

# Preparing Students for High School, College, and Career Success



Arkansas Department

**ACE**  
of Career Education



STATE OF ARKANSAS  
MIKE BEEBE  
GOVERNOR

Dear Parents:

Education is the key to Arkansas's future success, and our pursuit of excellence in our educational system continues to produce positive results. The statewide efforts of educators, institutions of higher education, community colleges and business leaders are seeing to it that our students are prepared to become productive members of the workforce.

As I've stated again and again, post-secondary education is no longer a luxury reserved for the privileged few; it's a necessity. And every child, every single one, who graduates from high school in this state must have a plan for life after high school that includes additional schooling and training. The key to our success will be creating a workforce with the skills and training to compete globally – to attract cutting-edge industries to Arkansas and to create new high-tech companies right here in our State.

Prioritizing Arkansas's needs during a time of great economic uncertainty requires making difficult decisions, but our highest priorities remain unchanged. Education and economic development are truly inseparable, and Arkansas is preparing to take advantage of the economic recovery that will eventually arrive and positioning ourselves to lead the nation and the world in the 21<sup>st</sup>-century economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Beebe".

Mike Beebe

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# Preparing Students for High School, College, and Career Success

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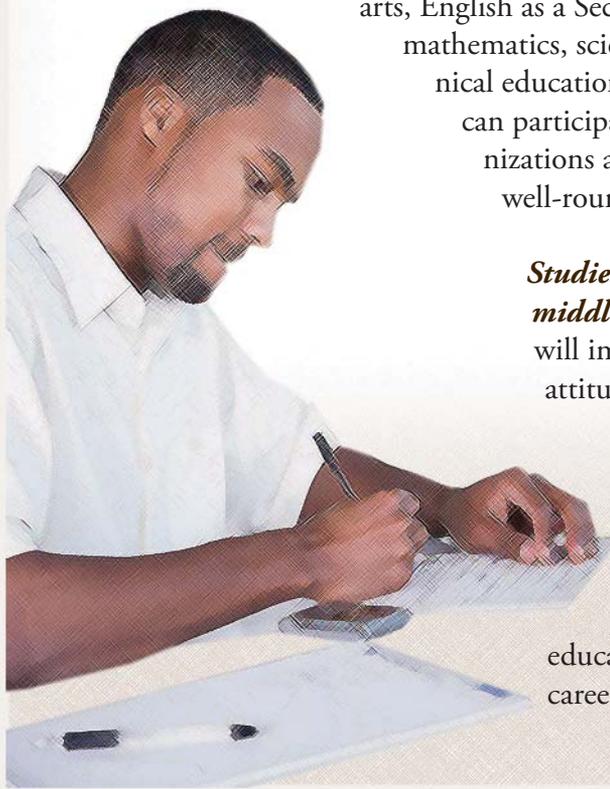
**William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr.**  
*Director*

## Education and Career Planning

*Many of the courses students take in middle school* determine what they are able to take in high school. Therefore, every year, beginning early in the eighth year, students and their parents should visit the middle school counselor to discuss the classes that the student should take in high school. Decisions should be based on their goals, needs and individual interests. This careful planning will help students achieve high school graduation and successful entrance into higher education. Education plans should include at least two years of post-secondary education and training.

*The counselor may talk about Smart Core*, the default curriculum for all Arkansas high school students. This set of courses allows students to graduate with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in the first year of college – which could be a two- or four-year school or any other career-training program. Within Smart Core, students may choose elective courses in the areas of English, the arts, English as a Second Language, health, mathematics, science, and career and technical education. In addition, students can participate in numerous organizations and clubs in school for a well-rounded education.

*Studies show that planning in middle and junior high schools* will improve students' grades, attitudes toward school and teachers and create a sense of vision for the future. This booklet is designed to help students and their parents plan for a high-school education and for a successful career.



