

Advanced Course Access RFP (GC23-016)

Questions and Answers

Eligibility

1. Can individual schools apply for the funding associated with the Advance Course Access (ACA) Program? Or must I work with my district to apply for this program?
 - a. Individual schools may not apply for this funding. All Big 5 districts and BOCES-led consortia (of 6 districts or more) are eligible to apply for funding in this grant period. Please see the Eligibility section (p 1) of the [2023-25 ACA RFP](#).
2. Our BOCES is interested in applying for the 2023-25 ACA Program grant funding. Given that we received a partial award for the 2021-23 grant period, would we be eligible to receive the funding in this new grant period?
 - a. All Big 5 and BOCES-led consortia (of 6 districts or more) are eligible to apply for funding in this grant period. Program funding from the 2021-23 cycle is not a factor in the eligibility for the 2023-25 grant cycle. Please see the Eligibility section (p 1) of the [2023-25 ACA RFP](#).
3. To confirm, a BOCES can lead a consortium with their component districts? Also, is there a required number of component districts that should participate to be a part of the consortium?
 - a. All Big 5 and BOCES-led consortia (of 6 districts or more) are eligible to apply for funding in this grant period. Please see the Eligibility section (p 1) of the [2023-25 ACA RFP](#).
4. Can a BOCES not serving as the lead count towards the seven RoS districts required for a consortium for this project? Or are individual school districts the only entities that can make up the required seven RoS districts?
 - a. BOCES can participate in another BOCES-led program, but the BOCES would not count toward the seven rest of state districts

Program

5. If a district already has AP courses available, would they also be eligible for expanding their programming to offer IB or additional AP courses?
 - a. Yes, as stated on pages 6-7 of the [2023-25 ACA RFP](#), "Funds from the ACA grant should be used to expand current successful programs or create new programs that are designed and delivered in a manner to allow them to reach the largest possible number of students to make the most positive impact."
6. If there are several component districts that do not have the staffing or personnel to implement AP or IB classes and have a few students eligible to participate, can a mixed distance learning cohort be established to fulfill the course request(s)?
 - a. As stated in the [RFP](#), applicants may develop programs using online, distance, blended, and/or alternative evidence-based methods. Details about how applicants

will meet the objectives of the grant should be explained in the proposal and will be scored according to the [rubric](#) (p 66).

7. The RFP mentions provision of targeted support to students to ensure success, what personnel or activities would be acceptable for targeted student support?
 - a. Applicants are expected to propose targeted student support programs that will promote student success in and completion of the advanced courses. Please see the [Scope of Work](#) (p 9).
8. What specific measures or data would be necessary for districts to provide in order to quantify the number of under-represented students in the advanced coursework?
 - a. SED has not identified specific data measures. It is the responsibility of the applicant to determine which groups of students have been traditionally under-represented in advanced coursework and how their plan supports these students. This memo on [Equitable Course Access](#) provides general information about under-represented students.
9. Does face to face qualify as "other evidence-based learning methods"?
 - a. Face-to-face courses can qualify. The phrase "other evidence-based learning methods" is intended to allow applicants flexibility in proposing a program that will be able to enroll and support as many students as possible.
10. Is there a maximum number of students that can be allowed in a single section of a course?
 - a. There is no set limit, however programs should not include more students in a single section of an ACA course than would be allowable in a traditional face-to-face course.
11. Is NYC able to run more than one program (in essence submitting more than one application) to be implemented by borough?
 - a. New York City community school districts are eligible to apply for this grant. Each district is allowed to apply once.

M/WBE

12. How can a Certified MWBE be considered?
 - a. The M/WBE participation goal for this RFP is 30%, there is an opportunity for New York State Certified M/WBE vendors to participate as subcontractors. At the end of the Q&A, a list of certified M/WBE vendors from the Empire State Development Directory for possible subcontracting opportunities is available.
13. We are a women-owned ed-tech business that provides affordable tutoring. Would we be able to participate in this opportunity?
 - a. The M/WBE participation goal for this RFP is 30%, there is an opportunity for New York State Certified M/WBE vendors to participate as subcontractors. At the end of the Q&A, a list of certified M/WBE vendors from the Empire State Development Directory for possible subcontracting opportunities is available.

14. In doing outreach, and in working with our districts who are applying, we are very interested in partnering directly with universities, or non-profits that are accredited and offer college level coursework. Because these are non-profits and/or educational institutions, none of them are M/WBE certified. Most of the responses I am receiving from MWBE vendors is either:

- i. They are unable to provide the coursework or
- ii. They can provide the coursework, but would have to do so under an umbrella institution (college/university)

Wondering if the above two answers would be sufficient to apply for the M/WBE waiver ,as I have never applied for the waiver before

- a. Yes, these two examples could be provided as a piece of the evidence of Good Faith Efforts that would be considered in a partial or full waiver request. Please provide the responses in the M/WBE submission form the M/WBE vendors as evidence of Good Faith Efforts.