



Virtual Advanced Placement (VAP) Program

Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES VAP Program

Program Overview

Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES and Genesee Valley Educational Partnership (BOCES) receive their technology services from the Genesee Valley/Wayne-Finger Lakes Educational Technology Services (EduTech), which is one of twelve Regional Information Centers (RIC's) in New York. EduTech is responsible for supporting the technology needs of forty-seven school districts in the Genesee Valley and Wayne Finger Lakes BOCES regions.

AccelerateU, an aidable service offered through EduTech, has provided high quality, comprehensive, standards-based online courses to students for the past ten years. Modeled after a rigorous face-to-face classroom experience, students interact with challenging content, exercises, activities, and projects aligned to the NYS Common Core Learning Standards. NYS-certified teachers monitor student progress with both frequent formative and summative assessments. Students expect and receive regular, substantive teacher interaction with 24/7 access to their course content and instructor with an understanding that their questions will be answered within one day. As a result of this grant, Wayne Finger Lakes BOCES, through EduTech will develop five Virtual Advanced Placement courses and offer a variety of Virtual Advanced Placement courses to four hundred seventy-four students in 33 school districts.

Over its ten year history, AccelerateU has observed a trend that previous academic performance is not an indicator of success in the online environment. We have noticed that one variable impacting 43% of students who are considered "at risk" is the absence of a support structure. In the online environment, AccelerateU certified instructors, coordinators, school staff and faculty work together to provide the support needed in order for a student to become successful in a rigorous college-level course. WFL BOCES envisions a VAP program which features online students wrapped in an extensive supportive network made up of a NYS-certified online teacher, administrative and technical support professionals, online resources, local teachers, parents / guardians, and a local advisor.

The proposed WFL BOCES VAP program will support each component district in its efforts to increase AP® participation levels, especially in historically under-served populations of students. To that end, recruitment strategies will be designed to educate district personnel such as guidance counselors, students and administrators of the extensive AP® opportunities. Through this collaboration, districts will expand an informational network highlighting course opportunities for a wide variety of student populations.

Program Activities

Student Benefit: Economically disadvantaged students have an opportunity to participate in and receive college credit from a suite of five AP® courses at no cost.

Fees covered:

- purchase and distribution of four hundred seventy-four laptops to students taking the online AP® courses
- laptops (3G connectivity) enable students to work also on courses at home with Internet access
- costs of the AP® Exam for eligible students
- costs of the PSAT Exams for eligible students
- costs of purchased required textbooks for eligible students to take AP® online courses
- course registration costs and NYS-certified teacher fees to take AP® online courses

District Assistance: Developing a process for informing, preparing, orienting, and supporting students with virtual AP learning.

Professional Development:

Ongoing Professional Development for participating districts and online NYS-certified instructors:

- “How to Write an Online Course”
- “Teaching Online is Virtually Worth It! (based upon iNacol National Standards for Quality Online Teaching) with target audience of AP® online instructors
- Moodle Platform Training
- “Rolling-out Online Learning in your School”
- “Implementing Online Learning in your District”
- AP® Summer Institute – College Board Approved
- “Other college board workshops for AP® Teachers per content”
- “Helping students become successful in an online course”

College Board Curriculum Development and Submission:

The following course content will be created, reviewed for approval, and revised based on College Board feedback and published:

- 1 AP Music Theory course
- 2 AP® Participation and Government course
- 3 AP® Calculus BC course
- 4 AP® Macroeconomics course
- 5 AP® Human Geography

Repository

WFL BOCES will develop additional virtual learning AP® for a statewide repository to include:

AP® Music Theory, AP® Participation and Government, AP® Calculus BC, AP® Macroeconomics, AP® Human Geography. EduTech will hire content experts who are experienced educators to develop each of the virtual AP courses. Each course will include supplemental materials specifically targeted to the Common Core Learning Standards.

EduTech will review the curriculum and supplemental materials prior to submitting to College Board for approval. EduTech will communicate feedback from College Board to the appropriate content authors, editing and revising the course content as needed. Courses will then be posted online for student use. EduTech's courses will become an integral part of the newly-created NYSED Virtual AP repository.

Professional Development

- EduTech will develop, enhance and expand professional development opportunities for teachers to effectively conduct and support virtual learning AP® courses at the high school level for low-income students.
- EduTech will utilize their established professional development cadre to develop and offer professional development courses for teachers, school counselors, and administrators.
- WFL BOCES will provide a robust professional development plan based on specific district, student, instructional needs and infrastructure analysis.

WFL BOCES will improve student access to virtual learning through the professional development of school counselors. This understanding better enables counselors to guide students on a preferred path targeted to AP® courses. The inclusion of individual student laptops ensures a one-to-one device ratio providing every student participant full access to the selected course both in school and in the home or community environment.

Program Contact

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