

Advanced Placement Classes – College and Career Success for All Students Grant Training

*Questions and Answers about
the FY12 Advanced Placement
Classroom RFP*



Illinois State Board of Education

Jesse Ruiz, Board Chair

Dr. Christopher Koch, State Superintendent




What is the AP[®] program?

- The AP[®] program exposes high school students to the rigors of college work and high standards while the students are working in the more nurturing confines of the secondary school setting.
- Pre-AP[®] courses provide middle and high school students with the "active, high-level learning" needed to develop skills and study habits and learn the concepts they will need to successfully complete AP[®] coursework.

Who is eligible for the Advanced Placement Grant?

- Any public school district is eligible to apply if they have one or more schools serving any of the grades 6 through 12 where 40 percent or more of the students are from low-income families (i.e., eligible to receive free or reduced-price lunches under the School Breakfast and Lunch Program [105 ILCS 125]).
- Public university laboratory schools approved by the State Board of Education, area vocational centers, and charter schools are eligible to apply on the same basis as school districts.



How do I know if our district is eligible?

- For a list of qualifying entities, as determined by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), please check out our website at the following link.
http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/html/advanced_placement.htm
- Contact ISBE if you think your district should be eligible and your district is not on the list.

Requirements

- School districts with a 40% or higher low income student population are eligible to apply.
- Schools must serve grades 6-12.

What is considered low income?

- Any students that qualify for free and reduce lunch fall into the category of low income.



What is a joint proposal?

- An eligible high school district and any eligible elementary school district whose students feed into that high school district may submit a joint application for funds.

How much are the grant awards this year?

- Annual grant awards will average \$50,000 per entity with no more than \$25,000 allocated to an individual school as determined by the program design, size of program, and available funds.
- Total amount of funding that will be available is \$527,000.

What are the time frames of the grant?

- The grant period will begin no sooner than July 1, 2011, and will extend from the executed date of the grant until June 30, 2012.

What considerations should applicants make when planning a program?

- Applicants must propose project activities that are designed to increase the number of low-income and other disadvantaged students who would participate in pre-advanced placement, advanced placement courses and exams.

What type of programs can the grant be used for?

- Schools can either establish or expand programs designed to offer the rigorous coursework necessary for their students to succeed in postsecondary education or the work place.



What should the proposals for this grant cover?

- New or expansion of existing AP[®] and/or Pre-AP[®] programs.
- Activities designed to support the students in completing courses and taking exams
- Applicants with established AP[®] programs could offer courses currently not available or additional sections of current offerings to accommodate all interested students.
- Design recruitment and preparation efforts aimed at attracting a larger and more diverse group of students to the AP[®] program.



What activities are allowable under the grant?

- Curriculum development.
- Course materials development and purchase.
- Teacher and administrator training.
- Recruitment of students for the program, to include the development of materials and other promotional items for dissemination.




What activities are allowable under the grant?

- Counseling, enrichment, tutoring or other assistance opportunities, during the school day, before or after school, or during school breaks, to prepare interested students for the rigors of the AP® courses and /or in grade 10 to take the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholars Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

Can the grant be used to prepare for these types of programs?

- Yes. Applicants should consider the steps necessary to integrate rigorous coursework into the curriculum in lower grades (i.e., 6 through 10), so students are ready to successfully complete AP® courses in their junior and senior years.



What is expected or required with the staff training?

- All grantees are expected to participate professional development.
- Staff training is a necessary component of this grant. Applicant must designate 20 percent of its proposed budget for the costs associated with College Board-sponsored training.
- Provide new and seasoned Advanced Placement teachers with the necessary content knowledge and instructional skills to prepare students for success in Advanced Placement courses and examinations and other advanced course examinations and mastery of postsecondary course content.

What is expected or required with the staff training?