## Why is it important to create an education and career plan?

*Planning increases the likelihood of success for the following reasons:*

- ★ Students are more likely to complete graduation requirements.
- ★ Students are more likely to meet college entrance requirements.
- ★ Students are more likely to earn industry certifications.
- ★ Students are more likely to research, apply for, and receive scholarships.
- ★ Student grades are often higher.
- ★ Students learn about high-growth, high-demand jobs
- ★ Students are less likely to drop out.
- ★ Students increase their knowledge of education, training, and career opportunities.
- ★ Parents and mentors are more involved in career planning and preparation.
- ★ Students are more likely to remain focused on career development and completing their educational program
- ★ Students are more likely to take higher-level math, science, technology, and literacy courses.
- ★ Students are more likely to enroll in education beyond high school and less likely to change majors.
- ★ Students can fine-tune their job search to explore specific fields.
- ★ Students have the opportunity to learn employability skills.
- ★ Career planning prepares students with transferable job skills.
- ★ Students are more likely to participate in student organizations.
- ★ Career planning increases the likelihood of earning credit for advanced courses, such as Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or concurrent college credit courses.

## Meeting with the School Counselor

### Why should parents meet with the school counselor?

*It is important that students develop a high school and career development plan* which recognizes their needs, interests, abilities, and objectives. A high school counselor is available to assist students and parents in planning or evaluating a program. Planning assures the student of meeting all requirements for graduation, as well as completing courses needed for education and training beyond high school. A school career guidance counselor is there to ensure the student chooses an education plan that will lead toward success in the career focus area. Parents and school counselors are responsible for working together with the student to ensure that the student chooses the best educational plan.



## Requirements for Public School End-of-Course Assessment

***There are new requirements for earning the Algebra I credit required for graduation.*** All parents need to be aware that this change began with students in grade 9 or below in 2009-2010 enrolled in Algebra I for credit.

Students already take the Algebra I End-of-Course Exam as part of the state's testing system. Since the 2009-2010 school year, state law requires that all students score "Pass" on this exam before they are allowed to receive credit for the course. Students who do not pass will have to remediate and retest.

### Smart Core Curriculum

***Smart Core is the default curriculum for all high school students.***

This rigorous set of courses – which includes four years of English, four years of mathematics (Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II and a fourth higher-level mathematics class), three years of social studies, and three years of science – provides students the skills and knowledge they need to be considered college- and career-ready. Unlike the world many of today's parents entered after high school, the global economy of the 21st century demands the same academic foundation for all high school students, whether they are planning to pursue career- or technical- training or a two- or four-year college degree after high school.

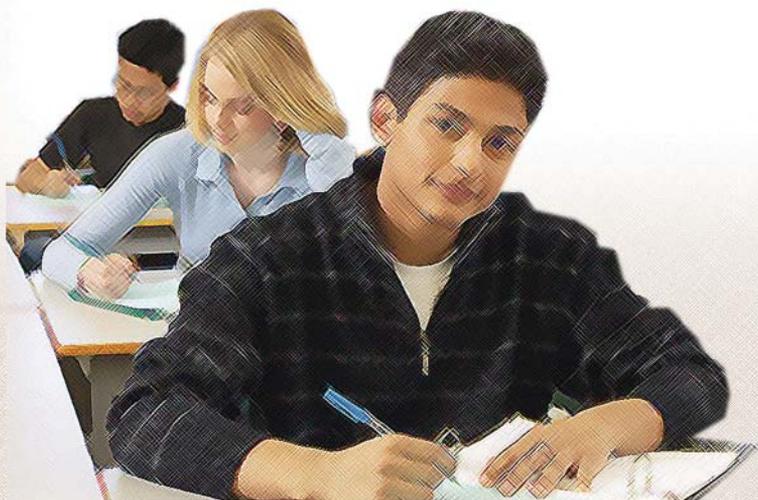
All students need to be college and career ready at the end of high school, which means they will be adept problem-solvers and critical thinkers who can apply their knowledge and skills in an ever-evolving workplace.

To ensure college and career readiness, students should always take the highest level of math, English, science, and social studies in which they can be successful.

## English as a Second Language

***English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction is provided to all students in Arkansas public schools*** who are not fully proficient in speaking, reading, writing, or comprehending English. Students are placed in ESL classes based upon their performance on a placement exam that assesses their proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, listening and comprehending English. The purpose of ESL instruction is to assist students who come from homes where English is not the primary language in developing English proficiency so that they can meet the same academic content and achievement standards that other students are expected to meet.

Schools are provided funds to implement language instruction educational programs designed to help English Language Learner (ELL) students achieve these standards. Districts and schools are accountable for increasing the English proficiency and core academic content knowledge of ELL students.



