



Advanced Course Network

Expanding Opportunities

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR NETWORK PROVIDERS FOR THE ADVANCED COURSE NETWORK



Applications must be received by **4:00 PM on September 6, 2019**

The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE), is requesting Advanced Course Network Provider Applications from interested Rhode Island schools, Rhode Island districts, nonprofit organizations and colleges and universities to offer face to face, blended or online coursework for Rhode Island high school and middle school students with the goal of expanding access opportunities that promote college and career readiness.

Responses to this Request for Proposals will be accepted electronically only. 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.

Introduction & Overview

The Advanced Course Network is designed to create opportunities for Rhode Island public school students to identify, pursue and realize their respective individualized post-graduation pathways. As Network members, schools and districts enable students to enroll in high value academic- and career-focused courses while they remain enrolled at their school. Courses are offered in various modalities to encourage the greatest participation from students. The Advanced Course Network includes four categories of courses: Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement, Career Preparation and Work-Based Learning. Courses in the Advanced Course Network are available to all RI students in grades 6 – 12, with a focus on courses aligned to high school level standards. State funding covers the cost of public school students' participation. Home school and non-public school students and families are responsible for costs of participation at the negotiated rates.

Through this RFP, RIDE is seeking qualified applicants to provide coursework in **Spring 2020**.

Minimum Network Provider Qualifications

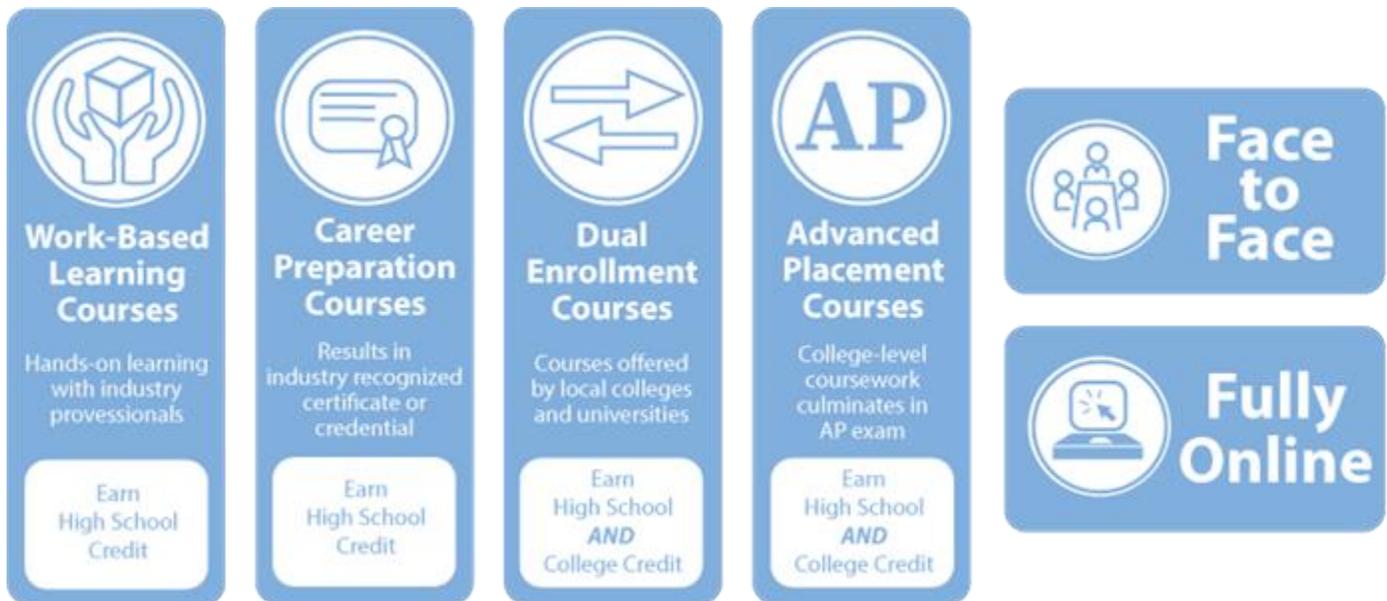
At a minimum, Network Providers must:

1. Be a Rhode Island LEA (school or district), Rhode Island-based community based organization, Rhode Island institution of higher education or approved Department of Labor and Training (DLT) training partner. Providers may partner with corporate or out-of-state organizations to develop or offer courses.
2. Demonstrate experience and success offering learning experience similar to the proposed coursework.
3. Assure that the 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.
4. Assure that the organization has at least the minimum supports in place as required by respective laws governing the organization to support students requiring special education services and students identified as English Learners.

