

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FOR 2016-2017 NETWORK PROVIDERS FOR THE ADVANCED COURSEWORK NETWORK**

Released: December 2015

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.

Sealed RFP Applications will be accepted and time stamped by the Network Coordinator (RIDE) until 4:00 PM, Monday, February 1, 2016, at which time they will be distributed to the selection committee. RFP packages can be downloaded from the Advanced Coursework Network website at www.RIDE.ri.gov/adancedcoursework. 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 above 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, career preparatory classes which lead to industry recognized credentials, and hands-on applications of coursework such as apprenticeships with academic components.

RI Advanced Coursework Network: A new initiative envisioned to be a partnership between 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 members: 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 individualized graduation pathway. As Network members, schools and districts will enable students and their families to choose 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. Any Rhode Island student enrolled with a Network member for the pilot year can choose to register for his/her chosen course. Rhode Island home school and nonpublic school students may enroll during the pilot year, but they will be responsible for paying the cost of tuition for the course and coordinating any transportation, technology or other course-related needs.

Minimum Network Provider Qualifications

Through this RFP, the Rhode Island Department of Education is seeking qualified applicants 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 to partner with in this first year of the Network. At a minimum, Network Providers must:

1. Demonstrate past experience and 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 and learning opportunities. 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 similar coursework or student learning experiences in the State of Rhode Island. Only courses appropriate for students at the high school level (traditionally grades 9-12) or Middle School (traditionally grades 6-8) will be considered for the Network's first year. 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 Rhode Island LEAs, Rhode Island-based nonprofit or educational organizations, or Rhode Island institutions of higher education. Providers may partner with corporate or out-of-state providers. Network providers may include, but are not limited to:
 - *Rhode Island LEAs.* Rhode Island LEAs may choose to extend the enrollment of an existing course offering to students across the state. There are no restrictions on the modality of the course. LEAs may also choose to offer a new course either developed by the LEA 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 LEA-based teacher of record for the course. Any Rhode Island LEA can choose to apply to be a Network provider and /or to be a Network member to allow students to participate.
 - *Rhode Island-based Institutions of Higher Education.* Private colleges and universities may propose courses from their course catalog that will allow students to earn credit at the institution

and at the high school level. Rhode Island public colleges and universities should consult with RIDE before applying to be an Network provider.

- *Rhode Island-based Career Preparatory Providers.* Rigorous career preparatory programs may propose programs or coursework that lead to industry-recognized credentials.
 - *Rhode Island Based Apprenticeship Programs.* Rigorous apprenticeship programs approved by the Rhode Island State Apprenticeship Council may propose to offer programs resulting in an industry recognized credential.
 - *Rhode Island Not-for-profits/Organizations.* RI community based organizations may propose academic, leadership or career preparatory coursework.
4. Demonstrate their organizations 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 the requirements of the Rhode Island Department of Education to be a “highly qualified” teacher for the coursework that will be proposed.

RFP Application Submission and Evaluation

RIDE has provided a template for RFP responses. A review team comprised of RIDE staff, field experts and other relevant parties will conduct an evaluation of completed applications, as described below. 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: Applicant Summary Sheet (Limit 1 page) - Required, No Points

1. Cover Sheet template provided.

Section 2: Vision and Background (Limit 2 pages) - Up to 6 Points

1. Vision and rationale for applying to be a provider
2. History, background and education experience

Section 3: Proposed Course Offerings (Limit 12 pages) - Up to 40 Points

1. Overview of Proposed Course Offerings
2. Course alignment to preferred high-value areas
3. Course Goals/Assessments
4. Curriculum Overview and Sources
5. Proposed Pedagogy and Delivery Methods
6. Target audience/student population
7. Prerequisites
8. Anticipated Schedule
9. Progress Monitoring
10. Quality Assurance and Accountability
11. Addressing Students with Special Needs and English Language Learners (ELL)

Section 4: Proposed Tuition (Limit 2 pages) - Up to 20 Points

1. Tuition Bid and Structure
2. Tuition Price Bid Description

Section 5: Instruction Quality (Limit 3 pages) - Up to 10 Points

1. Overview of Instructor Qualifications
2. Experience / Examples of Instructional Quality
3. Instructor Evaluation

Section 6: Organizational Strength (Limit 3 page) - Up to 24 Points

1. Governance Structure
2. Course Budget and Contingencies
3. Track Record of Success
4. Partners/Disclosure
5. Provider Responsibilities
6. Program Leads and Qualifications

Section 7: Signature Page - Required, No Points

7. Authorized Signature for Organization
8. Direct Supervisor of Instructor
9. Instructor

RIDE intends to short-list Network providers who scored the highest points using this system. RIDE reserves its right to short-list any number or none of the applications if it determines that such a recommendation appears to be in the best interests of the Network.

Timeline and Requirements

Each Network provider shall submit one electronic copy in PDF format, as well as a hard copy. Sealed RFP statements will be received by RIDE until **4:00 PM, Monday, February 1, 2016**.

The submission shall be placed in sealed envelopes and clearly marked “Request for Proposal Statement – Advanced Coursework Network” and be addressed as follows: Stephen Osborn, Chief of Accelerating School Performance, Rhode Island Department of Education, 255 Westminster Street, Providence, RI ,02903. Any submission that exceeds the page limit set here or that is not received at RIDE by the date and time stated herein shall be rejected by RIDE as non-responsive.

Any questions relative to your submission shall be directed to Stephen Osborn. Upon their receipt, all Proposal Statements 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 and opportunities to address gaps in content. Additionally, potential Providers are encouraged to review the College Board’s Advanced Placement opportunities and additional industry/field resources with reliable college and career readiness data.