
U.S. Representative

John Spratt

South Carolina ■ 5th District

News Release

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**Spratt Wins Major Grant for Schools in
Darlington, Dillon, and Marlboro Counties**

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) announced today that schools in Darlington, Dillon, and Marlboro counties will benefit from a major Department of Education grant to fund online access to advanced placement courses.

“This is great news for the Pee Dee,” said Spratt. “I was delighted to work with Inez Tenenbaum, our State Superintendent of Education, to help schools in South Carolina win this grant.”

Spratt said the grant will fund a project known as “AP Nexus,” an experimental effort to use new media — especially the Internet — to provide expanded access to Advanced Placement (AP) courses in rural schools.

The Pee Dee schools that will be participating in the program are Darlington High School and Mayo High School in Darlington County, Latta High School in Dillon County, and Marlboro County High School in Marlboro County.

Four other South Carolina schools will also participate: Mullins High School and Terrell’s Bay High School in Marion County, Lockhart High School in Union County, and Kingstree High School in Williamsburg County.

South Carolina will share the \$1.37 million grant, which covers the next three years, with the states of Georgia and Tennessee.

Spratt said the program will contract with Apex Learning, of Bellevue, Washington, for online courses. The company offers a broad selection of advanced placement courses, online instructor-led courses, and exam preparation. The online courses will help to supplement the existing AP programs at the participating schools.

“Many of these schools,” said Spratt, “are able to offer only a small number of AP courses to their students. AP Nexus will provide access to far more AP courses, which will give these students a huge leg-up when they are applying for college.”

In the second and third years of the program, AP Nexus plans to provide courses tailor-made for students in the three states, as well as train teachers from these states in online instruction.

Spratt said South Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee were selected for the grant because all three have large rural populations with small school systems that are hard-pressed to provide specialized services to their students.

“AP Nexus will use the latest technology to raise the bar for as many students as possible,” said Spratt. “I was pleased to help make this worthwhile project a reality for our rural schools.”

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