## Children with Disabilities Information

*The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)* are two of the nation's most important federal laws related to the education of children. While NCLB seeks to improve the education of all children, with an emphasis on children from low-income families, IDEA focuses on the individual child and seeks to ensure specialized services for children with disabilities so that they may benefit from education. Specifically, for English Language Learners (ELL), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 provides safeguards related to a student's participation in an educational program.

If there are concerns about a child's performance and/or behavior in school, it is recommended that the parent/guardian communicate the concerns to the child's school (i.e., teacher, principal, , school psychology specialist, counselor). For ELL students, the parent may also seek assistance from the English as Second Language (ESL) teacher/coordinator. Many schools have programs in place to identify academic and behavior difficulties in a preventative manner so that students may be supported in the regular classroom. Parents may inquire about such programs.

If a child is suspected of having a disability which adversely affects educational performance and who may need special education services, the parent/guardian of the student may refer the child for evaluation to be considered for eligibility. This referral is done by contacting the child's school (i.e., telephone, letter, visit, etc.) and requesting an evaluation for special education services.

The following website provides articles and resources empowering parents of children with disabilities and special needs:

**<http://www.childrensdisabilities.info/>**

## Advanced Placement Courses

*Advanced Placement (AP) courses are college-level courses*, taught by teachers with special training in AP instruction. AP courses use college textbooks and exams. AP courses allow students to learn at higher levels and possibly earn college credit if they score a 3, 4, or 5 on the AP exam given at the end of each course.

All high schools in Arkansas must offer at least four AP classes: one each in the areas of English, mathematics, science and social studies. The state also pays the fee for students to take the AP exam.

AP courses will give students the opportunity to improve writing and problem solving skills required for successful careers.

Students should always consider taking the highest level of math, English, science and social studies possible.

### How to enroll?

The school counselor can provide information on AP courses.

## Concurrent Enrollment

*Concurrent enrollment classes are college-level classes offered to high school students for both high school and college credit.* These courses give students the opportunity to earn high school credits and college credits at the same time, thus reducing the number of classes that are needed to obtain a college degree.

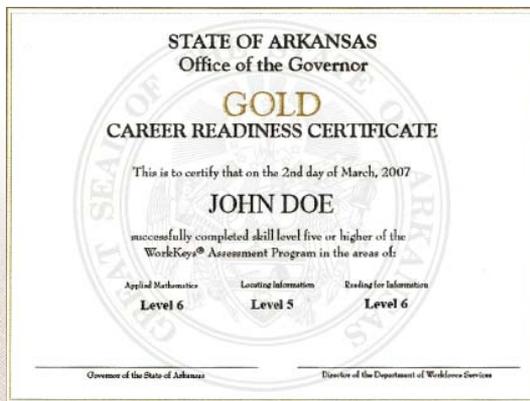
These classes are available to high school seniors and some qualified juniors and are free of charge. The school counselor can provide information about the opportunities and requirements for taking a concurrent college credit course.

# Arkansas Career Readiness Certificate

*An Arkansas Career Readiness Certificate* is a portable credential based upon the ACT WorkKeys® assessments that demonstrates to employers that an individual possesses the basic workplace skills required for 21st century jobs. Getting a CRC will allow an individual to show prospective employers that he or she possesses the basic skills they are looking for in Reading for Information, Applied Mathematics and Locating Information.

Even if one has a high school diploma (or GED) or a postsecondary degree, the CRC further verifies that he or she can handle tasks such as finding information, reading instructions and directions, and working with figures – that are common in today’s workplaces. A Silver Certificate will indicate that a student will be successful in 65% of entry level jobs. A recipient of the Gold Certificate is capable of doing 85% of all entry level jobs.

The Career Readiness Certificate is signed by the governor and is suitable for framing. Students must be at least 17 years of age, complete the KeyTrain curriculum through the high school, and take the ACT WorkKeys assessments upon referral from the instructor. Assessments are free with a social security number.