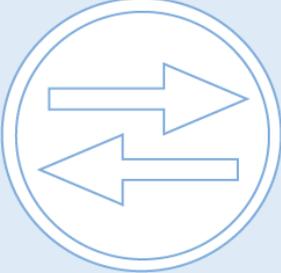
Advanced Course Network Course Specifications

1. **Course Design.** Proposed courses can be in face to face, blended or fully virtual modalities and must meet the program definition of at least one of the following course types: Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement, Career Preparation or Work-Based Learning. Applicants may choose to offer a new or existing course either developed by the applicant or in partnership with a third-party provider (including out-of-state or corporate organizations.) Applications should identify third party providers. RIDE will give priority to courses from any of the four course types maximize access to content for all students including but not limited to:

- Students receiving special education services.
- Students identified as English Learners.
- Students who wish to take a course(s) in a language other than English.



2. **Course Priorities.** The Advanced Course Network strives to provide students with the skills, experiences and credentials they need to determine and be successful on their path after high school. Through the ACN, students can participate in one of four types of courses that aim to support the attainment of these skills and credentials. The four types of courses are Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement®, Work-Based Learning and Career Preparation. Each type of course is defined by the standards they align to and the outcomes they provide for students. The following table describes the types of courses in the ACN.

Course Type	Required Standards	Optional Standards	Required Outcome	Optional Outcomes
<p style="text-align: center;">Dual Enrollment</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><i>These courses are offered by colleges to allow students to explore college level coursework and college communities to determine their interest in possible postsecondary education paths.</i></p>	<p>The same standards as in the college course, including rigor and expectations, as offered to degree- or certificate-seeking students</p>	<p>One or more set of standards from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Career and Technical Education Board; • State-adopted content standards; and/or • Applied Learning Skills measured by either the Rhode Island Learning Champions or Providence After School Alliance issued rubrics. 	<p>Allow students to earn college credit from the provider institution.</p>	<p>May also have one of the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit earned may be part of a certificate or degree program at the college/university • Experience and/or mentorship with practicing industry professionals • Experience on a work-site • Internship placement • Summer or afterschool employment related to skills gained in course • Completion of a real or simulated work project
<p style="text-align: center;">Advanced Placement</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Advanced Placement courses are developed and approved by the College Board and offer students the opportunity to earn college credit through an end of course exam.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One or more set of College Board Standards for College Success; and • Relevant state-adopted content standards 	<p>May be aligned to one or more set of standards from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Career and Technical Education Board; • Applied Learning Skills measured by either the Rhode Island Learning Champions or Providence After School Alliance issued rubrics. 	<p>Allow students to earn college credit through an end of course exam facilitated by the College Board.</p>	<p>May also have one of the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit earned may be part of a certificate or degree program at the college/university • Experience and/or mentorship with practicing industry professionals • Experience on a work-site • Internship placement • Summer or afterschool employment related to skills gained in course • Completion of a real or simulated work project

