

## EIR Proposal Abstract

### The National Math and Science Initiative

**Title:** Rural ACCESS: AP, College, and Career Excellence in STEM and Computer Science

**Grant Type:** Early Phase

**Priorities:**

- *Absolute Priority 1* – Demonstrates a Rationale
- *Absolute Priority 3* – Field-Initiated Innovations Promoting STEM Education with a Particular Focus on Computer Science
- *Invitational Priority 1* – Personalized Learning

**Total # students served in the project:** Up to 49,000 students

**Grade levels served in the project:** 9-12

**Definition of high-need students:** Those with opportunity gaps in STEM educational outcomes or lacking components of a successful STEM system. In this project, we focus on high-need students in rural districts (as defined by locale code) where access has been a barrier to closing the achievement gap.

**Project Description:** This project will accelerate the number of rural students engaged and prepared for STEM postsecondary STEM coursework and entry into STEM careers by deploying an innovative blended delivery model (with in-person and online components) of NMSI's proven College Readiness Program (CRP). The program partners with schools to help them become centers of college readiness and career exploration through teacher, student, and school-wide supports to overcome historical barriers.

**Project Objectives:** Eliminate access as a barrier to rigorous, advanced STEM coursework in rural districts and so close the achievement gap for students enrolled in those regions

**Expected Outcomes:** Increase enrollment in AP STEM, particularly computer science, courses by 140% and the number of AP qualifying scores earned at each school from baseline

**Special Features:** As a 501(c)3 organization partnered with LEAs in rural locale codes as defined in grant requirements (41, 42, 43), NMSI qualifies as a rural applicant for this proposal

**Organizations Partnering with this Project:**

- 14 North Dakota LEAs with rural locale codes:
  - *41 (Rural: Fringe) LEAs:* Nedrose
  - *42 (Rural: Distant) LEAs:* Richland, Wilton
  - *43 (Rural: Remote) LEAs:* Enderlin Area, Hebron, Kulm, Litchville-Marion, Maple Valley, McClusky, North Border- Walhalla, North Border – Pembina, Oakes, Ray, Rolette
- North Dakota Department of Public Instruction
- Florida Virtual School