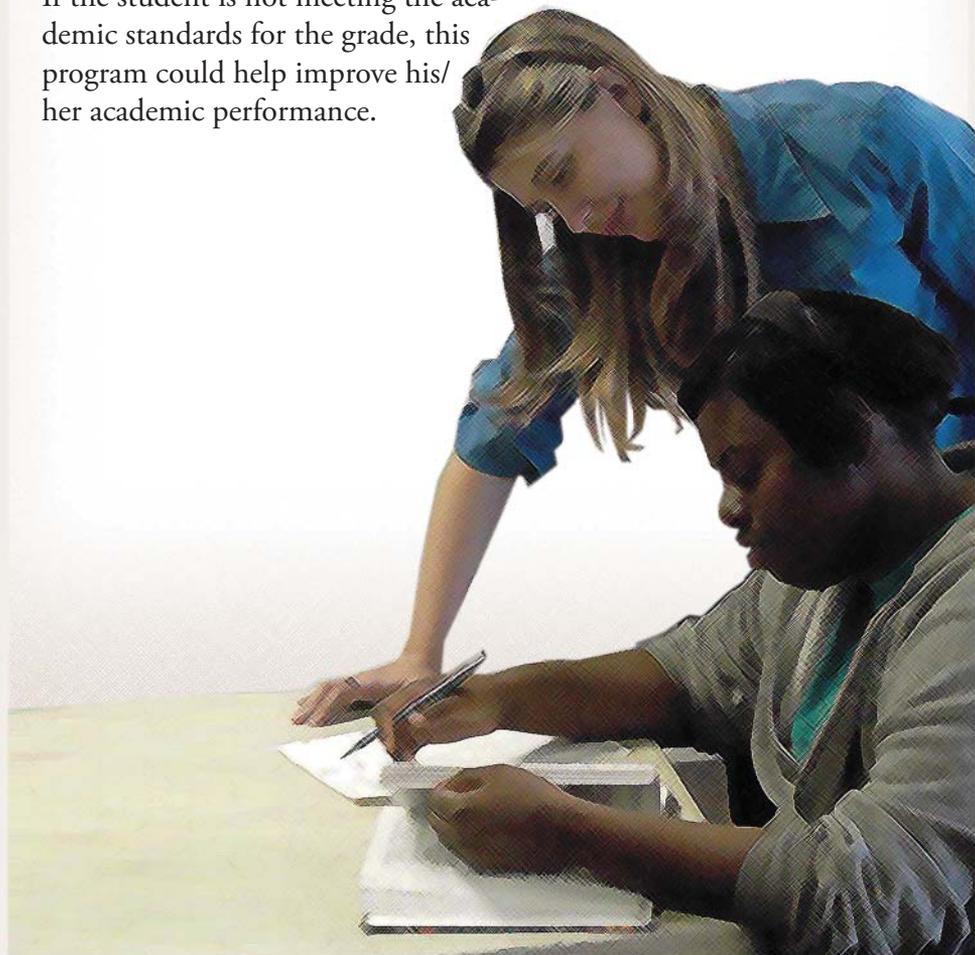


## Supplemental Education Services

*If a school is in the second year of an improvement plan, students can receive free extra academic help* such as tutoring or remediation in reading, language arts, math, and other subjects. Please, ask your child's teacher if the school has this service. This extra help can be provided before or after school, on weekends, or in the summer.

Districts must make a list available to parents of state-approved supplemental educational services providers in the area and must let parents choose the provider that will best meet the educational needs of the child.

If the student is not meeting the academic standards for the grade, this program could help improve his/her academic performance.



## Career Exploration

*Career guidance and development is designed to improve the career decision-making* of students and their parents by relating educational opportunities and experience to occupational exploration, career choice, and vocational preparation. Careful planning will help students become more engaged in their academic coursework and career development so that they can acquire the knowledge and skills needed for their desired career path.

All students must be able to answer these questions:



**What courses will help me most for the future?**



**What are my interests, values, aptitudes, skills, and dreams?**



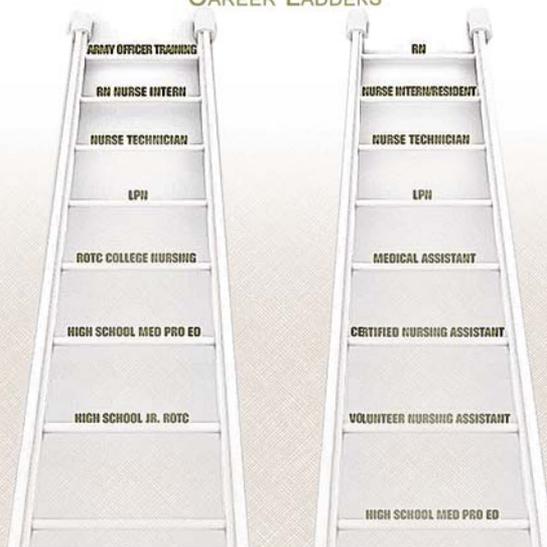
**What career opportunities are available and best suited for me?**



**What programs of study will best help me reach my career goals?**

The school counselor can provide information about career planning, a plan of studies, and career development portfolios.

