



Bernard J. Sadusky, Ed.D.
Interim State Superintendent of Schools

200 West Baltimore Street • Baltimore, MD 21201 • 410-767-0100 • 410-333-6442 TTY/TDD • MarylandPublicSchools.org

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CONTACT: Bill Reinhard, 410-767-0486

MSDE AWARDED FEDERAL GRANT TO FURTHER EXPAND AP PROGRAM

FUNDS WILL HELP EXPAND PROGRAMS IN EIGHT HIGH-POVERTY SCHOOLS

BALTIMORE (August 16, 2011) – The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has received a three year, \$1.7 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to expand its successful Advanced Placement (AP) Program.

The competitive grant, “Operation ACCESS: Building the STEM Pipeline for College and Career,” will address the need to increase the successful participation of low-income students in Advanced Placement (AP) courses and exams using six strategies: Acceleration, College and career readiness, Community connections, Enrichment, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) courses, and Student and family support.

Maryland’s AP program has ranked first in the nation for three straight years on the success its students have on the rigorous assessments. Maryland ranks second in the percentage of seniors taking an AP test during their high school years.

“Advanced Placement programs provide a pathway to college attendance and success for many Maryland students,” said Interim State Superintendent Bernard Sadusky. “This new grant allows us to continue to expand this critical program, reaching students who might not otherwise consider continuing their education in a high-tech field.”

Eight schools will participate in Operation ACCESS: Mace’s Lane Middle, Cambridge-South Dorchester High, North Dorchester Middle and North Dorchester High in Dorchester County; Mardela Middle and High, Wicomico Middle, and Wicomico High School in Wicomico County; and Augusta Fells Savage Institute for the Visual Arts in Baltimore City.

The grant will be used to increase the number of STEM AP courses offered in the low-income schools; boost the number of low-income students enrolled in AP courses and exams; and improve the number of low-income students who earn scores of 3 or better on AP exams in the core areas of English, mathematics, and science.

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