



Virtual Advanced Placement (VAP) Program

Broadalbin-Perth VAP Program

Program Overview

Broadalbin-Perth Central School District, located just south of Adirondack Park, educates approximately 580 students in grades 9-12 high school. Students come from predominantly rural communities in Fulton, Montgomery and Saratoga counties; 27 percent of students are eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch. In 2012, Broadalbin-Perth boasted a 91.5 percent graduation rate—the highest graduation rate in Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery BOCES and one of the highest in the Greater Capital Region.

The last time Broadalbin-Perth students had the opportunity to take an Advanced Placement® (AP®) class was during the 2005-06 school year. The following year, the district eliminated its program primarily for financial reasons, but also because fewer students were enrolling in AP® classes than in other college-level courses. The district's strong ties with local colleges and its participation in the Syracuse University Project Advance (SUPA) and University in the High School (UHS) programs gave students a wide variety of college-level opportunities at a fraction of normal tuition costs. Broadalbin-Perth students immediately missed the option of taking AP® courses. In the six years since Broadalbin-Perth discontinued its AP® program, more than a dozen students have chosen to study and sit for AP® exams in Biology, English Literature and Composition, Music Theory, Physics, and U.S. History—all completely independently, with no district support. Many of these students were bound for highly selective colleges and universities that would not accept the college credits that Broadalbin-Perth students were able to earn while still in high school.

Broadalbin-Perth's lack of AP® course offerings has also affected its students' chances of being accepted at highly selective colleges and universities, especially those located outside of New York state whose admissions officers are not necessarily familiar with the rigorous work required to complete a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation—a distinction earned by 30 percent of Broadalbin-Perth's Class of 2012. An additional 15 percent of the class earned a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation with Honors. Although some Broadalbin-Perth graduates have been accepted at the college of their choice without AP® courses on their transcripts, many have failed to gain admittance.

During the 2012-13 school year, Broadalbin-Perth is offering 17 college-level classes—through FMCC, the University at Albany, University in the High School (UHS), and Syracuse University Project Advance (SUPA)—that have a total enrollment of 367 (with some students enrolled in multiple college-level classes).

Program Activities

Broadalbin-Perth will support and assist students in virtual learning by facilitating their access to technology. Each student in the program will be provided with a laptop to take home. The high school will create a Virtual AP® room with updated equipment and the resources our Virtual AP® students and teachers will need to be successful. All teachers will have set AP office hours to answer questions and assist students face-to-face. By removing the constraints of the eight-period day and moving to a virtual model, students will have more flexibility in accessing the AP® course materials. Additionally, teachers may choose to offer summer hours to prepare students for the AP® curriculum and help them acquire technological skills they may need in order to learn in the virtual environment.

Repository

Strategy 1: Broadalbin-Perth will compile a comprehensive final report on the Virtual AP® program during the summer of 2014 that includes AP® exam results, curriculum maps and course materials. The district will share this report with other educators through an Open Educational Resources virtual learning course repository.

Strategy 2: Broadalbin-Perth will package curriculum and course materials according to the New York State Education Department (NYSED) Components for Online and Blended Courses.

Strategy 3: Broadalbin-Perth will share online resources and lessons created during the pilot program with other districts throughout New York State.

Professional Development

Broadalbin-Perth will offer formal and in-the-moment professional development to the Virtual AP® teachers on the pedagogy of digital learning and online study so that the teachers may more effectively use online tools for instruction. Teachers will take advantage of the many opportunities for professional development on the AP® curriculum offered by College Board, including attending the 2013 and 2014 AP Annual Conferences as well as regional workshops. In addition to acquiring information about the AP® curriculum, Broadalbin-Perth's AP teachers will also network with current AP® teachers. Teachers will also examine their current classroom curriculum and compare it with the AP® curriculum to determine which additional topics will need to be covered through virtual learning. The district will also contract for related professional development opportunities for Virtual AP® teachers through Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery BOCES as part of Broadalbin-Perth's professional development plan.

Program Contact

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