



National Education Nonprofit, DoD STEM Launch College Readiness Program at Military-Connected Bel Air and C. Milton Wright High Schools

A two-year College Readiness Program (CRP) from the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) is launching at Bel Air and C. Milton Wright high schools, military-connected schools near Aberdeen Proving Ground. The U.S. Department of Defense funds the program. Bel Air and C. Milton Wright join Aberdeen High School, which is renewing the partnership.

After one year in NMSI's CRP, students at military-impacted schools average a 45 percent increase in mastery of college-level concepts in math and science — compared to the national average increase of 5.6 percent. That increase is 81.5 percent for black students, 34 percent for Latinos and 38.4 percent for females.

Students with family members serving in the military move an average of six to nine times while they're in elementary and secondary school. NMSI's CRP leverages the College Board's proven Advanced Placement framework, preserving local control and creating consistent learning across all schools. That means students are on pace from their first day in a new school — making all those moves a little easier.

"Our partnership with NMSI and DoD has and will continue to build on the North Star pillars that ensure our students are reaching their highest potential," said Dr. Sean Bulson, superintendent of Harford County Public Schools. "This partnership expands awareness of the value and benefit of challenging oneself and accessing rigorous classwork while in HCPS; and this will lead our students to so many places beyond HCPS."

"It is great to know that an organization like NMSI and its College Readiness Program stand ready to support our military children, those who share in the commitment it takes to serve in our Nation's military," said Maj. Gen. Mitchell L. Kilgo, Senior Commander of Aberdeen Proving Ground and Commanding General, U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command. "As a Soldier and a father, I am proud to be part of a community that helps afford opportunities for our children to thrive in STEM-related fields. I can't wait to see what our children do next!"

Mike O'Brien, executive director of Middle and High School Performance, added, "We are so pleased to once again partner with the National Math & Science Initiative with three of our outstanding high schools. NMSI previously partnered with two HCPS high schools, raising students' Advanced Placement scores in math, science, and English to unprecedented levels."

As a nonprofit whose mission is to advance STEM education so all students, especially those furthest from opportunity, can reach their highest potential, NMSI has served more than 250 U.S. schools that have significant enrollment among military-connected students.

NMSI is a member of the Defense STEM Education Consortium, which is committed to helping the department improve access for all students to pursue STEM careers and to consider Defense laboratories as places of employment.

About NMSI: *The National Math and Science Initiative is a Dallas-based nonprofit with a presence in 40 states. NMSI has served more than 1,300 U.S. high schools to improve student access and achievement in STEM education through teacher training, collaboration with campus leaders and student-focused resources. Schools that participate in the nonprofit's College Readiness Program see immediate and dramatic increases in the number of students taking Advanced Placement exams and earning qualified scores. NMSI seeks to give access to high-quality, college-level coursework for all students, particularly those underrepresented in STEM programs, which are often Black, Latino and female students. Learn more at nms.org.*

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About DOD STEM: *The U.S. Department of Defense STEM program seeks to attract, inspire and develop exceptional STEM talent across the education continuum and advance the current DoD STEM workforce to meet future defense technological challenges. For more information, visit dodstem.us.*

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