



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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

October 6, 2021

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
Middle School Training and Incentive Program (MSTIP) Pilot 2022-2023
Applications

I am pleased to announce the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE)/A+ College Ready Program's Request for Proposals (RFP) for 2022-2023, 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 schools will be selected through this competitive RFP with participation beginning in the 2022-2023 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, two separate applications are available, one for a high school and its feeder middle school(s)/junior high school(s) **or** a high school without its feeders; the second is for a middle school applying for the Middle School Training and Incentive Program (MSTIP) 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/VG

Attachments

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

FY22-2003

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



**A+ College Ready
Middle School Training and Incentive
Program Pilot (MSTIP)**

Application Due: October 25, 2021

A+ College Ready, in partnership with the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), is issuing a competitive Request for Proposal (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:

- Enrolled in challenging courses in Grades 6-10 and Pre-Calculus as well as Advanced Placement (AP®) courses in Grades 11 and 12.
- Taught by well-trained teachers with strategic resources.
- Meeting or exceeding annual academic growth metrics.
- Prepared to access college, career, or other post-secondary opportunities with no need for remediation following high school graduation.
- Attending and graduating from a two- or four-year college/university.

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 funders to maximize the number of students who are prepared for college or any other pursuit upon graduation from high school. There are currently 189 Alabama High schools represented in 12 cohorts. 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. However, the work has evolved in the last thirteen years and 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 Advanced Placement. Additionally, the menu of AP courses supported by the A+ College Ready program now includes AP U.S. History, AP U.S. Government and Politics, AP Computer Science Principles, AP Macroeconomics. AP World History: Modern, AP Spanish Language and Culture, and AP 2 D Art and Design will be added in the 2021-2022 school year.

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 as well as the Digital Literacy and Computer Science (DLCS) standards in grades 6-12. To further that goal, A+ College Ready has expanded its original focus on preparing students to be college, career, and workforce ready to include highly effective educator 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.



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The Middle School Training and Incentive Program (MSTIP) is modeled after the Advanced Placement Training and Incentive Program (APTIP) that has dramatically increased student access and success in Advanced Placement math, science, English, social studies, and computer science in Alabama. Components of the program include teacher training and support; administrator training and support; teacher empowerment through equipment/materials/supplies; and teacher, leader, and student incentives based upon student achievement and growth as measured by the PSAT 8/9 (paid for by A+ College Ready). The goal of the program is to raise the expectations and rigor in classrooms, and to build a pipeline of students prepared for any pathway they choose in high school, including participation in Advanced Placement coursework.

The middle school courses listed below are supported by A+ College Ready.

Math	Science	English	Social Studies	Computer Science
Math 6	Earth and Space Science	English 6	American Studies	Computer Science Discoveries for Alabama <i>(can be offered from a semester in a single grade to full courses all three years)</i>
Math 7 (Accelerated/ Regular)	Life Science	English 7	Civics/Geography	
Math 8 (Accelerated/ Regular)	Physical Science	English 8	World History I	

ALSDE/A+ College Ready MSTIP Program features include:

- Voluntary participation on the part of districts, schools, teachers, and students.
- Three years of rigorous content and pedagogical training (E3) for teachers in the courses listed above based on the Alabama courses of study.
- Equipment/supplies/materials for teachers who commit to FULL participation in and implementation of the A+ College Ready MSTIP program.
- Teacher support provided by A+ College Ready content staff.
- Consumable materials allowance and potential for earning stipends for middle school teachers who attend required training(s) and sign an annual Letter of Agreement (LOA).
- Ambitious goal setting for student access, growth, and achievement for supported courses.
- Annual financial incentives/stipends for teachers and their students based on PSAT 8/9 score growth and achievement.



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District/School Responsibilities:

Participation in the ALSDE/ A+ College Ready MSTIP program will require investment and other considerations on the part of participating schools/districts. Some of those investments and considerations include:

- Holding high expectations for ALL administrators, teachers, and students.
- Promoting appropriate course pathways that maximize opportunities for ALL STUDENTS to participate in rigorous, grade-level coursework.
- Providing necessary facilities and resources for full access and participation in all program components.
- Providing leadership and the local expectation that 100% of teachers in math, science, English Language Arts, social studies, and computer science will attend A+ College Ready's E3 summer training for each year of participation in the MSTIP program and implement the lessons/strategies/assessments associated with the training.

NOTE: While situations arise preventing some teachers from attending training, a school's participation in the program will be discontinued if fewer than 85% of supported teachers do not attend training and sign the Letter of Agreement.

- Sharing enrollment data, standardized test data, and other pertinent information with A+ College Ready staff for program analysis and progress monitoring.
- **Providing support and travel costs and approving professional leave for teachers** to attend A+ College Ready professional development (E3 training during summer, 4 days; one-day fall workshops in October/November).
- Coordinating the receipt, distribution, and document organization associated with materials supplied to the school/teachers. Coordinating the receipt and distribution of materials and supplies as well as maintaining the equipment/supply records in the Google folder.
- Working with local community stakeholders, including parents, to support high expectations through rigorous coursework to improve student academic growth.
- Understanding that teachers and students will be eligible for stipends and incentives based on growth and/or achievement.
- Attending a full day Leadership Launch to describe the program and leadership responsibilities in spring 2022.
- Attending the two-day Summer Leadership Institute and the Marzano Training.
- Appointing an A+ Coordinator who will serve as the liaison between A+ College Ready and the school and who will manage the A+ College Ready Data Reporting System on behalf of the school.



