

Project Title: Deepening Resources for Instruction by Valuable Educators (DRIVE) College Readiness Program (CRP) Project

Absolute Priority Addressed:

Absolute Priority 1

Organization Information and Contact Person:

National Math and Science Initiative
8350 North Central Expressway, Suite M-2200
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Other Priorities Addressed:

Competitive Preference Priority 1

Competitive Preference Priority 2

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Project Description and Goal: The National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is applying for this SEED grant, *DRIVE CRP Project*, to improve teacher effectiveness (as measured by qualifying score earning rates on AP tests) in **20 participating high schools** across two of the largest districts in Georgia, DeKalb County Public Schools (DKCPS) and Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS), **reaching approximately 560 teachers serving 10,000 students per year**. CRP increases academic intensity, increases access to rigorous courses, and **improves student achievement**, especially among traditionally underrepresented and high-need students, by increasing teacher effectiveness in both curricular and pedagogical domains.

Expected Outcomes: 1) student enrollment in AP courses, particularly among traditionally underrepresented populations, will increase from the baseline year by at least 80% for each LEA partner in the first year and 140% over three years; and 2) Students' qualifying scores in program schools in AP math, science, and English will increase by at least **70%** for each LEA after the first year of CRP, and at least **125%** over the three-year grant period.

Contributions for Research/Policy/Practice: A growing body of evidence indicates that CRP not only increases the probability that students will take and earn qualifying scores on AP exams. The program's consistent elements produce reliably successful and sustained outcomes across settings, states, subject areas, and students. This proposal focuses on further improving the teacher supports provided within CRP. Studying CRP's impact on teacher effectiveness will add to the body of research knowledge about AP education and instruction in rigorous coursework.

Meets SEED Grant Purpose: The four studies referenced in our Evidence Form represent well-designed, well-implemented research studies that present solid evidence of the effectiveness of CRP, from impact on immediate outcomes related to AP, to postsecondary results, to longer-term lifelong impacts. Individually, we propose that each study meets the What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) standards with reservations. As a collective group, we purport that CRP is strongly supported by Moderate Evidence, as required for Absolute Priority 1.

The CRP model demonstrates an increase in teacher effectiveness by measuring student outcomes on a rigorous metric. CRP increases the number of students **taking and earning qualifying scores (3 or above on a 5- point scale)** in Advanced Placement® (AP®) courses and exams in math, science, and English. **NMSI makes a dramatic difference in student achievement (and therefore teacher effectiveness) in only one year and transforms school culture over three years.**