### NURSE PRACTITIONER CAREER LADDERS



## Arkansas Works

*The Arkansas College and Career Planning System* provides career planning, increases information between school and home, and streamlines curriculum development and information sharing. Arkansas Works is provided to all students and adults in Arkansas to help them achieve their educational and career goals.

Whether exploring careers, preparing for education, or searching for extended learning opportunities, students and parents alike can use the Arkansas Works career planning tool to create a portfolio with a resume on which to build a successful future.

The Internet-based planning tool will help Arkansans of all ages identify personal interests, explore career options, and plan for career success.

The Arkansas Works website contains a variety of tools for every individual needing assistance with education planning, including financial aid, and career planning.

The school counselor can provide information about Arkansas Works, and information is also available at the following website:

<http://arworks.arkansas.gov>.



# ARKANSASWORKS

## Leadership Positions

*Students benefit from participation in student organizations, civic clubs, sports, etc. in which they can assume leadership positions.*

Through their schools, students are provided opportunities to volunteer and get involved in activities and programs that promote and support various interests, sports, cultures, academic programs, and careers. Through these activities, students can become leaders in their schools, communities and families. Leadership skills help prepare students to assume responsibility for making the world a better place. Students should consider volunteering in school and community programs to broaden their experience and show college recruiters they are interested in serving their community.

Students can get involved in these organization as well as many other leadership and volunteerism opportunities:

- ★ **FBLA** – Future Business Leaders of America
- ★ **FCCLA** – Family Career and Community Leaders of America
- ★ **HOSA** – Health Occupations Students of America
- ★ **DECA** - Marketing, Finance, Hospitality and Management
- ★ **FFA** – Future Farmers of America
- ★ **SKILLS USA** – Skilled Career and Technical Education Student Organization
- ★ **BETA Club** - Academic achievement, Leadership, Character and Service
- ★ **National Honor Society** – Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character (and Citizenship for NJHS)
- ★ **Student Council** – School Student Leadership



## Youth Apprenticeship

*Youth apprenticeships offer young people the opportunity to develop meaningful job skills while attending high school.* Youth apprenticeship programs are operated by a consortium of employers, employer associations, high schools, colleges, universities, local government, and service organizations to introduce students to occupations that are needed in their region of the state. Apprenticeships are available in the areas of health, body shop, welding, electricity, and plumbing.

All apprenticeship programs require applicants to be at least 16 years old and physically able to perform the job.

Additional information can be obtained from the following:

