



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Education

August 17, 2022

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** City and County Superintendents of Education

**FROM:** Eric G. Mackey *EGM*  
State Superintendent of Education

**RE:** Alabama State Department of Education/A+ College Ready Program  
2023-2024 Cohort XVI Applications

I am pleased to announce the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE)/A+ College Ready Program's Request for Proposals (RFP) for 2023-2024, 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 A+ College Ready training and incentive program is designed to support the implementation of Alabama's courses of study in all four core disciplines (mathematics, science, English, and social studies), as well as the Digital Literacy and Computer Science (DLCS) standards in Grades K-12; strengthen the teaching of AP mathematics, science, English, social studies, computer science, art, and Spanish courses; build enrollment in these courses; and increase the number of students taking and earning qualifying scores on AP exams. New program schools will be selected through this competitive RFP with participation beginning in the 2023-2024 school year.

The attached RFP details the components of the ALSDE/A+ College Ready Program, preliminary selection criteria, and expected school/school district commitment. A digital version may be completed by visiting the A+ College Ready website at: [www.aplusala.org](http://www.aplusala.org).

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](mailto: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](mailto:apib@alsde.edu).

EGM/MGR/PK

Attachment

cc: Mrs. Teri Thompson  
LEA Chief School Financial Officers

Mrs. Tammy Dunn  
Applicable ALSDE Personnel

FY22-2073

Alabama  
State Board  
of Education

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Secretary and  
Executive Officer



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



**Application Due October 19, 2022**

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 rigorous coursework in Grades 6-12, including Advanced Placement courses.
- 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 beginning in middle school who will be prepared for the rigorous coursework in high school, including AP courses. The program has expanded to now include Social Studies, Computer Science, AP Art, and AP Spanish.

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 6-12.



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Course-specific curricula will be available in the following subjects for this grant cycle:

	<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Science</b>	<b>Social Studies</b>	<b>Computer Science</b>
N o n - A P C o u r s e s	Mathematics 6	English 6	Earth Science 6	U. S. Studies 6	Computer Science Endeavors
	Mathematics 7/Accelerated Mathematics 7	English 7	Life Science 7	Civics/Geography, 7	Computer Science Discoveries/Alabama
	Mathematics 8/Accelerated Mathematics 8	English 8	Physical Science 8	World History, 8	Computer Science & Society
	Geometry with Data Analysis	English 9	Biology	World History, 9	
	Algebra I with Probability	English 10	Chemistry	U. S. History, 10	
	Algebra II with Statistics	English 11		U. S. History, 11	
	Pre-Calculus	English 12		Government/ Economics	
A d v a n c e d P l a c e m e n t C o u r s e s	AP Statistics	AP English Language & Composition	AP Biology	AP World History—Modern	AP Computer Science Principles
	AP Calculus AB	AP English Literature & Composition	AP Chemistry	AP U. S. History	AP Computer Science A
			AP Environmental Science	AP Psychology	
	AP 2 – D Art & Design	AP Spanish Language and Culture	AP Physics 1	AP U. S. Government & Politics	
			AP Physics 2	AP Macroeconomics	
			AP Physics C		



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**What Schools are eligible to apply?**

- Any high school OR any middle school/junior high school that has NEVER been part of the A+ College Ready program. NOTE: In prior years, a FEEDER pattern could submit a single RFP. **For 2023-24 each school in a feeder pattern should submit its own RFP.**
- Any cohort I–VI High School or Middle School/Junior High School. NOTE: To determine if your school was in Cohorts I–VI, go to [www.aplusala.org/college-ready](http://www.aplusala.org/college-ready), click on the ABOUT tab and choose “A+ College Ready Schools.” Scroll down and you will see a dropdown list of each cohort of schools.

**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 all supported subjects.
- Equipment and instructional supplies for the school and instructional funds 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 six student study sessions, five virtual and one in-person, and one mock exam administration each year of the program.
- 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.
- PSAT 8/9 administration for Grades 6–8.
- AP Exam fee subsidies to ensure that **all** AP students will be able to take the national exam without a financial burden.
- Annual financial stipends for all teachers and A+ Coordinators, and potential performance-based stipends for teachers, students, and A+ coordinators based on PSAT 8/9 and/or AP exam results.



