



A National Math and Science Initiative Program

A+ COLLEGE READY

A Division of the A+ Education Partnership

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mary Boehm - 205-257-5350 or Teri Thompson – 334-354-4528

State Board of Education recognizes the addition of 29 schools to the ALSDE/A+ College Ready Program for 2016-2017

(Montgomery) – Twenty-nine additional high schools across the state have been selected to participate in a successful statewide initiative, which will increase the number of students prepared for the challenge of college courses.

This new cohort makes a total of 161 Alabama high schools in the ALSDE/A+ College Ready Program that receive comprehensive teacher training and student support to boost enrollment and success in Advanced Placement (AP[®]) courses in mathematics, science, English, social studies, computer science, and the rigorous courses that lead up to AP.

Alabama has consistently ranked **number one** among all 50 states in the percent increase in qualifying scores on math, science and English AP exams from 2008-2015 for all students. Last year the state ranked #3 in the nation the same percent increase for minority students.

“Because of the A+ College Ready Program grant opportunity, Zion Chapel will be the first school in our district to offer onsite Advanced Placement coursework, said Lauren Parker, assistant principal at Zion Chapel High School in Coffee County. “We plan to pilot the AP Program at our school and work toward helping other schools in our district to also successfully implement Advanced Placement courses.”

At the April 14th meeting, the State Board of Education was presented with a resolution recognizing the new schools, and gave credit to the partnership between the ALSDE and **A+ College Ready** for helping thousands of Alabama students become college and career ready.

“One of the rewards of serving on the State Board is in supporting programs that truly improve student learning and achievement, and prepare more Alabama students for college,” said Jeff Newman, State Board of Education Vice President. “We applaud these 29 schools for their commitment to their students by becoming an A+ College Ready partner.”

The schools invited to join the ALSDE / A+ College Ready Program in the 2016-17 school year will be the ninth group of schools participating in this statewide college readiness program, which expands the program into over half of all Alabama public school districts.

“The partnership between A+ and Carroll High will provide students an opportunity to engage in rigorous course work, while providing both teachers and students support to meet these expectations,” said principal Sean Clark. “At Carroll we are very excited to be a part of A+, we always strive to provide our students with opportunities to prepare them beyond high school.”

The 29 schools joining the ALSDE/A+ College Ready Program for Cohort IX are:

School	District
<i>Program Schools</i>	
Prattville High School	Autauga City
Boaz High School	Boaz City County
Walter Wellborn High School	Calhoun County
Chilton County High School	Chilton County City
Zion Chapel High School	Coffee County
West Point High School	Cullman County
Sulligent High School	Lamar County
Beulah High School	Lee County
Loachapoaka High School	Lee County
Brewer High School	Morgan County
Carroll High School	Ozark City
Pelham High School	Pelham City
Sheffield High School	Sheffield City
Sumter Central High School	Sumter County
B.B. Comer High School	Talladega County
Fayetteville High School	Talladega County
Northside High School	Tuscaloosa County

12 of the 29 schools were selected to participate as Pipeline Schools. These schools will institute an aggressive training program designed to increase the number of students enrolled and succeeding in rigorous coursework in an effort to prepare for a full implementation of Advanced Placement courses the following year:

<i>Pipeline Schools</i>	
Anniston High School	Anniston City
Parker High School	Birmingham City
Chickasaw High School	Chickasaw City
Good Hope High School	Cullman County
Fairfield High School	Fairfield City
Fayette County High School	Fayette County

Greene County High School	Greene County
Hale County High School	Hale County
Greensboro High School	Hale County
East Limestone High School	Limestone County
West Limestone High School	Limestone City
Talladega County Central High School	Talladega County

For the 2016-17 school year, the 29 newly selected high schools are collectively projected to accomplish the following goals:

- Implement over 80 AP courses in math, science, English, social studies, and computer science (MSESSCS)
- Add over 2100 new enrollments to AP MSESSCS courses
- Reach a goal of students earning over 800 new qualifying scores on AP MSESSCS exams
- Aggressively expand enrollment in courses in 6th-11th grade that lead up to AP courses to create a pipeline of students prepared for college-level work
- Significantly increase the number of students meeting critical college-ready benchmarks on ACT-based assessments

The ALSDE / A+ College Ready Program provides extensive training and support for teachers and students in high school and middle school. For teachers this includes:

- Weeklong summer training institutes
- Additional days of professional development throughout the year
- Ongoing support and coaching from expert content directors and managers
- Financial stipends based on academic results
- Funding for equipment infrastructure to implement AP and *Laying The Foundation* (LTF)-infused courses

Students participate in Saturday study sessions led by experienced master teachers, have reduced exam fees, and can earn financial incentives based on academic success.

A+ College Ready, a division of the A+ Education Partnership, was created with a \$13.2 million grant from the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) in 2008 to implement a proven college-readiness and Advanced Placement Initiative in public schools throughout Alabama. Key leadership involved in launching and supporting A+ College Ready included the Governor, the State Superintendent of Education, the Alabama Power Foundation, The Alabama Math, Science and Technology Initiative, Regions Financial Corporation, Boeing and ExxonMobil Corporation. The Alabama State Legislature, with additional support from the Appalachian Regional Commission, the National Science Foundation, the US Department of Education, and the Department of Defense, now fund the ALSDE/A+ College Ready Program so the program can continue to thrive.

For more information, please visit <http://www.apluscollegeready.org>, www.nms.org, and www.alsde.edu.

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