

AP Networking: Counselor Talking Points



Ready-to-use language for three settings: one-on-one student advising, group or classroom presentations, and family info nights or conferences. Adapt the language to your own voice. These are starting points, not scripts.

One-on-One Student Advising

Use during course selection appointments, grade-level planning meetings, or any one-on-one where you're mapping a student's interests to course options.

Opening: Spark Interest

Have you ever wondered why your Wi-Fi drops or how your phone can talk to a server on the other side of the world? There's a new AP® course launching in 2027-28 that gets into exactly that. AP Networking is about understanding how devices, networks, and the internet connect. You don't need to know how to code. You just need to be curious about how systems work.

If the Student Seems Interested in a Career or College Credit

Beyond college credit and advanced placement, you can earn the AP Networking Credential, an employer-endorsed credential that you can put on a resume before you start college or work.

If the Student Has Questions

"Do I have to be a tech person to take this?" This course was designed for broad access. No coding and no prior computer science coursework required. If you like figuring out how things work, you are ready.

"Is this useful if I don't want a tech career?" The skills you will learn, including troubleshooting, systems thinking, and working with others on shared infrastructure, transfer to many fields, not just IT.

Group or Classroom Presentation

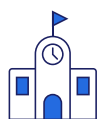
Use during course selection presentations, career exploration days, or when visiting a classroom.

Opening Hook

How many of you have ever had your Wi-Fi just stop working, with no idea why? Somebody has to know how to fix that and how to build it in the first place. Starting in 2027-28, you can take an AP course that gives you a place to start.

Key Messages to Land

- A qualifying AP Exam score can earn college credit, advanced placement, or both, plus an employer-endorsed credential on top of that.
- No prior tech experience is required. This course is designed for any student who is curious and willing to work.
- This course launches in 2027-28, so now is a good time to think about whether it's a fit.
- Come talk to me after class or at your next advising appointment about building it into next year's schedule.



Family Info Nights and Conferences

Use at course selection nights, family conferences, or any setting where you are presenting course options to families.

Opening: Frame the Opportunity for Parents

I want to tell you about a new AP course launching in 2027-28. AP Networking gives students a first step into in-demand technology careers, starting in high school.

If They Have Questions

"Is this course available yet?" Not at most schools. It's in its final pilot year in 2026-27 and launches broadly in 2027-28. This is a good time to start the conversation so it's on your student's radar for next year's course selection.

"What does the job outlook look like?" Networking skills connect to many technology roles. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects computer systems analyst jobs to grow 8% through 2035, and outlooks vary by role, so it helps to look up a specific title together.

"What does the credential show?" It's an employer-endorsed credential that helps students show their skills to employers, alongside college credit and advanced placement.



Common Questions and Answers

Use these answers in any setting: one-on-one, group, or family. These are the same across all three AP Career Kickstart™ courses.

"How will colleges use the credit?" Each college sets its own credit policy, as with every AP course, and policies for these new courses are being established now. A qualifying score documents college-level mastery.

"Why haven't I heard about these courses?" AP Career Kickstart courses are a newer addition to the AP course catalog, and not every school has had the chance to introduce them yet. AP Networking is in its final pilot year and launches in 2027-28. That's why we're sharing them with students and families now.



Invite students to visit
cb.org/explore-AP
to tell us they're interested.