



## **AOPA INVITES HIGH SCHOOLS TO APPLY FOR FREE AVIATION CURRICULUM**

*Engaging Aviation STEM Program Rolled Out For Ninth-Graders*

FREDERICK, MD – March 12, 2018— The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) is inviting high schools to apply for AOPA's free, innovative, aviation-based, ninth-grade science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) curriculum. The ninth-grade courses are the first of a four-year program that includes three career and technical education pathways — pilot, aerospace engineering, and drones.

Each fall, a new level of courses will become available to schools for implementation until all four high school grade levels of curriculum are presented. Schools that decide to apply will have the option to select individual courses to use as stand-alone electives or to implement one or more complete aviation pathways.

"This is a major step in our work to help young people learn more about the engaging and well-paying careers in aviation, and it gives schools the tools they need to teach our children skills that will last a lifetime," said AOPA President and CEO Mark Baker.

Over the past 12 months, AOPA tested the ninth-grade curriculum in nearly 30 schools with more than 700 students, before unveiling the program. The courses are aligned with Next Generation Science Standards and Common Core State Standards for Mathematics and includes everything a teacher will need. Lesson

plans, presentations, assessments, and other learning opportunities will be presented as engaging, enlightening, and fun student activities.

Cindy Hasselbring, AOPA High School Aviation Initiative senior director, noted that donations to the AOPA Foundation allow the program to be offered free of charge to any public or private high school and would likely engage some students "who may never have considered aviation before."

The deadline for applying to use the aviation STEM curriculum during the 2018-2019 school year is April 19.

The AOPA aviation STEM curriculum is part of its You Can Fly High School Initiative, which is aimed at growing and implementing aviation STEM programs in high schools across the country.

The You Can Fly program, a collection of practical, rigorous, and engaging initiatives designed to help build a bigger, stronger, more vibrant, and more resilient pilot community, is funded by donations to the AOPA Foundation. The mission of You Can Fly is to get people flying, and keep them flying.

#### About AOPA

Since 1939, AOPA has protected the freedom to fly by creating an environment that gives people of all ages the opportunity to enjoy aviation and all it has to offer. As the world's largest community of pilots and aviation enthusiasts with representatives based in Frederick, Md., Washington, D.C., and seven regions across the United States, AOPA's events, initiatives, and services bring current and future pilots together and make aviation more accessible to everyone. To learn more, visit [www.aopa.org](http://www.aopa.org).

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