



Virtual Advanced Placement® (VAP) Program

Jefferson-Lewis-Hamilton-Herkimer-Oneida BOCES VAP Program

Program Overview

Jefferson-Lewis-Hamilton-Herkimer-Oneida BOCES is the LEA on behalf of the BOCES consortium, comprised of Jefferson-Lewis-Hamilton-Herkimer-Oneida BOCES and St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES, and their eligible participating school districts. This consortium is made up of 35 school districts with over 17,000 students, of which an average of 49% qualifies for free or reduced lunch. District teachers from both BOCES regions will be selected to develop five (5) new courses and re-align up to 20 existing Advanced Placement® (AP®) courses for delivery in an on-line and/or blended format. The 5 new courses are AP® Biology, Music Theory, Spanish Language and Culture, and French Language and Culture. The 20 existing courses will be chosen based on input from the districts. The content development teams will have access to a full array of professional development opportunities throughout the school year so that they may build capacity for providing blended or online AP® beyond the grant period.

Program Activities

Overall VAP Program Goals, Objectives, and Strategies:

1. Design, refine and sustain a Virtual Advanced Placement® Program to increase AP® participation for low-wealth/high-need students in participation districts.
 - a. Enroll minimum of 15 students in AP® Biology pilot for the SY2014-15.
 - b. Create 4 additional Virtual AP® Courses in Music Theory, Statistics, Spanish Language and Culture, and French Language and Culture
 - c. Redesign up to 20 existing AP® courses into an online/blended format
2. Provide professional development to teachers, administrators, technical staff, and counselors with regard to development, instruction, support, and expansion of AP® courses.
3. Develop the capacity for a Virtual Learning Environment within the 2 BOCES regions to support districts in sharing content/courses/teacher expertise while improving access.
 - a. Complete an infrastructure analysis of eligible districts.
 - b. Create standard procedures and policies that will support and sustain a VAP Program that
 - i. provide appropriate rigor and standards as expected in an AP® course.
 - ii. are consistent with the Commissioners Regulations as related to online learning

*In addition to these goals, support will be utilized within member districts to conduct parent and student information meetings, distribute materials to district stakeholders, and trouble-shoot issues as they arise.

Professional Development

There will be four (4) teams of teachers, consisting of four (4) members each, which will create new courses to be available to the 35 member districts in the 2015-2016 school year. Additionally, there will be up to 20 teams, consisting of two (2) members each, which will realign existing AP® Courses to an online/blended format for availability in the member districts in the 2015-2016 school year.

Training will be provided for all participants including content specific and technology workshops. The training formats will vary and consist of traditional “in class” training, as well as online and distance learning. These teachers will be fully trained to develop and support virtual learning AP® Courses to improve content knowledge and development of an online format consistent with district policy and the New York State Commissioner of Education Regulations as they relate to online learning. Additionally, each district will have a mentor that will be trained to provide support within the district as it relates to online/blended learning.

There will also be professional development offered that will target Pre-AP® teachers to assist in vertical alignment of curriculum to better prepare students for AP® Courses.

Current Status

The Virtual AP® Biology course is currently being offered during this school year, 2014-2015, in five (5) districts with 23 students enrolled. Recruitment of teachers in the four (4) other new courses has begun, and training is set to begin in October. Additionally, the 20 re-aligned courses are being identified and recruitment of teachers for those courses is set to begin in early October.

Program Contacts

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