

**Title: AP STEM Access Program for Rural, High-Poverty Mississippi School Districts**

**Type of Grant Requested: Early-Phase**

The Program, implemented by a Consortium of rural Mississippi LEAs, addresses **Absolute Priority 1** as its blended AP delivery model is informed by high-quality research linking blended learning and the utilization of AP curricula with improved student outcomes. The Program addresses **Absolute Priority 3** by implementing an innovative, scalable, field-initiated, blended instructional model to provide high-need students access to AP STEM curricula. The Program also addresses the **Competitive Preference Priority** by providing such students access to AP Computer Science curricula. The Program will serve a **total of 1,014 high-need students** in **Grades 10-12** over 3 years. **“High-need” students** are defined as high-achieving, but underserved, Mississippi secondary students whose GPAs are in the top quartile of their class, and who attend school in rural, high-poverty, RLIS- or SRSA-eligible LEAs.

**Project Description** and **Special Features**: The Consortium provides blended AP STEM courses to high-need students that utilize in-class teachers, remote instruction by subject matter experts, extensive online resources, regular tutoring by college STEM majors, physical textbooks, customized lesson plans, pedagogical support from AP-certified and supervisory teachers, and immersive residential STEM programs at leading IHEs. The Consortium seeks funding to further develop its scalable, blended model to provide high-need students access to the rigorous STEM courses, including AP Computer Science, they need to achieve their full potential, but which their schools otherwise cannot offer. **Project objectives and expected outcomes** include significantly increased participation in AP STEM by high-need students, and improved performance relative to relevant cohort baselines. **Consortium partners** include the University of Mississippi, Mississippi State, Jackson State, and [REDACTED].