



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Michael Sentance, J.D., LL.M.
State Superintendent of Education

July 5, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Michael Sentance *MS*
State Superintendent of Education

RE: Alabama State Department of Education/A+ College Ready Program,
2017-2018 Cohort XI Applications

I am pleased to announce the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE)/A+ College Ready Program's Request for Proposals (RFP) for 2018-2019, 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; 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 2018-2019 school year.

The attached RFP details the components of the ALSDE/A+ College Ready Program, preliminary selection criteria, categories of funding available, and expected school/school district commitment. Please visit the following A+ College Ready Web site for additional information about the program: www.apluscollegeready.org.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Teri Thompson, A+ College Ready Chief Program Officer, by telephone at (334) 354-4528 or by e-mail at teri@aplusala.org.

MS/MGR/LM

Attachment

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

FY17-2076

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State Board
of Education

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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 College Readiness Program. This program works with Alabama's public schools to increase the number of students who:

- Have access to challenging courses in Grades 6-10 as well as Advanced Placement (AP)[®] courses in Grades 11 and 12.
- Are taught by well-trained teachers with strategic resources.
- Meet college-ready assessment benchmarks.
- Graduate ready to access college/career opportunities with no need for remediation.
- Attend and graduate 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 upon graduation from high school. The Alabama schools that have implemented the program in Cohorts I-VIII have, on average, seen an increase of 120% in the number of qualifying scores on mathematics, science, and English AP exams during their first year of participation. 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. 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), and AP Computer Science Principles (added in 2016-2017).

The A+ College Ready training and incentive program is designed to support the implementation of Alabama's College- and Career-Ready Standards (CCRS). 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 in English, mathematics, science, and social studies. Course specific curricula will be available in the following subjects for this grant cycle:

Mathematics	Science	English	Social Studies	Computer Science
Math 6	Earth & 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				

^(R) AP and Pre-AP are registered trademarks of the College Board.



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ALSDE/A+ College Ready Program features include:

- Voluntary participation on the part of districts, schools, teachers, and students.
- Annual financial incentives for teachers, students, and schools based on AP exam results.
- Equipment and supply incentives for Grades 6-10 (11th grade Pre-Calculus) teachers who commit to implement the A+ College Ready designed curricula.
- Administrative support for teachers through vertical team meetings held in each discipline.
- Ambitious goal setting for student achievement for all supported courses in Grades 6-12.
- Advanced-level, content-focused training for teachers in Grades 6-10 (11th grade Pre-Calculus) and AP mathematics, science, English, social studies, and computer science courses.
- Additional time on task for AP students, including two Saturday study sessions and one mock exam administration per year in each discipline.

District/School Responsibilities

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:

- 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 AP mathematics, science, English, social studies, and computer science.
- Providing necessary facilities, textbooks, buses, and resources for full access and participation in supported coursework.
- Providing leadership and the local expectation that 100% of teachers of core courses in Grades 6-10 (11 in mathematics) will attend two years of A+ College Ready Summer Training and implement the lessons/strategies/assessments associated with the training.
- Coordinating the approval, purchase, receipt, and invoice submission associated with equipment and supplies provided with A+ College Ready funds.
- Coordinating with the CSFO and school bookkeeper to make timely requests of certain grant funds and to provide receipts and other documentation for items purchased with grant funds.
- Providing academic incentives for students taking AP courses (e.g., extra GPA boost, exemption from spring semester exams for AP students taking the AP 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 and substitutes for teachers attending A+ College Ready professional development (APSI, Summer Training, Fall Workshops, Fall Conferences, Mock Reading, etc.).
- Working with local community stakeholders to support high expectations through rigorous coursework in order to improve student achievement and ultimately increase student opportunities for postsecondary education and career.



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Deadline for RFP submission is Wednesday, September 13, 2017. School site visits will then be scheduled between October 2017 and January 2018. Schools will be notified of the outcome of the selection process by February 5, 2018. Invitations to schools to participate in the program will be contingent on the availability of public and private implementation funds.

This RFP includes:

- I. Applicant Signatures**
- II. Applicant Information**
- III. Statement of Interest** (to be completed by any designated party)
- IV. Submission Information**



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I. Applicant Signatures – Add additional signature lines as needed.

_____ is pleased to submit this request to be considered for the
(School)
ALSDE/A+ College Ready Program. We understand the level of dedication and 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 number of students enrolled in challenging courses in Grades 6-10 (11 in mathematics) and/or AP courses 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

Middle School Principal Signature

Date

A+ Program Coordinator Signature

Date

A+ Program Coordinator - Middle School Signature

Date

Bookkeeper/Account Manager/CSFO Signature

Date



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II. Applicant Information

High School Name: _____

District Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Feeder School(s) Name: _____

Grade Levels at Middle School: _____

	Name	Telephone	E-mail
Superintendent			
District Contact Responsible for AP and/or College Readiness			
High School Principal			
High School A+ Program Coordinator			
School-Based Testing Coordinator			
Feeder Middle School (MS) Principal			
Feeder Middle School Principal (if there is 2nd feeder MS)			
Feeder Middle School Principal (if there is 3rd feeder MS)			
Middle School A+ Program Coordinator			
Middle School A+ Program Coordinator (for 2nd MS)			
Middle School A+ Program Coordinator (for 3rd MS)			