Course Type	Required Standards	Optional Standards	Required Outcome	Optional Outcomes
<p style="text-align: center;">Work-Based Learning</p>  <p>These courses assist students in accomplishing deep learning in a chosen area of interest and allow students to explore future career pathways.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governor’s Workforce Board work-based learning standards Applied Learning Skills measured by either the Rhode Island Learning Champions or Providence After School Alliance issued rubrics Alignment to at least one area of CTE Board Industry standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State-adopted content standards 	<p>One or more of the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the course: Semester long courses must include at least 40 hours of Work-based Learning, Yearlong must include at least 80 hours. Following the course: successful completion of the course results in student having opportunity for at least 80 hours of work-based learning in the form of internship. 	<p>N/A</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Career Preparation</p>  <p>These courses assist students in accomplishing deep learning in a chosen area of interest and prepare them for employment or further education in a career path.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One or more set of standards from the Career and Technical Education Board. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State-adopted content standards; Applied Learning Skills measured by either the Rhode Island Learning Champions or Providence After School Alliance issued rubrics. Governor’s Workforce Board work-based learning standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An industry-recognized credential, which leads to potential advanced standing for employment opportunities. 	<p>One or more of the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience and/or mentorship with practicing industry professionals Experience on a work-site Internship placement Summer or afterschool employment related to skills gained in course Completion of a real or simulated work project"

Further, providers are asked to identify if their course is aligned with one of six pathway areas that have been identified by the state for areas of pathway endorsements, a component of the state’s diploma system. Beginning with the Class of 2021, courses aligned to: Arts; Business and Industry; Humanities and World Languages; Public Service; STEM; and, Teaching; may be selected by schools to contribute to students being recognized at graduation for completion of a pathway, in concert with students completing a handful of other requirements. More information regarding state resources for pathway endorsements are available on the Diploma system page of ride.ri.gov.

- 3. Course Instructors.** There are three acceptable instructor models for ACN courses:
- Certified Rhode Island teacher delivering course
 - Certified Rhode Island teacher supervising instruction and assessment by a second instructor.
 - College faculty teaching a college-credit-bearing course

The certification area of teachers must be aligned to the subject matter of the course. Per state regulations, college faculty teaching college a college course must meet the criteria of the higher education institution but does not require a Rhode Island teaching certification.

- 4. 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 qualifications or screening processes beyond the established prerequisites for the course.

- 5. Student Tuition.** Providers will use the Program Tuition Guidance in determining per student tuition and the Budget Template to demonstrate cost-based pricing and economies of scale. Students, families and schools should not incur any additional course related costs. Please note the following items:

- Textbooks. Textbooks and course materials must be included in the proposed tuition price.
- Transportation. Transportation may be included in the proposed tuition price. RIDE will consider transportation expenses in tuition prices that remain within the tuition range guidelines.
- 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. Non-public Student Tuition Access.** The tuition price accepted by RIDE will be available for home school and non-public 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 home school and nonpublic students to pay for the course at the negotiated rate directly to the course provider.

- 7. 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.

- 8. Schedule.** Any courses with synchronous meeting times should be scheduled to meet after 2pm on weekdays or during weekends. Courses beginning before 2pm may be accepted if the course is an existing section scheduled for non-ACN student populations. Course providers will be asked to provide a rationale for offering a course in a particular semester, which may include course sequencing opportunities.



Please keep in mind: In your response, RIDE will ask for a rationale for the proposed semester of your course. RIDE is asking all potential providers, both new and previously approved, to be very intentional in the proposed timing of your course. This intentionality will be considered when RIDE is approving courses, given that, unlike in past RFP cycles, a limited number of courses will be approved.

- 9. Approval Length.** For courses that have been offered previously with success in accomplishing previously established course goals, RIDE will consider an approval duration of up to three years. New courses, and courses that have not met previously established course goal targets will be considered for one year approval timelines. Please note, approval for any period of time does not guarantee funding for a given year.

- 10. Required Professional Development Sessions.** All course providers must commit to attending at least one professional development session - **either Wednesday, July 31 from 10am to noon, or Wednesday August 21 from 10am to noon** - as part of their participation in the ACN which will include ACN course content standard alignment training. The dates for these sessions will be available for you to select from in the application.

