

RFP GC25-006- Advanced Course Access Program
Questions and Answers Summary

1. How will the review panel evaluate the extent to which proposals address systemic barriers to advanced coursework for students from historically marginalized groups, including English Language Learners and students with disabilities?

Answer: Applicants are evaluated based on the strength of their plan to reach and support students traditionally under-represented in advanced coursework.

2. What criteria will be used to assess the feasibility and scalability of virtual or blended learning models proposed for districts with limited broadband access or device availability?

Answer: The scoring rubric ([Appendix B](#)) assesses the need and rationale for districts with limited or no access to advanced courses.

3. How will the State ensure that virtual and blended instruction funded through this grant maintains instructional rigor and alignment with AP, IB, or dual-credit standards, especially in districts with shortages of certified teachers?

Answer: Awarded programs are required to submit a six-month evaluation that provides detailed documentation of new student enrollment in advanced coursework, reported annually or by semester as a result of the grant.

4. What best practices or accountability measures will be used to support and evaluate cross-district collaboration within BOCES-led consortia, particularly when including both component and non-component districts?

Answer: Awarded programs must submit a six-month evaluation that provides detailed documentation of both quantitative and qualitative evidence of the program's effectiveness in meeting the goals of the ACA Grant Program.

5. How will the State support districts in sustaining access to advanced coursework beyond the grant period, particularly in communities where local funding and capacity remain limited?

Answer: The scoring rubric evaluates how applicants will share experiences in effective practices for increasing student access to, and success in, advanced courses.

6. How will the State Education Department evaluate proposals that serve both component and non-component districts, especially in areas with historically limited access to advanced coursework?

Answer: All applicants will be scored according to the rubric ([Appendix B](#)).

7. Is this grant available to individual schools?

Answer: An individual school may not apply for this funding. All Big Five districts and BOCES-led consortia (of 6 districts or more) are eligible for funding in this grant period. Please see the Eligibility section (p.1) of the [2025-27 ACA RFP](#).

8. Are charter schools eligible? If so, do they need to apply alongside a BOCES?

Answer: As stated in the RFP, only BOCES-led consortiums and Big Five districts are eligible to apply for this grant. Applicants may choose to include charter school participants, but they do not count towards the requirement of six Rest of State districts. Please see the Eligibility section (p.1) of the [2025-27 ACA RFP](#).

9. Would this grant cover on-campus courses for high school students at the community college?

Answer: As stated on page 10 of the RFP, "Programs are encouraged to coordinate with local Institution of Higher Education (IHE) campuses to increase opportunities for students to enroll in courses that, upon successful completion, would result in college credit." Additionally, "The high school credit-granting institution must approve of the student's enrollment in the course and must grant high school credit for the successful completion of the applicable course. Tuition costs are an eligible expense."

10. Does this grant cover transportation costs for students to have access to college campuses?

Answer: In-state transportation is an allowable expense. All proposed expenditures must be thoroughly justified.

11. Are charter schools eligible applicants either on their own or as part of a consortia application?

Answer: As stated in the RFP, only BOCES-led consortiums and Big Five districts are eligible to apply for this grant. Applicants may choose to include charter school participants, but they do not count towards the requirement of six Rest of State districts. Please see the Eligibility section (p.1) of the [2025-27 ACA RFP](#).

12. Can charter schools and non-public schools apply under a BOCES consortium?

Answer: As stated in the RFP, only BOCES-led consortiums and Big Five districts are eligible to apply for this grant. Applicants may choose to include

charter school participants, but they do not count towards the requirement of six Rest of State districts. Please see the Eligibility section (p.1) of the [2025-27 ACA RFP](#).

13. We are looking to apply for the new round of the ACA Grant to continue expanding our program at our BOCES. In reviewing the RFP, we wondered if we would be allowed to continue funding our current districts through the new grant if awarded, so long as we are able to outline our plans for growing with more students and more course options (potentially more districts)?

Answer: Yes. As stated on page 7 of the RFP, “Funds from the ACA grant should be used to expand current successful programs or create new programs that are designed and delivered in a manner to allow them to reach the largest possible number of students to make the most positive impact.”