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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 and move on to Geometry in the 10th grade?
- Does your school offer Algebra IA/Algebra IB? If so, how many sections of Algebra IA/IB are currently offered compared to the number of regular Algebra I sections offered?
- What percentage of your students take Algebra II with Trigonometry versus Algebra II without Trig or another Algebra II alternative?
- 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) in your school this year?
- What percentage of students in an average class take high school Physical Science in the 10th grade? How many sections of Physical Science are being offered in the 2017-2018 school year?
- What percentage of sophomores are taking Chemistry (General and/or Advanced/Honors/Pre-AP) in your school this year? How many sections of Chemistry (General, Advanced/Honors) are being offered in the 2017-2018 school year?
- What percentage of students in an average class take Physics or AP Physics? How many sections of Physics or AP Physics are being offered in the 2017-2018 school year?
- What science electives (anything besides Biology, Chemistry, and Physics) does your school offer and how many sections of each are being offered in the 2017-2018 school 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.



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Social Studies:

- If AP U. S. History is offered, is the AP course split between the sophomore and junior years or offered solely in Grade 10 or 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 and 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 addition to the required ACT Aspire testing in Grades 3-8 and Grade 10, did you administer the ASPIRE science or writing test in some grades? Please describe.
- 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?



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High School Demographic Data

2017-2018 High School enrollment: _____ 9th _____ 10th _____ 11th _____ 12th

What grade levels are offered at the applying high school (e.g., Grades 9-12 or Grades 7-12)? _____

- Percent of students receiving free or reduced lunch (2017-2018): _____ %
- Percent of student population by ethnicity (2017-2018):

Black	Hispanic	Asian	White	Other

- Percent of 2016 seniors who attend four-year colleges or universities: _____ %
- Percent of 2016 seniors who attend two-year colleges: _____ %
- Average SAT score (2016-2017) (*composite*): _____
- Number of students participating in 2016-2017 SAT: _____ 11th _____ 12th

ACT Score Averages for Junior Class in Spring 2017

<i>Mathematics</i>	<i>Reading</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Science</i>	<i>Writing</i>	<i>Composite</i>



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Middle School Demographic Data

Please use the most up-to-date information for this section.

Please complete this sheet for each middle school that feeds to the applicant high school.

Name of Middle School: _____

Middle School enrollment: _____6th _____7th _____8th

What grade levels are offered at the school (e.g., Grades 6-8 or Grades 7-8)? _____

- Percent of students receiving free or reduced lunch (2017-2018): _____ %
- Percent of student population by ethnicity (2017-2018) (please answer in table below):

Black	Hispanic	Asian	White	Other



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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

ACT Aspire - 10th Grade Mathematics					
		% 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 (2016-2017)					
All Students (2015-2016)					
All Students (2014-2015)					

ACT Aspire - 8th Grade Mathematics					
		% 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 (2016-2017)					
All Students (2015-2016)					
All Students (2014-2015)					

ACT Aspire - 7th Grade Mathematics					
		% 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 (2016-2017)					
All Students (2015-2016)					
All Students (2014-2015)					

ACT Aspire - 5th Grade Mathematics					
		% 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 (2016-2017)					
All Students (2015-2016)					
All Students (2014-2015)					



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Science

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 (2016-2017)					
All Students (2015-2016)					
All Students (2014-2015)					

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 (2016-2017)					
All Students (2015-2016)					
All Students (2014-2015)					

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 (2016-2017)					
All Students (2015-2016)					
All Students (2014-2015)					

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 (2016-2017)					
All Students (2015-2016)					
All Students (2014-2015)					



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Reading

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 (2016-2017)					
All Students (2015-2016)					
All Students (2014-2015)					

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 (2016-2017)					
All Students (2015-2016)					
All Students (2014-2015)					

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 (2016-2017)					
All Students (2015-2016)					
All Students (2014-2015)					

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 (2016-2017)					
All Students (2015-2016)					
All Students (2014-2015)					



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HISTORICAL AP DATA

Enter the AP course title, the name of the most recent AP teacher associated with the course and the number of students enrolled in each AP class since 2014-2015 into the table below:

AP Course Title and Teacher	Number of Students Enrolled			
	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018

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:

AP Course Title	2014-2015		2015-2016		2016-2017	
	T	3+	T	3+	T	3+



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High School Advanced/Honors/Pre-AP Course Data

Enter the Advanced/Honors/Pre-AP course (any course considered higher than the “regular” course) title, teacher, and number of students enrolled in 2017-2018 into the table below. Include subjects in mathematics, science, English, and social studies.

Advanced/Honors/Pre-AP Course Title & Teacher	Number of Students Enrolled 2017-2018

Projected AP Course Offerings for 2018-2019

Please indicate the AP courses you would like to offer during the 2018-2019 school year below:

AP Mathematics, Science, English, Social Studies, or Computer Science	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., teacher, district administrator, or building level administrator).

Points to Consider:

- How do you think the A+ College Ready Program could benefit your school community?
- 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 school(s)?

**Please provide name(s) of the person(s) involved in completing Section III of the RFP.*



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IV. Submission Information

Submit the **completed RFP electronically** by **Wednesday, September 13, 2017, to BOTH**:

Dr. Michal Robinson, 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.