# Alabama State Department of Education

## A+ College Ready

### College Readiness Program

### Request for Proposals



#### 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 minimize teacher workloads/class sizes.
- Promoting appropriate course pathways that maximize student opportunities to participate in rigorous coursework including accelerated mathematics 7 and 8 and AP mathematics, science, English, social studies, computer science, 2-D Art and Design and Spanish Language and Culture.
- 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 supported 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 ALL supported teachers in Grades 6-12 to attend ALL A+ College Ready training events, for three years, 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 instructional rounds based on *The New Art and Science of Teaching*.
- 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.
- Coordinating with CSFO for distribution of personnel stipends through district payroll.
- 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.



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**The deadline for RFP submission is October 19, 2022.** School site visits will then be scheduled between November 2022 and January 2023. Schools will be notified of the outcome of the selection process late January 2023. 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  
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**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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Principal Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Potential A+ Coordinator\* Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
District CSFO Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Faculty Representative Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



**Alabama State Department of Education  
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**Contact Information**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Email</b>
<b>Superintendent</b>			
<b>District Contact for AP/Curriculum &amp; Instruction</b>			
<b>School Principal</b>			
<b>A+ Coordinator*</b>			
<b>Chief School Financial Officer</b>			

\*The School's A+ Coordinator will be the individual who will serve as the liaison between A+ College Ready and the school. This person will have responsibilities that include receiving and inventorying equipment sent to the school, encouraging teachers' participation in all training events, assisting them with registration, and overseeing the implementation of all of the A+ College Ready program components in their school. This person will be eligible for stipends and incentives.





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**II. Applicant Information**

*Which of the following describes your school?*

\_\_\_\_\_ High School

Grade Span of High School \_\_\_\_\_

Middle Schools/Junior High School(s) that feed your high school

\_\_\_\_\_ Middle School/Junior High School

Grade Span of Middle School/Junior High School \_\_\_\_\_

High School(s) to which your students matriculate

*Which of the following two choices describe the status of your school?*

\_\_\_\_\_ Our school has NEVER been an A+ College Ready program school.

\_\_\_\_\_ Our school was in Cohorts I - VI and is reapplying for the A+ College Ready program.

If yes, please identify your school's cohort number. \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name of School District: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address of the District Central Office: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code of District Central Office: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address of the Applicant School: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code of the Applicant School: \_\_\_\_\_



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**SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS**

**School Demographic Data:**

2022-2023 School Enrollment (Enter N/A for grades that are not in your school):

6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12 <sup>th</sup>

Percentage of students receiving free or reduced lunch (2022-2023): \_\_\_\_\_%

Percentage of students classified as English Language Learners (ELL) (2022-2023): \_\_\_\_\_%

Student population by ethnicity (% values please):

Black	Hispanic	Asian	White	Other

**High School Applicants Only:**

Percent of 2022 graduates who attend a four-year college/university: \_\_\_\_\_%

Percent of 2022 graduates who attend a two-year college: \_\_\_\_\_%

Value of scholarships offered to Class of 2022: \_\_\_\_\_

ACT Test Data: Please provide ACT Summary Data for the Class of 2023 (your current seniors). Please report summary data for the state-sponsored 2021-2022 ACT administration.

Subject	Mathematics	Reading	English	Science	Writing	Composite
<b>Score</b>						



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**Middle School/Junior High School, High Schools With One or More Grades 6-8 Only:**

Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program (ACAP) Data from Spring 2022.

Record the % of each class that earned a “proficient” level on the ACAP Assessment.

