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September 9, 2020

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Eric G. Mackey
State Superintendent of Education

RE: Alabama State Department of Education/A+ College Ready Program,
2021-2022 Cohort XIV Applications

I am pleased to announce the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE)/A+ College Ready Program's Request for Proposals (RFP) for 2021-2022, 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 2021-2022 school year. Please visit the A+ College Ready website for additional information about the program at: 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.

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 or Dr. Michal G. Robinson, AP Program Manager, ALSDE, by telephone at (334) 694-4768 or by email at apib@alsde.edu.

EGM/MGR/LM
Attachment

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

FY20-2142

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 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®) 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 postsecondary opportunities with no need for remediation following high school graduation.
- Are attending, persisting, 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 sector funders to maximize the number of students who are prepared for college upon graduation from high school. The original goal of the program was to strengthen the teaching of Advanced Placement 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 now 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 courses. The program has also expanded to include Social Studies and Computer Science courses.

The A+ College Ready training and incentive program is designed to support the implementation of Alabama's Courses of Study in all four core disciplines (math, science, English, and social studies) as well as the Digital Literacy and Computer Science (DLCS) Standards in Grades K-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:

Mathematics	Science	English	Social Studies	Computer Science
Math 6	Earth and Space Science 6	English 6	U. S. Studies 6	*Computer Science Discoveries/* Middle School Computer Science Note: Beginning in fall 2021, there will be curricula for THREE DIFFERENT years of Middle School Computer Science
Math 7/Accelerated Math 7	Life Science 7	English 7	Geography/Civics 7	
Math 8/Accelerated Math 8	Physical Science 8	English 8	World History 8	
Geometry with Data Analysis	Biology	English 9	World History 9	
Algebra I with Probability	Chemistry	English I0	U. S. History 10	
Algebra II with Statistics				
Precalculus				
AP Calculus AB	AP Biology	AP Language	AP U. S. History	AP Computer Science Principles
AP Calculus BC	AP Chemistry	AP Literature	AP Government & Politics	AP Computer Science A
AP Statistics	AP Environmental Science		AP Macroeconomics	
	AP Physics 1 & 2			
	AP Physics C— Mechanics & Electricity & Magnetism			

ALSDE/A+ College Ready Program features include

▪ Voluntary participation on the part of districts, schools, teachers, and students.
▪ Three years of advanced-level, content-focused training for teachers in Grades 6-10 and Pre-Calculus and AP mathematics, science, English, social studies, and computer science courses.
▪ Equipment and instructional supply stipends for trained teachers who commit to implement the A+ College Ready designed curricula and sign Letters of Agreement (LOA).
▪ Additional time on task for AP students, including student study sessions and one mock exam administration per year in each discipline. (Study sessions will likely be provided on Saturdays.)

- Teacher support provided by A+ College Ready content staff.
- Administrator training and support for leading and implementing the A+ College Ready program.
- Ambitious goal setting for student growth and achievement for supported courses in Grades 6-12.
- AP Exam fee subsidies 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 results.

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 rigorous coursework including AP mathematics, science, English, social studies, and computer science.
- Providing necessary facilities, textbooks, transportation, 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 6-12 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 (including summer training, fall workshops/conference, AP mock exams readings, etc.).
- Planning, leading, and reporting school-wide vertical team meetings and learning rounds based on the *New Art and Science of Teaching.*
- Coordinating with the CSFO and school bookkeeper to make timely requests for 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 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.
- Working with local community stakeholders, including parents, to support high expectations through rigorous coursework to improve student growth and achievement and to ultimately increase student opportunities for postsecondary education.

The deadline for RFP submission is Friday, October 16, 2020. School site visits (or virtual visits, if needed) will then be scheduled between November 2020 and January 2021. Schools will be notified of the outcome of the selection process by February 28, 2021. Invitations to schools to participate in the program will be contingent on the availability of funds.

This RFP includes

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

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

I. **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. 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 building our college readiness program by increasing the academic rigor for **all** students, thus increasing the number of students who take AP 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 Principal Signature   Date

_____   _____
High School A+ Coordinator Signature   Date

_____   _____
Middle/Junior High School A+ Coordinator   Date

_____   _____
District CSFO Signature   Date

_____   _____
High School Faculty Representative Signature   Date

_____   _____
Middle/Junior High Faculty Representative Signature   Date

Please add additional lines if there are multiple Middle/Junior High Schools.

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

If Grade 6 is participating with the full feeder pattern or with the Middle/Junior High School only and is housed at the elementary school, please complete the information below. Add additional lines if necessary.

_____   _____
Elementary School Principal Signature   Date

Please complete the chart below and include **ALL** participating feeder schools.

School Name	Grades Served

Contact Information

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

II. Applicant Information

_____We are applying as a Middle/Junior High School only.

_____We are applying as a High School only.

_____We are applying as a full feeder pattern. (This includes Grades 6-12 and all feeder schools.)

If applying as a Middle/Junior High School or a full feeder pattern, is your 6th grade housed in an elementary building rather than the middle/junior high? _____

If you answered yes to the question above, will Grade 6 teachers participate in the program? _____

Full name of Applicant School (High School Name if applying as a feeder pattern):
_____

Full District Name: _____

Applicant School Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

GPS address if different from above: _____

SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS

High School Demographic Data: (Leave blank if applying as middle/junior high only)

2020-2021 High School Enrollment: 9th_____ 10th_____ 11th_____ 12th_____

Percentage of students receiving free or reduced lunch (2020-2021): _____%

Percentage of students classified as English Language Learners (ELL) (2020-2021): _____%

Student population by ethnicity (% values please):

Black	Hispanic	Asian	White	Other

Percent of 2020 graduates who attend a four-year college/university: _____%

Percent of 2020 graduates who attend a two-year college: _____%

Value of scholarships offered to Class of 2020: _____

ACT Test Data: Please provide ACT Summary Data for the Class of 2021 (your current seniors).
Please report summary data for the state-sponsored 2019-2020 ACT administration.

