

Strategy Guidance for use of funds under The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009



Strategy Number: 16

Rigorous Advanced Courses

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Statement of need:

Florida has an ongoing need to increase student access to rigorous advanced courses in the Advanced Curriculum Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE), Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), Industry Certification, and Dual Enrollment programs. Increasing student access to these programs will help improve the following:

- Next Generation High school accountability
- Student post secondary and career workplace readiness
- Closing student achievement and graduation gaps
- College credits earned in high school
- ELL student participation in rigorous foreign language courses in their heritage language
- Improved preparation of Florida students to compete at the national and international levels
- Increased availability of accelerated extracurricular activities

Proposed areas for implementation:

The Department is working with all of these programs to identify means of additional support to districts. Contacts for each of these programs and information related to teacher professional development opportunities can be found at <http://www.fldoe.org/schools/SupportForNGHS.asp>. Examples of recent support at no cost or reduced costs include:

- Free on-line professional development for AP teachers provided by the College Board and PAEC
- Ten free AP examination readiness courses on Florida Virtual School available to all students with a priority given to ensure underserved students and their teachers have primary access available through funding provided by the College Board Partnership
- Reduced cost offered to Florida for implementing International Baccalaureate programs; a survey of district interest in starting new IB programs was recently collected
- Grants for implementing industry certification programs
- Workshops to support dual enrollment programs

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Funding Sources:

- Instructional materials funds
- SFSF
- Title II-D
- Professional Development for Teachers (see availability at the Web site cited above) available for:
 - Teachers in title I schools, Title I stimulus funds
 - Targeted districts and schools, College Board Partnership funds
 - AP, FEFP and incentive funding