
TO: Kentucky Public High Schools
FROM: AdvanceKentucky / KSTC
RE: Cohort 11 Request for Applications to Create Advanced Placement Teacher Training and Incentive Programs (3-Year Awards)
DATE: June 1, 2017

Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation (KSTC), operating a program affiliated with the non-profit National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI), has launched the next cycle of selecting schools to participate in the **NMSI College Readiness Program (CRP)**, beginning with activities associated with the 18-19 academic year including teacher training in Summer 2018.

The overall goals of the program are to

- Increase the number of students taking MSE AP Exams,
- Increase the number of students receiving qualifying scores on MSE AP Exams as a measure of college preparation,
- and increase the number of students attending and graduating from college including a focus on inclusion of students traditionally underrepresented in AP.

To achieve these goals, the program focuses on core set of elements designed to provide direct support to schools, teachers, and students. A description of the NMSI Model involving these **Elements of Success** is attached and also available at advanceky.com.

Under this competitive Request for Applications, KSTC invites applications from Kentucky public high schools to apply to participate in the program. Additional RFAs among schools are expected to be issued each year as the program grows and pending availability of funding. **Preference will be given to schools that are in a position to initiate or dramatically grow their AP programs in math, science and English, particularly for underrepresented student populations.** This includes commitment to strengthening their related pre-AP programs. This may include large and small schools that seek to add or increase enrollments in AP course in math, science, and English.

Kentucky's NMSI affiliate, AdvanceKentucky, is headquartered at KSTC, which is a non-profit corporation working since 1987 with Kentucky schools, universities, private sector technology companies, and numerous funding partners.

Since inception, AdvanceKentucky has served 95,000 AP MSE enrollments taught by 800 AP teachers from among 119 public high schools in 89 districts, and 3,000 Pre-AP MSE teachers among 92 school districts. A new cohort of schools has joined the program each year since inception in 2008-09 with support from the National Math and Science Initiative. A typical school has started with a baseline around 20 AP Math, Science, and English (MSE) Qualifying Scores (QS) prior to application and on average increased 139 percent in just one year and 250 percent over the standard three-year period of intervention and introduction to this open enrollment approach.

Program features include but are not limited to:

- Voluntary participation on the part of students, teachers, and schools;
- Focus on diversity and equity of preparation for and participation in AP courses among all students;
- Annual financial incentives for teachers, students, and schools based on AP Exam results;
- Cultivation of Content Coordinators to lead a vertical team of AP and Pre-AP teachers;
- Advanced-level, content-focused training for teachers of AP and Pre-AP math, science and English courses;
- More time-on-task for students, including Saturday AP exam review and Student Study Sessions;
- Measurement and accountability of results through professional management by KSTC.

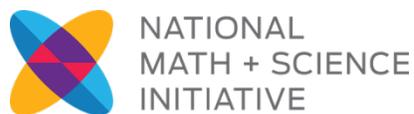
AP Teachers are the key to the success of the AdvanceKY program. They collaborate with pre-AP teachers to build and continuously expand the number, and diversity, of students prepared for the rigors of AP, establish goals for academic performance, emphasize the importance of every participating student taking the relevant AP Exam, and encourage all students to attend special events.

The school administration is expected to provide necessary facilities, equipment, scheduling consideration, logistical assistance, and coordination of student advisement to help ensure the success of the program.

NMSI is based on a model dedicated to broad access to and diverse participation in AP courses. Schools with existing AP Program policies that strictly limit admission to AP courses must be willing to consider how these policies help or perhaps limit broad-based, early identification of students and assistance to prepare and rise to the rigorous academic challenges of AP. Along these lines, applicants should consider how Individual Learning Plans will assist this goal of diverse inclusion.

The early deadline for submitting applications is **September 30 2017**. Applications will be received until Fall/Winter 2017.

As part of the application review process, follow-up school visits will occur in Fall/Winter 2017/18 with schools notified of the outcome of the selection/review process in Spring 2018.



Elements of Success

The Elements of Success, comprising the NMSI Model that AdvanceKentucky is replicating, are designed to be implemented simultaneously in a coordinated manner.