### **State Apprenticeship Office**

Arkansas Department of Career Education

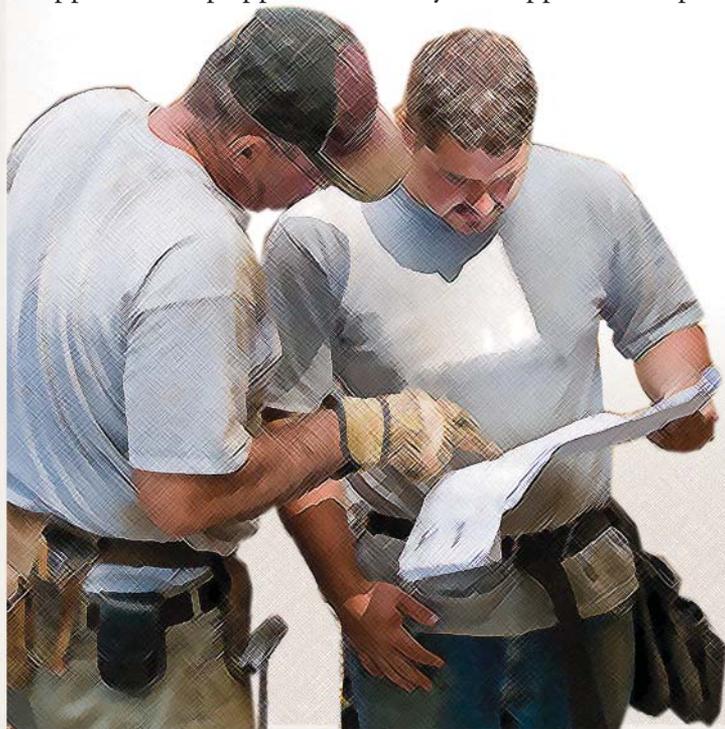
Three Capitol Mall

Little Rock, AR 72201-1083

Phone: (501) 682-1360

<http://ace.arkansas.gov/cte/specialPrograms/>

[apprenticeshipAppliedSciences/youthApprenticeship/Pages/default](http://ace.arkansas.gov/cte/specialPrograms/apprenticeshipAppliedSciences/youthApprenticeship/Pages/default).



## JAG

### Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates

*Jobs for Arkansas's Graduates (JAG) is designed to assist career and technical education students* to successfully graduate from high school and obtain meaningful employment, pursue a postsecondary education and/or seek career advancement opportunities. The school counselor can provide information on JAG and other work-based programs.



National JAG's mission is to assist at-risk and disadvantaged youths in graduating from high school (or receiving a GED and/or marketable skills) and thereafter finding and keeping quality jobs through a state-supported school-to-work transition program.

Jobs for Arkansas' Graduates Arkansas (JAG) is a state affiliate of Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG). JAG is a national organization comprised of state organizations that implement JAG Model based programs, serving in-school youth through three (3) program applications:

- ★ Multi-Year (Dropout Prevention) Program
- ★ Senior Only (School-to-Career) Program
- ★ Dropout Recovery Program

If you have questions concerning either program, you can call the Office of Special Populations at (501) 682-1800.

Also, you can contact your school counselor and ask how you can get involved with JAG.

## Arkansas Governor's School

*The Arkansas Governor's School (AGS) is a free four-week summer residential program* for gifted and talented students who have just completed the 11th grade and are residents of the state of Arkansas. State funds provide tuition, room, board, and instructional materials for each student who attends the four-week program on the site of a residential college campus.

AGS provides highly motivated, creative students with an intellectual atmosphere not found in most academic settings. The excitement of intellectual and artistic pursuits and the expectation of significant conceptual gains permeate all aspects of the participants' lives for the full four weeks. Application forms and deadline information are available from the school counselor.



## Literacy Preparation

*It is important to recognize the crucial role that literacy plays in the life of a person.* We want to ensure that all of our students finish high school equipped with the fundamental literacy skills that will lead to a successful career. Obtaining the needed literacy skills is an integral part of a well rounded adult.

*High school graduates should be able to*

-  Read at grade level
-  Write a well-organized composition
-  Write a research paper
-  Speak effectively using standard English
-  Complete forms, applications, and resumés

