



Virtual Advanced Placement (VAP) Program

NYC Department of Education NYC VAP Program

Program Overview

The New York City Department of Education is strongly committed to preparing its students for success in college and career. While high school graduation remains a critical predictor of success, we must put an equal, if not greater, emphasis on graduating college ready. A number of changes are underway to raise expectations, including the adoption of the Common Core and new accountability metrics that emphasize college readiness. Earlier this year, the DOE set a goal of doubling the proportion of students who graduate from city high schools ready for college-level work by 2016. In order to accomplish this goal, it is imperative that students have access to college-level coursework, and NYSED's Virtual Advanced Placement grant provides an important opportunity to increase this access..

The New York City Department of Education (NYC DOE) New York State Virtual Advanced Placement (VAP) Program represents the interests of the NYC DOE's Division of Talent, Labor and Innovation which oversees the citywide iLearnNYC program. iLearnNYC is an online and blended learning program designed to create a personalized learning experience for students and provide them with alternative access to educational resources that might otherwise be unavailable.

Program Activities

The proposed program will target current and future iLearnNYC schools, and augment their services by providing Advanced Placement teachers with the skills and resources to increase participation of low-income and minority students in PSAT and virtual Advanced Placement (AP) courses and exams.

The rationale for the augmentation of iLearnNYC with NYS VAP funding is that iLearnNYC goals and objectives are similar to those of the VAP. iLearnNYC staff has been working with inner city schools with large numbers of minority and low-income students for the past three years. They have made strong inroads within these schools regarding the use of vendor-created online courses, teacher-customization of online courses, and the development of a citywide learning management system for teachers to create and access online courses, resources and materials for instruction across K- 12 classrooms. Online courses are being used for credit recovery, remediation and AP studies. Providing NYSED VAP funding to augment iLearnNYC will enhance the implementation of virtual AP coursework among these schools, and provide the necessary professional development to advance the course development skills of teachers so schools will not be reliant upon external vendors to provide course content beyond the iLearnNYC and NYC VAP funding periods. iLearnNYC high schools have been recruited across all NYC high schools in all five boroughs. Their committed NYC interest and investment in innovative educational practices as a result of their iLearnNYC affiliation make them the ideal target population for the NYC VAP program.

The implementation of the NYC VAP proposal will increase access to high quality, standards-based curriculum that is aligned to virtual AP courses. It will increase the number of low-income and minority

students who pass AP and PSAT/NMSQT exams and it will increase the number of teachers qualified to teach virtual AP courses. Since NYC is applying as one school district, the NYC VAP program resources will be available citywide, with the potential to impact the total NYC student population of 1.1 million pupils. This proposal will establish a target population who will receive direct training in the development and implementation of virtual Advanced Placement courses.

This target population will comprise 60 high school AP teachers participating in the iLearnNYC program. Targeted teachers will be current AP teachers and those teachers planning to teach an AP course within the next year. Among the iLearnNYC high school AP teachers, NYC VAP recruitment efforts will establish three cohorts of participating teachers, all intended to increase capacity within targeted schools to offer virtual AP courses to minority and low-income students.

Repository

Targeted teachers will contribute a minimum of 20 peer-reviewed, high-quality AP courses to the NYS repository of virtual courses during the life of the funding period, and will continue to enhance and contribute to the NYC and NYS repository of virtual courses beyond the funding period.

Professional Development

In order to successfully implement the NYC VAP program, NYC will provide teachers with professional development opportunities from field experts, to include:

- College Board professionals to enhance content area knowledge;
- Project staff (2 Virtual Instructional Specialists) with support from NYC DOE curriculum specialists to align virtual AP curriculum with Universal Design for Learning Principles, Common Core, ISTE and iNACOL standards;
- EdTech Leaders Online, a research-based online learning program, which will provide online facilitator and course design professional development. EdTech Leaders is endorsed by iNACOL.

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By providing targeted teachers with professional development opportunities from ETLO and the College Board, NYC will build capacity towards a network of virtual AP teachers who will be well skilled in virtual course implementation and design, as well as the innovative pedagogical practices that align with virtual instruction. These teachers will be able to reach additional students within their school building and a number of them will be asked to teach students outside of their school building, providing even greater access to AP courses, and fully leveraging their new capacity to make a system wide impact.

Program Contact

Andrea Coleman, CEO of Innovation, NYCDOE, acoleman6@schools.nyc.gov
Celine Azoulay, Executive Director, iLearnNYC, cazoula@schools.nyc.gov