FOR STUDENTS (annually)

- ▶ **Open Enrollments:** A culture of inclusiveness and preparation for more students to enroll in and be successfully engage in new learning through Advanced Placement (AP)* math, science and English (MSE) classes.
- ▶ **AP* Courses in MSE:** AP college-level courses in math, science and English (MSE) subjects.
- ▶ **Student Time-on-Task:** Tutoring, three Saturday student study sessions for each AP course and other supports made readily available to students.
- ▶ **Exam Fees:** Supplements to help cover 50 percent of AP exam fees not provided from other sources.
- ▶ **Incentives:** \$100 per Qualifying Score (3, 4, or 5) on AP exams in MSE.
- ▶ **Counseling/Recruiting:** Supportive information (especially in the early grades) to help with student/family decisions to prepare for and enroll in AP.

FOR TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND SCHOOLS (annually)

- ▶ **MSE Content Coordinators:** \$450 stipend per Coordinator per content area to set up three 6-hr student study sessions and implement four Vertical Teams meetings each year. Coordinators at Host sites receive an additional stipend.
- ▶ **AP Teacher Mentors:** Master AP teachers mentor colleagues on relevant subject matter on a path to new learning among AP students.
- ▶ **AP Consultants/Contractors:** Conduct extracurricular study sessions of 3-4 blocks in length for each session.
- ▶ **Training:** For all MSE AP & a pre-determined number of Pre-AP teachers (at least one in each subject), 5-day summer institutes & other training during the academic year.
- ▶ **Vertical Teaming:** four meetings where high school and middle school teachers collaborate in the preparation of students for success in AP classes.
- ▶ **Stipend & Incentives for AP Teachers:** up to \$500 stipend to support additional responsibilities in extra training and teaching AP and \$100 per qualifying score achieved by students in their eligible AP classes.
- ▶ **Threshold Bonuses:** Achieving pre-set targets for Qualifying Scores (by class and by school) triggers bonuses of up to \$1500 for AP teachers, and \$1,000 for designated school administrator and AP Coordinator if school-wide goal is met.
- ▶ **Equipment & Supplies:** up to \$5,000 for equipment and \$25 per student enrolled in eligible AP classes. The equipment base for Years 2 and 3 are \$4,000 and \$3,000, respectively.
- ▶ **Access to National NMSI and State AdvanceKY Networks**

In preparing applications, please submit any questions to Joanne Lang (contact information below).

Submission Instructions:

1. Submit application via **EMAIL** to Anthony Mires at amires@kstc.com.
2. Early Applications should be submitted by **September 30, 2017**.
3. Please contact us if you do not receive verification that your application has been received; KSTC will not be responsible for undeliverable applications.

NEXT STEPS: A limited number of applicants will be selected for AdvanceKY site visits to meet with school teams during Fall/Winter 2017/18. Approximately 10-15 schools may be selected for participation in the AdvanceKY Cohort 11 pending availability of funding.

AdvanceKentucky Contact Person:

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ADVANCEKENTUCKY APPLICATION OUTLINE

I. Statement of Interest

II. School Profile

1. Contact Information
2. School Profile

III. Applicant Signature Page *(see attached form that may be scanned as PDF and included in email submission)*

IV. Preparation for Site Visit: Advanced Placement Philosophy and Experience

See topics to be discussed collaboratively by Administrative stakeholders, AP Teachers and/or AP Teacher Candidates prior to AdvanceKentucky site visit

INSTRUCTIONS

I. Statement of Interest

Please provide a brief (not to exceed one page) statement of your school's interest in being selected for the AdvanceKentucky program.

II. Contact Information and School Profile *(see attached form)*

III. Applicant Signature Page *(see attached form)*

IV. Preparation for Site Visit: Advanced Placement Philosophy and Experience

(Questions to consider as you prepare for AdvanceKentucky's site visit to your school. All teachers and administrators should consider these questions and be prepared to discuss at the site visit.)

1. Briefly summarize your school's philosophy regarding the Advanced Placement Program.
2. What kind of support does the school administration provide to the AP program and how do you foresee this role expanding under AdvanceKentucky?
3. Describe any existing barriers that hinder the growth of the current AP program – and how you foresee AdvanceKentucky helping to address these challenges.
4. Describe the potential opportunities for expansion of the AP program at the school. Specifically, how many students, with the support of AdvanceKentucky, could be enrolled in AP courses being taught currently as well as new courses and how many of these students, with incentives and more time-on-task, could have the potential to score 3 or higher on corresponding AP Exams.
5. How will this program enrich your school?
6. Does current course sequencing make it easy for students to participate in AP courses?
7. Describe the role of the AP Coordinator at your school.