



Date: February 18, 2025
To: Dr. Jennifer Norrell, Superintendent of Schools
East Aurora School District 131 Board of Education
From: Asa Gordon, Director of Middle and Secondary College and Career Readiness
Subject: Kaplan's ACT Prep In-Person Course: Continuation

The Proposal:

The district will maintain its commitment to providing six hundred sophomores and juniors access to Kaplan's ACT Prep In-Person Course at East Aurora High School. This course is scheduled to take place during "B" periods in the fall semester. Kaplan will provide 4-6 qualified instructors to deliver a comprehensive curriculum, which includes official ACT questions and exams. Each 42-minute class will be aligned with students' lunch periods, allowing for convenient scheduling. There will be a total of 20 sections, accommodating up to 30 students per section.

Justification:

Feedback from staff regarding Kaplan's implementation of this initiative has been overwhelmingly positive. One reading teacher noted, "the biggest strength of this program is having an expert present to explain the tips and strategies for the ACT directly to the students. Additionally, students benefit from one-on-one or group instruction on solving various ACT problems." Another teacher remarked, "students were exposed to the material and given opportunities to enhance their skills, which we hope will lead to improved performance on the test when they take it in April."

Board Policy and Past Practices:

Past practice has been for the school district to provide innovative instruction to students in their preparation to increase their college and career readiness. In addition to this past fall, the high school has provided SAT preparation for students in Spring 2024.

Strategic Plan:

This proposal supports Strategic Goal #1 Educational Equity: East Aurora School District 131 will meet the diverse needs of all students by ensuring a safe and inclusive learning environment, and Strategic Goal #4, Student Achievement: East Aurora School District 131 will provide the academic success of all students by closing the opportunity gap.

Supporting Data:

East Aurora School District is committed to educating and empowering students to reach their full potential. The research has demonstrated that students that spend at least fifteen hours in test preparation can increase their overall score.

Recommendation:

The Board of Education is recommended to approve the proposal to contract the ACT In-Person Course from Kaplan for six hundred sophomores and juniors at East Aurora High School for \$240,000.00. The funding source for the course come from the Title I grant.

Timeline for Decision:

March 3, 2025

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