

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FIRST 12 KENTUCKY SCHOOLS NAMED TO PARTICIPATE IN
THE NATIONAL MATH AND SCIENCE INITIATIVE (NMSI)**

*Initial rollout of five-year commitment and NMSI investment of \$13.2 million in Kentucky schools
to foster the next generation of scientists and engineers*

FRANKFORT, KY – April 2, 2008 – Under the new AdvanceKentucky™ initiative, 12 high schools across the State have been selected to implement a proven model for dramatically growing their math, science and English (MSE) Advanced Placement Programs* that offer rigorous, college-level coursework in high school. This first set of schools was selected based on their readiness and interest in replicating the full spectrum of elements that have proven successful in dozens of schools implementing the Teacher Training and Incentive Program adopted by the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) through funding from the ExxonMobil Foundation. The Gates Foundation and the Dell Foundation have also joined as NMSI funders.

These 12 Kentucky schools are projected to increase the number of scores on the AP* exams that demonstrate college readiness and that can earn students college credit even as they prepare for college. (These are referred to as 'qualifying scores' of three, four or five on the relevant exams on a scale of one to five). The selected schools are:

- Anderson County High School
- Barren County High School
- Corbin Independent High School
- Henderson County High School
- Lone Oak High School
- Marion County High School
- North Laurel High School
- Reidland High School
- Scott County High School
- Shelby County High School
- South Laurel High School
- Warren East High School

AdvanceKentucky – following the NMSI model - includes extensive training of teachers, identification and cultivation of lead teachers, additional time-on-task for students for tutoring, exam preparation and more, and financial incentives based on academic achievement.

For this first set of Kentucky schools, *MSE qualifying scores are projected to grow by 120 percent from a 2007 baseline of 320 to more than 700 by 2009, with a total five-year increase of 230 percent (or nearly 1,100 qualifying scores)*. This expansion is expected to continue growing exponentially as additional AdvanceKentucky schools are added each year. Enrollment in AP courses, which research shows has a dramatic impact on students later graduating from college, is expected to nearly quadruple the baseline for these 12 schools across MSE courses alone from approximately 1,100 in 2007 to 4,300 by 2013.

To place this projected growth in perspective, the number of qualifying scores on AP exams in *ALL* subjects increased from 2006 to 2007 by five percent nationally (or an increase of 21,238) and six percent in Kentucky (or an increase of 185). Likewise during this same time, the growth of MSE qualifying scores earned by students in the 12 AdvanceKentucky schools was five percent, which approximated both the statewide and national growth rates in qualifying scores on AP exams in *ALL* subjects. While these schools appear to be a representative sample, they are now poised to greatly out perform their counterparts.

In addition to increasing enrollments in existing AP courses over the next five years, these schools will more than double their AP offerings in math, science and English by growing to 117 courses from the current 56. While MSE AP course offerings among participating schools currently range from a few in smaller schools to several in larger schools, school reviews of overall enrollments and student capacity suggest there are tremendous opportunities for and interest in growth in both scenarios.

While this expanded capacity sets the stage for more students to prepare for and enroll in AP classes in these important subject areas, the NMSI model is founded on a deeply interconnected set of strategies that collectively have demonstrated dramatic results in raising student achievement – and the lifelong benefits that accrue to students from this experience. These strategies – implemented simultaneously – are expected to ‘jolt’ the system in a way that both supports and rewards success by students, teachers and administrators in the common goal of rigorous student learning through AP courses in math, science and English. A high level of rigor is assured for all AP courses through the required College Board audit process, which ensures that AP courses meet guidelines on content and resources typical of college-level classes.

NMSI funding for schools participating this first year totals \$800,000, and support of AdvanceKentucky schools from all sources is projected to approach a 10 percent growth rate annually for the next five years. By 2013, after selecting additional schools each year -- likely to exceed 50 total -- funding is expected to reach over \$20 million from NMSI and all other sources in support of all participating Kentucky schools. Moreover, implementation of the NMSI Model recognizes the State’s existing support of 10th grade testing under the ACT-EPAS system that helps in identifying and recruiting more students into these rigorous MSE courses. Moreover, the impetus for Kentucky’s application resulted from a collaborative conversation among Kentucky Department of Education, Council on Postsecondary Education, the Partnership for Successful Schools and KSTC, with matching start-up funding from KDE and KSTC to help support early work with the schools.

NMSI is a major new non-profit designed to help America maintain its global leadership position in technological innovation. Research demonstrates that students who have access to strong AP programs are more prepared to do college level work in math, science, and engineering. Over five years, schools with Teacher Training and Incentive Programs for AP and pre-AP courses experienced four and five times more growth in students scoring three or higher on AP exams in math and science, respectively, than those schools without the program.

For example, among a research cohort of over 17,000 low income students who were followed from 8th grade through five years after entering college, students demonstrated dramatically different results between those who had taken AP vs. those who had not. Only seven percent of these students with no AP experience graduated from college, yet this jumps to 46 percent graduating among students who had taken AP classes and received qualifying scores on AP exams. (Source: Chrys Dougherty, Lynn Mellor, and Shuling Jian, "The Relationship Between Advanced Placement and College Graduation" (2005), National Center for Educational Accountability.)

In fall 2007 the National Math and Science Initiative awarded its first grants for the Advanced Placement Teacher Training and Incentive Program to Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation and other non-profit programs in only six other states. In addition, NMSI offers funding opportunities to many universities across the nation for UTeach programs -- including SKyTeach at Western Kentucky University. This program encourages math and science majors to pursue teaching credentials during their undergraduate education. *Kentucky is the only NMSI state that has been awarded both the AP Teacher Training and Incentive Program and UTeach grants.* In NMSI’s first round, non-profit entities in 28 states applied for AP Teacher Training and Incentive grants, and 52 universities applied for the UTeach program.

AdvanceKentuckyTM is an initiative of Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation and is affiliated through a six-year partnership with the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) to replicate the NMSI Teacher Training and Incentive Program. This effort is a statewide math-science initiative dedicated to helping Kentucky’s students reach new heights in rigorous academic achievement.

Kentucky Science & Technology Corporation (KSTC) is a statewide nonprofit founded in 1987 dedicated to advancing science and technology, including strategic education initiatives in developing the talentforce essential for creating breakthrough innovations that fuel economic growth and competitiveness. For more information about KSTC, please visit www.kstc.com

National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) is an innovative non-profit organization created to scale programs proven to positively impact math and science education in the U.S. Launched in March 2007, NMSI was developed in response to the call for action by the National Academies’ 2005 blue ribbon panel report, *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*. According to the panel of 20 experts, improving American students’ performance in math and science coursework is the most effective way to increase the United States’ global competitiveness. Exxon Mobil Corporation announced its support for the initiative with a commitment of \$125 million. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation have also joined as funders. For more information about NMSI, please visit www.nationalmathandscience.org.

College Board’s Advanced Placement Program^{*} enables students to pursue college-level studies while still in high school. Thirty-seven courses in 22 subject areas are offered. Based on their performance on rigorous AP exams, sections of which are scored by college faculty and experienced AP teachers, students can earn credit, advanced placement or both for college. More than 3600 colleges and universities around the world recognize AP for credit, placement and/or admissions decisions, including more than 90 percent of four-year colleges and universities in the United States. For more information, please visit www.collegeboard.com.

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