



## Wyoming Department of Education

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### MEMORANDUM NO. 2007 – 154

**TO: School District Superintendents**

**FROM: Jim McBride, Ed.D.** 

**DATE: September 7, 2007**

**SUBJECT: Advanced Placement Grant Opportunity**

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### IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO SHARE

The Ellbogen Foundation and the Wyoming Department of Education will host a meeting in Casper, Wyoming on October 16, 2007, to discuss a grant opportunity provided by the National Math & Science Initiative (NMSI) and Exxon/Mobil.

We are inviting superintendents, curriculum coordinators, current Advanced Placement (AP) teachers or teachers interested in teaching AP classes, business leaders, University of Wyoming and community college representatives, and government leaders to attend this meeting to gather all of the details about this opportunity to take part in the grant process. Please read the attached **Overview of NMSI Exxon/Mobil Grant Opportunity** for further explanation.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Tom Collins, the Department's Social Studies Consultant, at 307-777-3493.

Thank you for helping to get information about this great opportunity to interested educators.

JM:rew

Enclosures

## Overview of NMSI Exxon/Mobil Grant Opportunity

**The National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) was formed to address one of this nation's greatest economic and intellectual threats—the declining number of students who are prepared for and take rigorous college courses in mathematics and science. To flourish in the 21st century, the United States must continue to generate intellectual capital that can drive the research and development activities that fuel the economic engine of our future prosperity. This project was initiated as a partnership of private donors, led by ExxonMobil, who are interested in significantly changing the current trends.**

A primary goal of the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) is to increase the number of students taking and scoring 3 or higher on rigorous College Board Advanced Placement®\* (AP®) mathematics, science, and English exams<sup>1</sup>. The mission is served by partnering with grantees to provide training and incentive programs for AP and Pre-AP® courses in schools in their states. Advanced Placement Strategies™, Inc. (APS) of Texas developed these programs to increase participation in Pre-AP and AP courses and success on AP exams. In the schools that they serve, the number of students scoring 3 or higher on AP English exams has tripled, the number of students scoring 3 or higher on AP mathematics exams has quadrupled, and the number of students scoring 3 or higher on AP science exams has quintupled. Training and incentive programs for AP and Pre-AP courses complement the Advanced Placement Program® administered by the College Board.

Each grantee will be required to implement proven strategies to increase significantly the number of students taking and passing Advanced Placement courses and exams. These include extensive formal and informal training of Pre-AP and AP teachers, additional time on task for students, financial incentives based on academic results, and cultivation of Lead Teachers to provide leadership to the program in their schools by mentoring other AP and Pre-AP teachers. NMSI will provide resources, assistance and evaluation to enhance the success of the grants.

NMSI seeks proposals to replicate the APS organization and its training and incentive programs through a competitive Request for Proposal process. NMSI expects the majority of proposals will be developed by a Supporting Partner in conjunction with

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<sup>1</sup> Math exams include Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Computer Science A, Computer Science AB, and Statistics. Science exams include Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics B, Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism and Physics C: Mechanics. English exams include English Language and English Literature.

\* AP, Pre-AP, and Advanced Placement Program are registered trademarks of the College Board, which was not involved in the production of, and does not endorse, this product.

a Governor's office but recognizes that various types of organizations may take the lead in proposal preparation. The Request for Proposal requires applicants to submit a pre-proposal, following which NMSI will invite selected applicants to attend a conference to learn more about the College Board's Advanced Placement Program, the APS organization and its training and incentive programs in Texas, the RFP process, and NMSI. Selected applicants will then submit a full proposal, and finalists will be interviewed before grant awards are made. Each stage of this process is described in detail in this Request for Proposal.

Entities eligible to receive funding shall be non-profit foundations or organizations that have a statewide or regional mission within a state. The entity may not be controlled by any state or local government agency, but may partner with them to accomplish its goals. Eligible entities shall be involved in promoting and implementing increased educational rigor and opportunity as a significant part of its mission. New entities may apply if their charter and bylaws indicate the primary purpose to be consistent with the goals of this program. Existing entities will be required to demonstrate successes, and new entities will be required to demonstrate partnerships and linkages that maximize the likelihood of success.

Source; [http://nationalmathandscience.org/pdfs/030607AP\\_RFP.pdf](http://nationalmathandscience.org/pdfs/030607AP_RFP.pdf) 8350 North Central Expressway, Suite 300 Dallas, TX 75206 214-525-3086 [nationalmathandscience.org](http://nationalmathandscience.org)

## **The John P. Ellbogen Foundation and WDE Team for an AP® Grant Opportunity Provided By the National Math & Science Initiative (NMSI) in Partnership with Exxon/Mobil**

The John P. Ellbogen Foundation, as supporting partner, and the Wyoming Department of Education submitted a pre-proposal for a \$13 million grant from NMSI with the goal of increasing the number of students taking and scoring 3 or higher on rigorous College Board Advanced Placement®\* (AP®) mathematics, science, and English exams<sup>1</sup>.

The pre-proposal was accepted in May of 2007. At that time a representative from the Ellbogen Foundation and WDE attended an invitation only ADVANCED PLACEMENT TRAINING AND INCENTIVE PROGRAM APPLICANTS CONFERENCE, in Dallas TX. The attendees were trained in the grant process and were invited to submit a full proposal in June of 2007. After much deliberation and consideration of the requirements a decision was made and agreed to by all parties involved, Ellbogen, WDE, NMSI, and Exxon/Mobil, to withdraw the 2007 full proposal and prepare a more complete proposal for round 2 of the grant in 2008.

This decision will allow the partnership to further inform and explain in detail the grant process and requirements to schools and other potential partners to take part in this opportunity for Wyoming teachers and students. Please read the attached **Overview of NMSI Exxon/Mobil Grant Opportunity**, for further explanation.

The Ellbogen Foundation and WDE will host a meeting for district teams comprised of superintendents, curriculum coordinators, current AP teachers or teachers interested in teaching AP classes, business leaders, University of Wyoming and community college representatives, and government leaders in Casper, Wyoming.

**Where;** Casper College in the Roberts Commons

**When;** October 16, 2007 from 10:00am to 3:00pm (lunch provided).

Please RSVP to: **Mary Garland**, [mleg0@yahoo.com](mailto:mleg0@yahoo.com) no later than **October 1, 2007**. Include in the response the names of all participating from district teams.

1 Math exams include Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Computer Science A, Computer Science AB, and Statistics. Science exams include Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics B, Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism and Physics C: Mechanics. English exams include English Language and English Literature.

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