



Virtual Advanced Placement (VAP) Program

Capital Region BOCES VAP Program

Program Overview

Seven (7) school districts – including small city school districts, rural, and suburban districts – have joined together to form the Capital Region Virtual AP Consortium. The Consortium is planning to create four blended virtual AP courses. None of the seven districts are currently able to offer virtual AP® courses and each is able to offer only a limited number of traditional classroom or synchronous distance learning AP® courses for students due to ever increasing budget constraints.

The seven school districts in the Consortium are located in the greater Capital Region and are listed below:

- Cobleskill-Richmondville Central School District
- Cohoes City School District
- Duanesburg Central School District
- Mohonasen Central School District
- Schoharie Central School District
- Sharon Springs Central School District
- Watervliet City School District.

The Consortium and participating districts are supported by two units within the Capital Region BOCES: Educational Support Services and the Northeastern Regional Information Center (NERIC).

The districts range in student population size from 340 to 2,950 students in grades K-12. The percentage of students eligible for free or reduced lunches (according to the latest New York State Report Card) varies from 29% to 62%, with an average rate across the consortium of 42%. The majority of the districts' students are white; the two city school districts (Cohoes and Watervliet) have the largest minority student populations in the consortium (18% to 32%) and the other five districts have minority populations of less than 6%, according to the New York State Report Card.

Program Activities

The seven districts will enlist and develop the expertise of existing teachers and administrators to create four blended virtual AP® classes. Each course development team will include four individuals: three teachers and one subject-area administrator.

Technology capacity to offer the classes will be created through the following activities:

- The addition and expansion of interactive video technology.
- Access to a virtual learning management tool in all seven districts.
- The purchase and use of tablets for all students taking the AP® classes.

In addition, student preparedness for participation in Virtual AP® courses will be assessed through tools such as the PSAT/NMSQT and a locally developed Student Readiness Assessment for online and blended learning.

Repository

Through Virtual AP® Program funding, the seven districts will enlist and develop the expertise of existing teachers and administrators to create four blended virtual AP® classes. Those classes will be offered to students in all of the districts, as well as prepared for use statewide by becoming part of the New York State Education Department's planned repository.

Professional Development

Extensive, sustained professional development for four carefully selected teams of Capital Region educators will be provided throughout the entire grant program period, ensuring the successful development and delivery of four high quality AP® classes. Such training will also give those educators the skills to develop additional classes for the consortium districts in the future — courses that are aligned to the Common Core Curriculum Learning Standards and that have the rigor and relevancy necessary to support college and career ready students.

Key professional development activities planned are as follows:

- Three day-long workshops on Common Core Learning Standards and instructional strategies to ensure the virtual classes are aligned to CCLS.
- Three day-long workshops on data, including the regular use of data in the virtual classes to regularly assess how students are performing and to determine where additional instruction is needed.
- A 20-hour introductory “Online Teaching 101” online workshop to assist educators on the teams with instructional technology integration and online teaching training.

Professional development will be facilitated by Educational Support Services and NERIC E-Learning staff.

Program Contact

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