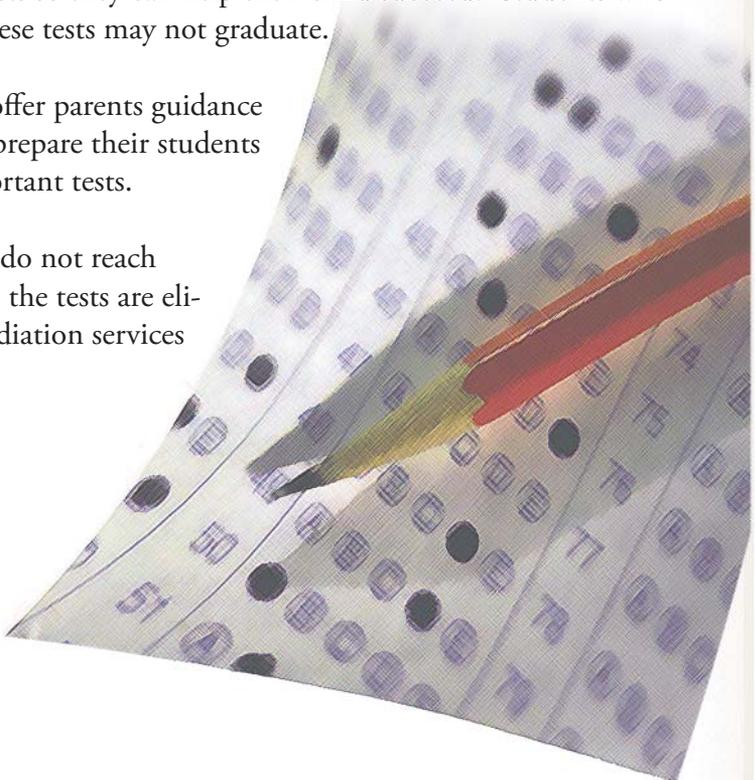


## Benchmark Exams

*The benchmark exams are a rigorous set of grade-level and end-of-course tests* which determine if students have learned what they need to know at each grade. Parents need to be aware of the purpose and dates of the tests so they can help their child succeed. Students who do not pass these tests may not graduate.

Teachers can offer parents guidance in helping to prepare their students for these important tests.

Students who do not reach proficiency on the tests are eligible for remediation services without cot.



## Some Basic Questions Students and Parents Can Ask the School Counselor

1. What are the required and recommended courses—for graduation and for college preparation?
2. How can I develop an education and training plan for high school and beyond?
3. How can I find out if I am reading at grade level?
4. Which elective courses do you recommend for my career focus?
5. How can I prepare for the ACT and SAT?
6. Which Advanced Placement courses are available?
7. How can I register for Advanced Placement or concurrent enrollment classes?
8. Is there tutoring available to improve academic skills?
9. Can I take career and workplace readiness courses?
10. What activities can I do at home and over the summer to get ready for college?
11. How can I develop leadership skills?
12. How can I get involved in sports or student organizations?
13. Does this high school offer Youth Apprenticeships or work-based learning apprenticeships?
14. What kind of scholarships will I be able to apply for; what are the requirements for obtaining them?
15. How can I prepare for end-of-course assessments?

## College Entrance Requirements

*Act 730 of 2009 created the Arkansas College and Career Readiness Planning Program Act* designed to increase college readiness by providing early benchmarks for student performance on college readiness exams. The act requires public schools to administer EXPLORE to every student enrolled in grade 8 and PLAN or the PSAT to every student enrolled in grade 10, beginning with the 2010-2011 school year. These early scores will provide school counselors and teachers information to improve the academic achievement of their students and to assist with course selection and development of college readiness skills.

*EXPLORE is the pre-ACT assessment designed to help 8th-grade students* explore a broad range of options and focus not only on high school coursework but also on post-high school choices. PLAN is the pre-ACT assessment for 10th-grade students and is designed to help them focus on improved academic achievement, career preparation, and planning for post-high school years. The PSAT is the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test that provides practice for the SAT Reasoning Test and gives students feedback on individual strengths and weaknesses in the area of college readiness.

*The ACT is an assessment required by most Arkansas universities and colleges.* It assesses high school students' general education development and their ability to complete college-level work. Students who have already taken the ACT and need to improve their scores and are in grades 11 or 12 may be eligible to participate in the College Preparatory Enrichment Program.

*College admission policies and required entrance exams vary by institution.* Specific information regarding admission requirements can be obtained from the individual institutions.

## Financial Aid

***Students can obtain financial aid for college*** based on financial need, success in high school for academic attainment or athletic or artistic skills. Obtaining financial aid for college can be a combination of resources. Students need to explore different scholarships in order to receive the most help possible. The most common sources of scholarships are the federal and state government, universities and non profit organizations.

It is always important to read the requirements before submitting the scholarship. The school counselor can provide you with additional information regarding scholarships and the process of submitting them.

Below you will find some of the most common scholarships provided by the state of Arkansas.

***The Academic Challenge Scholarship offers significant financial aid to qualifying students.*** Additional funding made possible by the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery has allowed the expansion of the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship to provide higher education opportunities to previously underserved Arkansans (both traditional and non-traditional students). At this time, award amounts have not yet been determined. The 2012-2013 Academic Year, the amounts approved for full time students are \$ 4,500.00 for four-year institution students and \$2,250.00 for two-year institution students



***The Governor's Scholars Program provides up to \$4,000 annually for graduating high school seniors*** based on academic achievement, test score and leadership. The Governor's Distinguished Scholarship is for those scoring 32 on the ACT or 1410 on the SAT, earning an 3.50 academic grade point average, or who are named National Merit Finalists or National Achievement Scholars. The scholarship pays tuition, mandatory fees, room and board up to \$10,000 per year.

