



Virtual Advanced Placement (VAP) Program

Erie 1 BOCES VAP Program

Program Overview

Goal 1: To provide teachers with resources, professional development, and a platform to create AP® Courses for eligible Erie 1 BOCES component districts.

Goal 2: To Increase student interest and involvement in AP® courses in our eligible districts.

The outline of this undertaking will begin with teacher staff development. This staff development will be offered at the Erie 1 BOCES Education Campus in West Seneca. Teachers will be able to use technology labs to get hands on experience with the course creation resources. They will get background on effective online learning practices and learn how to use Learning management systems such as Moodle and iTunes University, which are hosted at our Erie 1 Campus and will be accessible to teachers throughout the funded initiative. They will then be given time and support to develop their courses at our facility with our staff on hand to assist with technology and pedagogy related questions. There will be time also committed to data based snapshots of existing programs in the district as well as trend analysis of current strengths and weaknesses of current offerings in districts based on latest state data.

After completing their courses they will be given ways to access and develop the course for their schools or possibly other schools/ educators in the area. We will then provide these courses for other districts that have populations in need of these resources. Our staff will again provide information to guide and support other districts in using these teacher created courses. Additionally, there will be dates for general forum meetings to discuss how the courses are being implemented and ways to improve or complement existing courses. This could include but is not limited to district or building level committees, subject area meetings, data trend analysis and research and peer to peer sharing or “turn-key” trainings. Erie 1 BOCES vision is intended to give educators access to professionals from around the world by providing funding to attend the ISTE (International Society for Technology Education) and NYSCATE (NY State Association for Computers and Technology Education). These conferences will give educators a professional Network to share and collaborate with to improve their teaching and learning.

Program Activities

E1BOCES goal is to combine the rapidly growing online community with the curricula used in AP® to provide high quality and easily accessible courses to students of low-wealth areas. Thus, the purpose of the grant is to provide a standard-and criterion-based framework to:

- 1) evaluate and select online learning technologies that match the academic needs of the District,
- 2) train teachers to be effective online facilitators who can successfully with innovative teaching approaches promote student-centered learning and provide engaging multimedia content, and

- 3) establish a repository of AP® courses that can be accessed by students of low-wealth areas to help ensure college readiness.

Develop, Identify, evaluate and select online (virtual) AP® programs/courses/ resources for larger and more diverse groups of students to participate and succeed in virtual learning AP® programs, and to increase the numbers of low-income and other disadvantaged students who are taking AP® courses and receive credits.

Develop local capacity for online learning with AP® courses by recruiting and preparing certified teachers for online course instruction and facilitation.

Develop and implement standards, criteria, a rubric, support, and process for evaluating students' online learning experiences and appraising students' performance with appropriate grades and credit, culminating in Regents and AP® examinations.

Repository

At the culmination of the grant, all Erie 1 BOCES created AP® Courses will be given to the State Department of Education for continued use throughout the state.

Professional Development

E1B will provide PD to approximately twenty-two (22) teachers during the grant period.

E1B will develop the local capacity of online teachers through a variety of PD opportunities including:

- 1) Virtual AP® Consortium,
- 2) Summer Institutes, and
- 3) Ongoing PD courses and workshops that can be face-to-face, online, synchronous, or asynchronous.

All PD opportunities will be supported by a comprehensive online resources library that will include articles, Podcasts, video, and online training demonstrations. These resources will be posted in the virtual learning communities so that participants can access them at any time. Sustained and differentiated PD is critical to training and retaining highly qualified teachers. Each teacher will have the ability to attend online or face-to-face AP® Staff Development workshops hosted by the College Board. Teachers will choose the workshops that best fit their course and professional needs. During the workshops teachers will be made more aware of the coursework that they need to develop and the rigor that is part of the AP® curricula. Participants will work with Course Creation Consultants from Florida Virtual Schools to develop and create course curricula and material for the selected courses.

Program Contact

Carmelita Seitz, Distance Learning Coordinator, Cseitz@e1b.org