

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FOR 2017-18 NETWORK PROVIDERS FOR THE ADVANCED COURSEWORK NETWORK**

The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE), is requesting Advanced Coursework Network Provider Applications from interested local education agencies, nonprofit organizations and colleges to offer advanced coursework for Rhode Island high school and middle school students with the goal of expanding access to advanced coursework opportunities that promote college and career readiness.

Responses to this Request for Proposals will be accepted electronically only. A link to the application form is available on www.ride.ri.gov/advancedcoursework. Additional resources including a preview of the application form are available on the RIDE website as well. The Rhode Island Department of Education reserves the right to accept or reject, without prejudice, any or all submissions to promote the best interest of the State of Rhode Island.

RFP Key Definitions

Advanced Coursework: Rigorous learning opportunities including and beyond core academic subjects which provide students opportunities to explore and gain experience with potential career and college tracks. Advanced coursework includes opportunities to gain college credit while in high school (i.e. dual enrollment, advanced placement, etc), sciences including and beyond Physics, Math including and beyond Algebra 2, World Languages, Technology and Engineering courses, performing and visual arts courses including graphic design, and career preparatory classes which lead to industry recognized credentials.

RI Advanced Coursework Network: An initiative envisioned to be a partnership among the Rhode Island Department of Education, Local Education Authorities, community based organizations and higher education institutions to offer extended advanced coursework opportunities to Rhode Island high school students.

Network member: An LEA that voluntarily chooses to extend the Advanced Coursework Network Opportunities to students in their district and/or school.

Network providers: An LEA, Rhode Island based community based organization or higher education institution that delivers advanced coursework opportunities to Rhode Island students.

Introduction & Overview

Rhode Island students work diligently to prepare themselves for college and career success. For some students, that work will include advanced courses for college credit or specialized training to receive an industry credential. These enriching experiences help students get a head start on post-secondary success, master the skills required of a lifelong learner, and be prepared for jobs critical to Rhode Island's future prosperity. Providing access to advanced coursework has supported Rhode Island's school districts in personalizing academic programming for students and a new initiative, the Advanced Coursework Network, will help to further support schools and districts in providing students with even greater options.

The Advanced Coursework Network is envisioned to help districts and schools create opportunities for Rhode Island public school students to identify, pursue and realize their respective individualized graduation pathways. As Network members, schools and districts will enable students and their families to enroll in formerly unavailable high value academic- and career-focused courses while they remain enrolled at their public school. Courses will be offered in various modalities to encourage the greatest participation from students in schools and districts that have chosen to participate in the initiative. The course offerings will include advanced science and mathematics courses, as well as Advanced Placement (AP[®]), world languages, career-focused and dual/concurrent enrollment courses. Courses in the Advanced Coursework Network are available to all RI Students in grades 6 - 12. State funding will cover the cost of public school students' participation. Home school and nonpublic school students and families will be responsible for costs of participation at the negotiated rates.

Minimum Network Provider Qualifications

Through this RFP, the Rhode Island Department of Education is seeking qualified applicants seeking to provide coursework to students across the state as Network Providers. Network Providers will be key to the success of the new Advanced Coursework Network. As such, the State is seeking highly qualified organizations, higher education institutions and Local Education Authorities with whom to partner. At a minimum, Network Providers must:

1. Demonstrate intent to provide access to at least one of the following: advanced science and/or math, world languages, dual/concurrent enrollment, Advanced Placement (AP[®]), and/or career-preparation coursework. Career-focused course proposals will be strongly considered if they align with the Governor's Workforce Board Priority Sectors and/or result in an industry-recognized certification or credential.
2. Demonstrate experience and success in offering secondary education with coursework or student learning experiences in the State of Rhode Island that are similar to the coursework or student learning experiences included in the Advanced Coursework proposal. Demonstrated success should also address the modality of the course or courses the Provider intends to offer. All types of delivery will be considered including traditional (e.g. face-to-face), online, or a hybrid (e.g. blended) courses.
3. Be a Rhode Island LEA, Rhode Island-based nonprofit organization, Rhode Island institution of higher education or Department of Labor and Training program provider. Providers may partner with corporate or out-of-state organizations to develop or offer courses.
4. Demonstrate that their organization has policies and procedures in place to address student health and safety as applicable to the coursework that will be proposed by the Provider.
5. Demonstrate that instructors meet, or will meet before the start of the class, the teacher certification requirements of the Rhode Island Department of Education.