- Provide administrators with professional development that will enable them to create strong and effective Advanced Placement programs in their schools.
- Provide middle and high school teachers with Advanced Placement Vertical Team training and other Pre-AP® professional development that prepares students for success in Advanced Placement courses.
- Support the implementation of an instructional program for students in grades 6 through 12 that provides an integrated set of instructional materials, diagnostic assessments, and teacher professional development that prepares all students for enrollment and success in Advanced Placement courses and in college.

What are Advanced Placement Vertical Teams?

- An "AP[®] Vertical Team" is a group of teachers and educators from different grade levels in a given discipline who work cooperatively to develop and implement a vertically aligned program aimed at helping students from diverse backgrounds acquire skills and knowledge necessary for success in AP[®] courses and other challenging courses.

Role of the College Board

- The AP[®] program, sponsored by the College Board, consists of college-level courses that are offered as part of the high school curriculum for students who are highly motivated (see <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about.html> for further information).
- To provide professional development, workshops and summer institutes.



What is College Board professional development and what are the requirements?

- AP® training and Pre-AP® training workshops.
- Administrator, AP® coordinators and counselor training.
- Product training.
- Online training.
- Summer institutes and conferences.
- <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/prof-dev>
- All grantees must enroll staff in professional development. Space available in these sessions is limited. Applicants should carefully consider their needs and goals before committing anyone to a particular session.

What type of student support should be available?

- Additional books and materials for AP[®] or Pre-AP[®] coursework.
- Online courses or enrichment materials to assist students enrolled in or interested in enrolling in AP[®] courses.
- Computer programs or consultants to review student work or assessments.
- Tutoring programs and test preparation programs.

What are the restrictions on how the money is spent?

- No more than 5 percent of the grant award may be used for administrative costs.
- No funds may be expended on activities not directly related to the establishment or expansion of AP[®] or Pre-AP[®] programs or to assist students, particularly disadvantaged and low-income students, to succeed in the programs in which they are currently enrolled.
- Funds may not be used to pay for the services of teachers to teach AP[®] or preparatory courses.
- Funds provided by this grant must be used to supplement not supplant funds available under other state or federal programs.

What are considered to be allowable costs?

- Student support costs (e.g., books and materials for AP® or Pre-AP® coursework, online courses, enrichment materials, computer programs, tutoring programs, test preparation programs).
- Transportation costs associated with field trips, after-school tutorials and summer sessions, provided that the costs charged to the grant are over and above what the district would normally incur and are not subject to reimbursement under Article 29 of the School Code and rules governing Pupil Transportation Reimbursement (23 Ill. Adm. Code 120).
- Use of consultants to support new or expanded initiatives or consultants to review student work or assessments.
- Materials necessary for preparation and administration of the PSAT/NMSQT.

What are considered to be allowable costs?


- Staff release time for professional development activities.
- Expenses for professional development, such as stipends for those participating and for substitutes, travel, housing or per diem;
- Expenses associated with staff attendance at regional College Board conferences or College Board workshops.
- Development of curricula and related professional development activities necessary to expand or implement AP® or Pre-AP® programs for the 2011-12 school year.
- Twenty percent of the proposed budget must be used for training provided by the College Board. No exceptions will be made.

Where are the funds coming from for this grant?

- The Illinois State Board of Education is funding the program.

Is there going to be a Bidder's Conference?

- No, this PowerPoint and webinar will be available on the ISBE website. This forum can be found at <http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/html/advancedplacement.htm>
- If you have a question that is not answered on this webinar, email your questions to dhatfill@isbe.net and the answers will be posted on the website.



How do I turn in my application?

- It is due no later than 4:30 p.m. **June 6, 2011.** See the Request for Proposal for the address to mail.
- **No facsimile or electronic copies will be accepted.**

How long will this information be available online?

- All questions and answers will remain on the website until **June 16, 2011**.
- Applicants should carefully review these responses before submitting their proposals.

Is it possible that the RFP might be changed?

- It is possible. Should the conditions of this RFP change, the State Board of Education will post the changes at <http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/Default.htm>

Who do I contact if I have questions?

- For more information on this RFP, contact Mike Hatfill, 217-557-7323, or by email at dhatfill@isbe.net

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