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Math</b>	<b>Science</b>
<b>6</b>			<b>N/A</b>
<b>7</b>			<b>N/A</b>
<b>8</b>			

**School Bell Schedule:**

1. Please tell us about your school’s instructional schedule (7-period day, traditional block, modified block, etc.)
2. High Schools, if you offer any AP courses, are they year-long courses versus semesterized courses? \_\_\_\_\_



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**COURSE SPECIFIC INFORMATION**

**Mathematics:**

1. What percentage of 7th graders are currently taking Accelerated Mathematics 7 as defined by the *2019 Mathematics Course of Study*? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please answer even if high school is applicant.)
2. How many students currently enrolled in Pre-Calculus are **Juniors**? \_\_\_\_ (High Schools Only)
3. Are ALL of your freshmen taking Geometry with Data Analysis during the current school year, 2022-23? \_\_\_\_\_ (High Schools Only)
4. If your answer is “no” to #4 what course(s) is (are) your freshmen taking? (High Schools Only)  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Science: (High Schools Only)**

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? \_\_\_\_\_



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**English:**

1. How many levels of English are offered for students in your school? 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. If your school does not have a certain grade, indicate N/A.

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Number of Levels</b>
<b>6</b>	
<b>7</b>	
<b>8</b>	
<b>9</b>	
<b>10</b>	
<b>11</b>	
<b>12</b>	

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 and Composition? \_\_\_\_\_ (High Schools Only)

4. Do you currently offer AP English Literature and Composition? \_\_\_\_\_ (High Schools Only)

**Social Studies (high schools only):**

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 Grade 11?  
\_\_\_\_\_



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**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 (high schools only):**

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



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**ADVANCED PLACEMENT/HONORS AND ADVANCED COURSE INFORMATION**

**Historical AP Data (High Schools Only):**

AP Course Title	T= Test Takers, 3+ = a Qualifying Score of 3 or Higher							
	Spring 2019		Spring 2020		Spring 2021		Spring 2022	
	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 2022-2023 Advanced Placement Courses Currently Offered:**

AP Course Title	Teacher Name	Enrollment for 2022-2023



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**Advanced/Honors Course Data (Middle Schools/Jr. High Schools and High Schools):**

Enter the title of the course, teacher name, and the enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year into the table below. Include only core subjects.

<b>Advanced/Honors Course Title</b>	<b>Teacher Name</b>	<b>Enrollment for 2022-2023</b>





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**Potential Face-to-Face Advanced Placement Course Offerings for 2023-2024 (High Schools Only)**

Note: This is an ESTIMATE of courses you may offer—not a commitment. We will discuss potential course offerings during the site visit.

<b>AP Course</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Maybe</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Projected Enrollment (include if you responded “Yes” or “Maybe”)</b>
<b>AP Calculus AB</b>				
<b>AP Calculus BC</b>				
<b>AP Statistics</b>				
<b>AP Biology</b>				
<b>AP Chemistry</b>				
<b>AP Physics I--Algebra based</b>				
<b>AP Physics 2--Algebra based</b>				
<b>AP Physics C--Mechanics</b>				
<b>AP Physics C--E &amp; M</b>				
<b>AP Environmental Science</b>				
<b>AP English Language and Composition (Grade 11)</b>				
<b>AP English Literature and Composition (Grade 12)</b>				
<b>AP World History-Modern</b>				
<b>AP U. S. History (Grade 11)</b>				
<b>AP U. S. Government and Politics (Grade 12)</b>				
<b>AP Macro Economics (Grade 12)</b>				
<b>AP Psychology</b>				
<b>AP Computer Science Principles</b>				
<b>AP Computer Science A</b>				
<b>AP Spanish Language and Culture</b>				
<b>AP 2 D Art and Design</b>				



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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 partnership. 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 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 19, 2022, to **both**:

Mrs. Teri Thompson  
Vice President of Operations  
A+ College Ready  
[teri@aplusala.org](mailto:teri@aplusala.org)

Dr. Michal Robinson  
Instructional Services Section  
Alabama State Department of Education  
[mrobinson@alsde.edu](mailto:mrobinson@alsde.edu)

Please contact Mrs. Teri Thompson with any questions.  
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(334) 354-4528