Advanced Coursework Network Program Specifications

1. *Courses.* Applicants may choose to offer a new or existing course either developed by the applicant or in partnership with a third-party provider including state or national coursework providers, nonprofit organizations, etc. Applications should identify third party providers and the RI certified teacher of record for the course.
2. *Modality.* Courses may be proposed in face to face, blended or fully virtual models.

3. *Recruitment and Open Enrollment.* All courses must be open to all qualified students statewide. Providers may set course-specific prerequisites. Courses will then be filled on a first-come-first-serve basis. Providers may not implement additional application processes beyond the established prerequisites for the course.
4. *Nonpublic Student Tuition Access.* The tuition price accepted by RIDE will be available for nonpublic students. RIDE’s funding will pay only for public school students that have been approved to take the course by their full time public school. However, the course provider must provide a mechanism for nonpublic students to pay for the course at the negotiated rate directly to the course provider.
5. *Tuition Structure.* Tuition proposals must reflect market-based pricing and demonstrate potential economies of scale. Additionally, please note the following items:
 - a. Textbooks. Textbooks must be included in the proposed tuition price.
 - b. Transportation. Transportation may be included in the proposed tuition price. RIDE will consider transportation expenses included where explanation is provided and due diligence in efficient pricing is demonstrated.
 - c. AP and other credential test fees. Course providers must include the cost of credential issuing test fees in their tuition proposal. Only Providers with established policies stating otherwise may be granted an exception.
6. *Payment Structure.* Payment will be made at established points throughout the duration of the course based on course enrollment at the time of the enrollment report and/or progress with established course goals.

RFP Application Submission and Evaluation

All applications must be completed using the online form and budget template. Each section listed has the maximum number of points that can be received in the Provider application process. The RFP application will include:

Section 1: Provider and Proposal Overview - Required, No Points

Section 2: Vision and Background

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| 1. Provider Vision and Goals for Course Offerings | up to 5 points |
| 2. Provider Background (History and Education Experience) | up to 5 points |
| 3. Continuous Improvement | up to 5 points |
| 4. Safety and Liability Protection | up to 5 points |

Section 3: Proposed Course Information:

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| 5. Overview of Proposed Course Offerings | up to 5 points |
| 6. Credit & Credential Opportunities | up to 10 points |
| 7. Curriculum Overview, Delivery and Sources | up to 10 points |
| 8. Course Goals and Student Outcomes | up to 10 points |
| 9. Progress Monitoring | up to 10 points |
| 10. Addressing Students with Special Needs and English Language Learners (ELL) | up to 10 points |
| 11. Statewide Recruitment | up to 5 points |
| 12. Course Budget (template required) & Budget Narrative | up to 10 points |
| 13. Instructor Qualifications/Experiences | up to 10 points |

Section 4: Provider Assurances - Required, No Points

Previous approval does not guarantee future approval. RFPs will be issued annually for the following academic year.

Timeline and Requirements

RIDE will review complete applications on a rolling basis as they are received. The review team comprised of RIDE staff, field experts and other relevant parties will conduct an evaluation of completed applications, as described below. RIDE reserves the right to approve any number or none of the applications if it determines that such a recommendation appears to be in the best interests of the Network. RIDE reserves the right to approval whole or partial applications and request additional information as required. Approval of courses does not guarantee enrollment payment. A preliminary MOU will be issued at the time of approval. Only courses that meet their minimum enrollment requirements will be confirmed for the approved term. Once confirmed, an amended MOU will be issued to finalize payment terms. This program has a limited budget. Funding will be allocated on a first come first serve basis for courses that meet their minimum enrollment, until the budget is fully drawn.

Each Network provider shall submit one electronic copy through the online form. Hard copy applications will not be accepted! A PDF of the application is available for planning purposes only on www.ride.ri.gov/advancedcoursework. Applications must be received by **4:00 PM on Wednesday, November 30, 2016**.

Any questions relative to your submission shall be directed to advancedcoursework@ride.ri.gov. Upon receipt, all applications shall become the property of the State without compensation to the proponent, for disposition or usage by the State at its discretion. The State assumes no responsibility or obligation to the proponent and will make no payment for any costs associated with the preparation or submission of any Proposal Statements.

Reference Materials

Potential Network providers are encouraged to review course catalogs for Rhode Island LEAs to understand the existing landscape of advanced coursework options. Additionally, potential Providers are encouraged to review the 15-16 Advanced Coursework Network catalog, the College Board's Advanced Placement opportunities and additional industry/field resources with reliable college and career readiness data.