Subject	Mathematics	Reading	English	Science	Writing	Composite
Score						

High 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, do they run all year? _____

Middle School Demographic Data: (Leave blank if applying as a high school only)

2020-2021 Middle School/Junior High Enrollment

6th_____7th_____8th_____

Percentage of students receiving free or reduced lunch (2020-2021) _____%

Percentage of students classified as English Language Learners (ELL) (2020-2021) _____%

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Student population by ethnicity (% values please):

Black	Hispanic	Asian	White	Other

Middle School Bell Schedule:

Please tell us about your school's instructional schedule (7-period day, traditional block, modified block, etc.)

COURSE SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Mathematics:

1. What percentage of 7th graders are currently taking Math 7 Accelerated as defined by the *2019 Mathematics Course of Study*? _____

2. What percentage of 8th grade students are currently taking Algebra I? _____

3. How many students currently enrolled in Pre-Calculus are **Juniors**? _____

4. Did your school choose to implement the *2019* (new) *Mathematics Course of Study* in the 2020-2021 year? _____

5. If you answered no to #4, did your school offer ANY of the courses in the *2019* (new) *Mathematics Course of Study* this year? If yes, which one(s)? _____

Science:

1. What percentage of 9th graders are taking Biology this year? _____

2. What percentage of 10th graders are taking Physical Science? _____

3. What percentage of 10th graders are taking Chemistry? (General or Advanced) _____

4. Do you currently offer Physics? _____ AP Physics? _____

5. What science electives are offered at your school?

   _____

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. Please give the number of levels for each grade.

Grade	Number of Levels
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	

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

3. Do you currently offer _____ AP English Language? _____ AP English Literature?

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 AP History teacher also teach U. S. History 10? _____

3. If you offer AP U. S. Government and Politics, has your teacher been trained on the College Board's redesign of the course? _____

Computer Science:

1. Do you currently offer AP Computer Science Principles at your school? _____

2. Do you currently offer AP Computer Science A? _____

3. Do you currently offer Middle School Computer Science (CS Discoveries)? _____

    If so, what is the schedule and duration of the course (full year, semester, weekly, daily)?

_____

4. Do you currently offer any other computer science courses, such as Exploring Computer Science (ECS), Cybersecurity, or Bootstrap Algebra? _____

   If so, what other computer science courses are offered? *Please do not include any digital literacy courses, such as keyboarding, Microsoft certifications, BTA, or Career Prep.* _____

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. Who teaches the Dual Enrollment/Early College courses? Check all that apply.

   _____Member(s) of our high school faculty

   _____College faculty members

ADVANCED PLACEMENT/HONORS AND ADVANCED COURSE INFORMATION

Historical AP Data:

AP Course Title	T= Test Takers, 3+ = a Qualifying Score of 3 or Higher							
	Spring 2017		Spring 2018		Spring 2019		Spring 2020	
	T	3+	T	3+	T	3+	T	3+

1. Does your school require **all** students enrolled in an AP course to take the AP exam? _____

2. If not, how do you determine who does or does not take the exam?

   _____

In Person (2020-2021) Advanced Placement Courses Offered:

AP Course Title	Teacher Name	Enrollment for 2020-2021

High School Advanced/Honors Course Data:

Enter the title of the course, teacher name, and the enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year into the table below. Include only core subjects.

Advanced/Honors Course Title	Teacher Name	Enrollment for 2020-2021

Middle School Advanced/Honors Course Data:

Enter the title of the course, teacher name, and the enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year into the table below. Include only core subjects.

Advanced/Honors Course Title	Teacher Name	Enrollment for 2020-2021

Face-to-Face Advanced Placement Course Offerings for 2021-2022

AP Course	Yes	Maybe	No	Projected Enrollment (include if you responded "Yes" or "Maybe")
AP Calculus AB				
AP Calculus BC				
AP Statistics				
AP Biology				
AP Chemistry				
AP Physics I-Algebra based				
AP Physics 2--Algebra based				
AP Physics C--Mechanics				
AP Physics C--E & M				
AP Environmental Science				
AP English Language and Composition (Grade 11)				
AP English Literature and Composition (Grade 12)				
AP World History				
AP U. S. History (Grade 11)				
AP U. S, Government and Politics (Grade 12)				
AP Macro Economics (Grade 12)				
AP Computer Science Principles				
AP Computer Science A				
Other AP Course Offering				
Other AP Course Offering				

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 administrator).

Points to consider:

- Is there a need for higher expectations and more rigorous instruction in Grades 6-10 at your school?
- 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?
- 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(s) and position(s) of the person(s) completing Section III of the RFP.

IV. Submission Information

Submit the completed RFP by October 16, 2020, to **both**:

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

Dr. Michal Robinson
Instructional Services Section
Alabama State Department of Education
mrobinson@alsde.edu

Please contact Mrs. Teri Thompson with any questions.

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(334) 354-4528

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