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Teacher Responsibilities:

- Participating schools **MUST HAVE** a minimum of 85% of all teachers in supported courses attend summer training and commit to signing a Letter of Agreement (LOA) each year of the program. While it is expected that 100% of the teachers will attend, if fewer than 85% of a school's teachers attend all four days of training and/or sign a Letter of Agreement (LOA), the partnership will be discontinued for that and subsequent years.
- Teachers commit to holding ALL STUDENTS to high academic expectations and providing the scaffolding and support to foster students' attainment of the high expectations.
- Teachers will attend and actively participate in four-day E3 summer training during each year of the program.
- Teachers will attend and actively participate in the annual one-day fall workshop for their respective course during each year of the program.
- Each year, teachers will work to increase the number of students meeting significant benchmarks and showing significant growth on the Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program (ACAP) assessment in their discipline as well as significant academic growth as evidenced by the PSAT 8/9 examination, with special attention to achievement and improvement of students in underrepresented populations.
- Teachers will use the A+ College Ready curricular materials and will commit to teaching all standards during the school year.
- Teachers will submit all required program documentation/records, including the A+ College Ready Data Reporting System (DRS) requirements in a timely manner.

The deadline for RFP submission is October 25, 2021. School site visits will be scheduled between November 2021 and January 2022. Schools will be notified of the outcome of the selection process by February 2022. Five schools will be selected for the pilot program.

This RFP includes:

- 1. Applicant Signatures**
- 2. Applicant Information**
- 3. Statement of Interest**
- 4. Submission Information**



**Alabama State Department of Education
A+ College Ready College Readiness Program
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I. Applicant Signatures

_____ School is pleased to submit this request to be considered for the ALSDE/A+ College Ready Middle School Training and Incentive 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 increasing the academic rigor for ALL students and thus increasing the number of students prepared for any course pathway they choose in high school and beyond, including participation in Advanced Placement.

Superintendent Signature	Date
Middle School Principal Signature	Date
District CSFO Signature	Date
Potential A+ Coordinator Signature	Date
Computer Science Faculty Representative Signature	Date
English Faculty Representative Signature	Date
Mathematics Faculty Representative Signature	Date
Science Faculty Representative Signature	Date
Social Studies Faculty Representative Signature	Date



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II. Applicant Information

Middle School Name: _____

District Name: _____

Middle School Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

GPS Address if different from above: _____

To what high school(s) does your middle school feed? _____

Position	Name	Telephone	Email
Superintendent			
District Curriculum & Instruction Director			
Middle School Principal			
Potential A+ Coordinator			



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Course Information

*Advanced may be advanced or honors

Course	Number of Sections	Current Student Enrollment
Mathematics 6		
Mathematics 7		
Accelerated Mathematics 7		
Mathematics 8		
Accelerated Math 8		
Earth and Space Science 6		
Advanced/Honors Earth and Space Science 6		
Life Science 7		
Advanced/Honors Life Science 7		
Physical Science 8		
Advanced/Honors Physical Science 8		
English 6		
Advanced/Honors English 6		
English 7		
Advanced/Honors English 7		
English 8		
Advanced/Honors English 8		
American Studies 6		
Advanced/Honors. American Studies 6		
Civics/Geography 7		
Advanced/Honors Civics/Geography 7		
World History I, Grade 8		
Advanced/Honors World History I		
Computer Science Discoveries		



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Schedule:

Describe your school schedule, number of periods/day, number of minutes/period, any interesting features of the schedule, etc.

School Demographic Data:

2021-22 Enrollment: 6th _____ 7th _____ 8th _____

Percentage of students receiving free or reduced lunch (2019-20): _____ %

Student population by ethnicity.

Black	Hispanic	Asian	White	Other

Middle School/Junior High School Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program (ACAP) Data from Spring 2021:

Record the percent of each grade that earned a “proficient” level on the ACAP Assessment.

Grade	Reading	Math	Science
6			N/A
7			N/A
8			

Faculty Information:

Indicate the number of faculty members you have in each of the departments listed.

Department	Number of Faculty Members
Computer Science	
English	
Mathematics	
Science	
Social Studies	



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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 pilot program. It may be written by anyone of your choosing (i.e., teacher, district administrator, or building administrator).

Describe:

- How do you think your school's participation in this pilot program could benefit your school community?
- Overall, how interested is your faculty in raising expectations for all students?
- What do you think will be the major barriers to implementation of the program, should your school be selected?

Please provide the name(s) and position(s) of the person(s) completing Section III.

IV. Submission Information

Submit the completed RFP electronically by October 25, 2021.

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

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