent (both in Shelby County), Moody (in St. Clair County), and Cordova (Walker County).

A+ College Ready, which is funded by a \$13.2 million grant from the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI), was established to significantly increase the number of Alabama students taking math, science, and English AP courses and earning qualifying scores on AP exams. Through its AP Training and Incentive Program, A+ College Ready uses the funds to give students and teachers the tools, resources and support they need to succeed, as never before in Alabama, in teaching and learning rigorous AP course work.

In its 7th Annual AP Report, the College Board cited Alabama as a national leader in rising AP participation and success rates.

From 2001 to 2010 Alabama has moved from the bottom five in the nation to 41<sup>st</sup> in the percentage of seniors completing high school with at least one successful AP experience. Minority students from A+ College Ready schools accounted for 94% of the state's total increases among minority students in AP qualifying scores in MSE for 2010-2011.

In the first year alone, 23 Alabama schools in five districts recorded a 106 percent increase in passing scores on AP math, science and English exams. With a success rate 16 times the national average of 6.6 percent, Alabama led the nation in increasing the number of students earning passing scores.

"A+ College Ready improves academic opportunities for students across the state and ultimately allows businesses to employ the best and brightest graduates." said Dr. Eli Capilouto, Provost, University of Alabama at Birmingham and A+ College Ready Board member. This belief is echoed by business leaders from Alabama Power Co., Regions Financial Corporation, Boeing and ExxonMobil that help fund A+ College Ready along with other companies, foundations and individual donors from across the state.

A+ College Ready is a division of the A+ Education Partnership and was created with funding from the National Math and Science Initiative to implement a proven Advanced Placement training and incentive initiative in public schools throughout Alabama. For more information, visit [www.aplusala.org](http://www.aplusala.org).

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