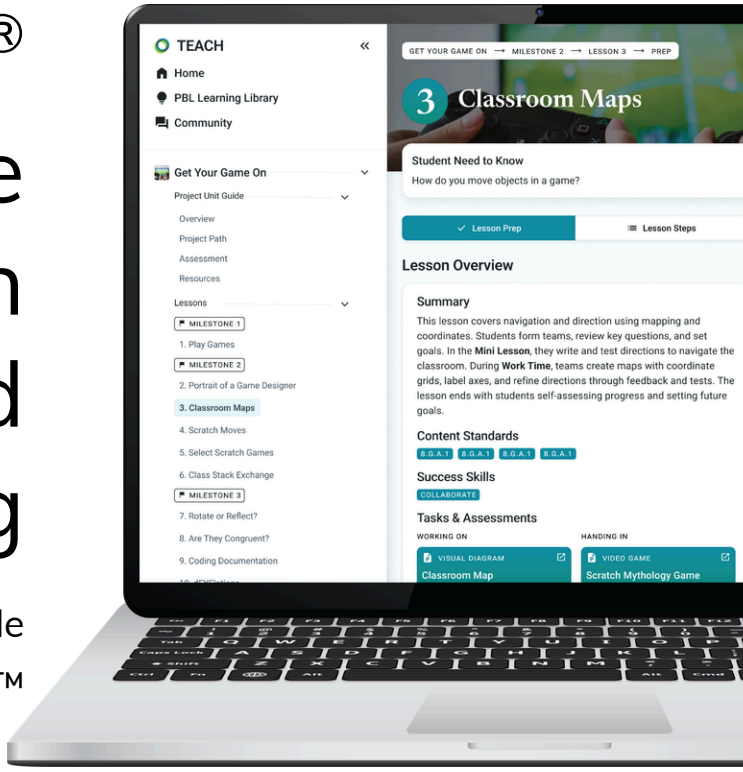
BUCK INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATION PBLWorks | CollegeBoard

Bring Pre-AP® to Your Middle School Through Project Based Learning

The path to offering Pre-AP courses in middle schools, powered by PBLWorks TEACH™



The opportunity

Beginning in the 2027-2028 school year, middle schools from coast to coast can offer Pre-AP courses in math, science, ELA, and social studies by incorporating high-quality Project Based Learning into their existing curricula. The College Board and PBLWorks have partnered to provide Pre-AP projects via PBLWorks TEACH — the only approved path for middle school courses to receive the Pre-AP designation.*

The requirement

To earn the Pre-AP designation for a middle school course, each participating teacher selects and integrates two Pre-AP TEACH projects into their existing curriculum over the school year. Any 6th, 7th, or 8th grade course in science, math, ELA, or social studies can qualify, expanding access broadly across disciplines and grade bands in your school.

**Algebra 1 courses offered in middle schools can qualify as a Pre-AP course by utilizing two TEACH projects or the College Board's Pre-AP Algebra 1 course framework.*

Why this matters for your school

- Recognition: your school is listed on the public College Board Pre-AP ledger — visible to every family comparing schools.
- Transcript credit: courses can be designated Pre-AP on transcripts, giving guidance counselors clear evidence that students have the skills to succeed in high school AP coursework, which is starting to include more PBL.

Sign up here for more information

What to do

Subscribe to TEACH — it includes:

- unlimited access for teachers in your school
- access to all TEACH projects
- embedded professional learning — tips, videos, self-guided modules, resources, and more
- TEACH community of PBL experts and fellow teachers
- analytics to help guide and coach teachers
- year-round, guided customer support to assist with onboading and implementation

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PBLworks TEACH™

Project Based Learning Made Easier

pblworks.org/teach

Why PBL?

The research backs it up: Project Based Learning engages students in learning that's deep, relevant, and built to last — and it shows up in outcomes. In a randomized controlled trial with researchers from the University of Southern California, students taking AP Government and AP Environmental Science through PBL were 8 percentage points more likely to earn a qualifying score (3 or higher) on their AP exam than students in traditionally taught sections.

That's the throughline for middle school Pre-AP: building PBL skills early gives students a head start on the kind of coursework they'll encounter in high school AP classes — and hands-on practice with the original thinking, collaboration, and communication AI can't do for them.

Prepare for Pre-AP in a PBL Context



Facilitate PBL is PBLWorks' two-day workshop that helps teachers select, contextualize, and implement one of our expert-designed, Gold Standard projects in their own classroom — giving them the confidence and skill to lead the project work that's now core to the Pre-AP designation. Led by a PBLWorks National Faculty member, teachers leave with a robust, personalized project implementation plan they can put to use right away.

Flexible ways for your teachers to participate:

- Onsite at your school, for your whole team
- A small group of teachers through our Online Workshops, offered throughout the year
- In person at PBL World, our annual conference, in Napa — June 2027