



Virtual Advanced Placement (VAP) Program

Yonkers City School District VAP Program

Program Overview

Yonkers City School District is the 4th largest school district in NYS, located in the lower Hudson Valley, immediately north of New York City. It serves a learning community of 26,000 students from 100 nationalities in grades PK - 12 in 39 schools. Student population is 22% Black, 25% White and Other, and 53% Hispanic. 72% of the students are eligible to receive free or reduced lunch, 15% are English Language Learners, 13% are students with disabilities. Guided by the motto, "To Achieve Excellence Together," the District embraces the opportunity to implement the awarded Virtual Advanced Placement (VAP) 2013-2014 Proposal.

The VAP 2013-2014 Proposal, *Yonkers Online Advance Opportunity Now (YO-AO Now)*, maximizes academic opportunities for secondary students by providing high quality instructional support through authentic real-world tools and experiences. *YO-AO Now* expands and provides professional development in virtual learning strategies and techniques fused with Advanced Placement course delivery.

The project design includes a core cohort development team of 12 teachers and 3 administrators, student virtual advanced placement leadership groups, cooperative virtual learning support teams, and the development of teachers trained in virtual instructional delivery. *YO-AO Now* provides district wide access to three (3) on-demand virtualized advanced placement and support modules through one (1) Advanced Placement Preparatory course and two (2) virtualized Advanced Placement courses in Science and Spanish.

Program Activities

Courses will be designed and created by a collaborative VAP Development team including AP® trained teachers, teachers of AP® courses, and Yonkers Online Academy certified teachers (teachers certified through Yonkers Online Academy to design, develop, and instruct virtual courses). Virtual learning resources, also known as modules, will be launched to support students in grades 8 through 12 providing access to students in 21 schools, over 50% of the 40 district schools in a district with a low-income rate of 72%. Year one piloting will include all 8 District High and Middle/High Schools and 13 PreK-8 Schools. Subsequent expansion will be extended to all district PreK-8 schools, and PreK-6 where applicable.

The fully developed VAP program will engage students utilizing learning modules developed through a highly refined Educational Schematic Instructional Design. Modular design will present multiple opportunities for ongoing practice and exploration, scaffolding and varying study techniques to differentiate delivery thereby supporting a wide range of interests, motivations, and specialized needs. The modular design will include resources, and pre-created materials supportive of delivery of the following courses:

1. One (1) Advanced Placement Virtual Prep course;
2. One (1) Advanced Placement Virtual Science course (focus to be determined);
3. One (1) Advanced Placement Virtual LOTE (Spanish).

Course authentication will adhere to standard procedures for course development, including a final audit through the College Board review process.

Repository

YO-AO *Now* provides funding to develop a shared repository of AP® resources and course materials, developing both district and statewide capacity through shared virtualized learning resources. Program supports develop a strategically designed approach to development of a core team of instructional leaders, staff, and students; an extended professional learning community; and identify successful student supports.

Professional Development

Professional development will be provided to the core cohort incorporating educational instruction in online learning with Backwards Design planning while building on Project Based Learning with an Advanced Placement course guideline. Work will include development of learning environments supportive of student engagement and personalized learning which is threaded through a holistic approach juxtaposing rigorous content, curricular alignment, and pedagogical best-practices delivered through authentic technologies. An initial launch is projected to include 90 teachers receiving professional development in Advanced Placement, Virtual Learning which will be done through a fusion of Virtual Learning/AP Design and Development.

Professional development will occur through virtual means including social networks, discussion groups, as well as focused development through Yonkers Online Academy in virtual instructional delivery and design. Activities will include development of district resource repositories and accessibility strategies for students and staff designed to increase access and efficient use of web based technologies. Experiences will occur in multiple platforms, including Moodle and other web based technologies.

Through development of the virtual learning modules designed through *Yonkers Online Advance Opportunity Now*, teachers will have the opportunity to provide instructional support through synchronous delivery incorporating virtual tools, while also facilitating student empowerment through the provision of on-demand preparatory and support resources in the areas of academic practice, and positive behavioral routines.

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