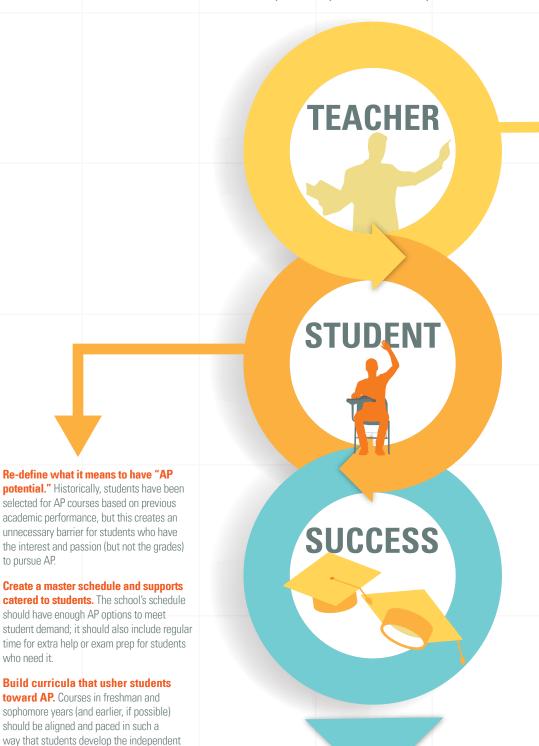
SYSTEMS FOR SUCCESS: THINKING BEYOND ACCESS TO AP

As many high schools across the country think about ways to deliver more college- and career-ready curricula, some leaders might start by providing (more) Advanced Placement courses. That's a good start, but opportunity without support won't lead students to succeed. School leaders also must be deliberate in their strategy to groom and support teachers and to create the systematic processes that help students thrive in AP. Here's how:



problem-solving and critical-thinking skills

needed in AP.



Look for candidates who have degrees in their subject matter and demonstrate a commitment to stay for an extended period of time.

Acknowledge that teaching AP requires additional training. Send teachers to off-site or external training or provide in-house sessions that allow them to learn from certified experts about the level of rigor demanded in AP.

Identify mentor teachers. Allow new AP teachers the opportunity to co-teach with a veteran AP teacher, so they can receive real-time feedback and training.

The bottom line is this: The more systematic and purposeful a school is about promoting access, the more likely it is to achieve high levels of success. With a strong teaching staff that is trained and supported, a master schedule that promotes AP enrollment for everyone, a school culture that roots for all students to succeed, and extra tutorials and interventions for students who need help, access becomes much more than just an opportunity; it becomes a pathway to success.