RFP Key Definitions & Resources

- **Advanced Coursework:** Rigorous learning opportunities in different content areas for students at varying grade levels that support them in developing their individualized pathways.
- **Network Member:** A district or school that chooses to extend the Advanced Coursework Network Opportunities to students in their district and/or school.
- **Network Provider:** A district, school, Rhode Island based community based organization, higher education institution or Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training (DLT) training partner that delivers advanced coursework opportunities to Rhode Island students.
- **RI Advanced Course Network:** A network of course providers offering various coursework opportunities to Rhode Island high school students. The Advanced Course Network includes four categories of courses: Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement, Career Preparation and Work-Based Learning.
- **Rhode Island Diploma System Pathway Endorsement:** The Secondary School Regulations strive to increase and improve equitable learning opportunities for every student through personalization, graduation by proficiency, and multiple pathways. All learning experiences should be facilitated in a way that allows students to find relevance and applicability to their own life, interests, and / or previous knowledge. As part of the revised diploma system outlined in the Secondary School Regulations, the Council Designations serve as a means to personalize the diploma. Each Council Designation externally validates achievements of high school students, through flexible and personalized high school learning experiences, to allow public recognition of specific skills and to incentivize students to meet additional high standards beyond those needed to earn a high school diploma. Learn more about the diploma system at ride.ri.gov.

Course Content Standards

For your reference, state adopted standards have been compiled below.

RI State-Adopted:

Literacy <http://www.ride.ri.gov/InstructionAssessment/Literacy.aspx>

Mathematics <http://www.ride.ri.gov/InstructionAssessment/Mathematics.aspx>

Science <http://www.ride.ri.gov/InstructionAssessment/Science.aspx>

Civics & Social Studies <http://www.ride.ri.gov/InstructionAssessment/CivicsSocialStudies.aspx>

Other Subjects <http://www.ride.ri.gov/InstructionAssessment/OtherSubjects.aspx>

CTE standards <http://www.nbpts.org/wp-content/uploads/EAYA-CTE.pdf>

AP College Board Standards <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse>

CCSS content standards: <http://www.corestandards.org/>

Governor's Workforce Board Work-based Learning Standards <https://www.prepare-ri.org/wbl>

Reference Materials

Applicants are encouraged to review course catalogs of Rhode Island LEAs to understand the existing landscape of advanced coursework options at local middle and high schools. Additionally, applicants are encouraged to review the 19-20 ACN catalog on <http://RICourseChoice.org>, the College Board's Advanced Placement opportunities and additional industry/field resources with reliable college and career readiness data.

RFP Application Submission and Evaluation

All applications must be completed using the online forms 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: Course Information

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| 1. | Course Overview | No points, required |
| 2. | Course Sequencing / Context | up to 20 points |
| 3. | Course Outcomes | up to 25 points |
| 4. | Instructor Qualifications/Experiences | No points, required |
| 5. | Course Budget (template required) & Budget Narrative | up to 15 points |

Section 2: Provider Assurances - Required, No Points

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|---|---------------------|
| 1. Attendance scheduling at Course Provider Sessions
(including Standards Alignment and Supports for special education and English Learner services) | No points, required |
| 2. Supports for students requiring special education services | No points, required |
| 3. Supports for students identified as English Language Learners | No points, required |
| 4. Safety and Liability Protection | No points, required |

Timeline, Requirements and Notices

RIDE will review complete applications on a rolling basis as they are received. The review team 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 ACN. RIDE reserves the right to approve whole or partial applications and request additional information as required.

Approval of courses does not guarantee the course will be confirmed nor does it guarantee any payment. RIDE will send providers a letter outlining the terms of the approval, including minimum enrollments as established by RIDE, based on the provider tuition proposal. Only courses that meet their minimum enrollment requirements will be confirmed for the approved term. Once confirmed, a Memorandum of Agreement will be issued to finalize payment terms. If approved, RIDE will work with course providers to establish specific course and/or provider goals for student outcomes that will be used in evaluating the course. Each course will be expected to have at least one externally validated measure of student success. Descriptions for all courses should be written with potential students in mind, so should seek to be inclusive and enticing through describing potential postsecondary and career pathways connections.

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 applicant shall submit one electronic copy through the online form and budget template. Hard copy applications will not be accepted. Applications must be received by **4:00 PM on September 6, 2019.**

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.