***The Higher Education Opportunities Grant (GO! Opportunities Grant) provides \$1,000 grants to full-time students and \$500 grants to part-time students*** based on financial need. Students must have graduated from an Arkansas high school or completed the General Educational Development (GED) Tests in Arkansas after December 31, 2006. Students also must apply within one year of high school graduation or successful completion of the GED Tests. (GED recipients must be between the ages of 16 to 18.) Applicants must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the GO! Opportunities Grant application.

***The Minority Masters Fellows Program offers forgivable loans*** to African-American, Asian-American, Native American, and Hispanic college students who are seeking a master's degree in education in a field other than administration or are in their fifth year of a five-year teacher licensure program.

***The Minority Teachers Scholars Program offers forgivable loans to African-American, Asian-American, Native American, and Hispanic college juniors and seniors seeking an education degree leading to an initial teacher license.***

***The Second Effort Scholarship offers up to \$1,000 annually*** to the individuals with the top 10 scores on the GED exam during the previous calendar year.

***The State Teacher Assistance Resource (STAR) Program offers forgivable loans OR loan repayment grants*** to current or future educators teaching in a subject and/or geographic shortage area in an Arkansas public school. STAR Loans are for future teachers seeking an education degree leading to an initial license. STAR Repayment Grants are for current teachers who did not receive a STAR Loan.

***The Workforce Improvement Grant awards up to \$2,000 annually*** to students at least 24 years old based on financial need. Students apply using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and awards are made by the institution the student attends. Students may be enrolled part-time.

## **Universal Scholarship Application**

***Arkansas citizens seeking education beyond high school*** will now find the scholarship application process more user-friendly than ever before, thanks to the Universal Scholarship Application, developed by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. The online version of the Universal Scholarship Application matches students to potential scholarships in a matter of minutes.

By answering a few simple questions about age, grade-point average, ACT or SAT scores, and income level, applicants will be matched with the financial-aid programs they may qualify for, along with an estimated amount of financial aid they might expect in an academic year.

**Complete information regarding these programs is available at the Department of Higher Education Website:**

**[https://www.ark.org/adhe\\_financialaid/login.aspx](https://www.ark.org/adhe_financialaid/login.aspx)**

# Financial Aid for Hispanic Students

## Scholarships

### ASOCIACION HISPANA DE COLLEGIOS Y UNIVERSIDADES



NW Arkansas Community College

[http://www.hacu.net/hacu/Default\\_EN.asp](http://www.hacu.net/hacu/Default_EN.asp)



### Hispanic Scholarship Fund

<https://apply.hsf.net/applications/>



### Scholarships.com

Hispanic Scholarships

<http://www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/college-scholarships/scholarships-by-type/minority-scholarships/hispanic-scholarships/>



### MALDEF

Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund

[http://www.maldef.org/assets/pdf/Scholarship\\_List\\_2010\\_2011.pdf](http://www.maldef.org/assets/pdf/Scholarship_List_2010_2011.pdf)



### UNIVISION ARKANSAS

**Athletic Scholarship:** [http://www.duo-](http://www.duo-media.com/scholarship/Univision_Arkansas_Athletic_Scholarship_Application_1-16-12.pdf)

[media.com/scholarship/Univision\\_Arkansas\\_Athletic\\_Scholarship\\_Application\\_1-16-12.pdf](http://www.duo-media.com/scholarship/Univision_Arkansas_Athletic_Scholarship_Application_1-16-12.pdf)

**Media Scholarship:** [http://www.duo-](http://www.duo-media.com/scholarship/Univision_Arkansas_Scholarship_Application_1-16-12.pdf)

[media.com/scholarship/Univision\\_Arkansas\\_Scholarship\\_Application\\_1-16-12.pdf](http://www.duo-media.com/scholarship/Univision_Arkansas_Scholarship_Application_1-16-12.pdf)



### IME BECAS

Hispanic Woman Organization of Arkansas

<http://www.hwoa.org/>



### HOLA! Arkansas Hispanic Media Scholarship

<http://ualr.edu/scholarships/private/index.php/home/scholarships-by-college/professional-studies/#School%20of%20Mass%20Communication>

## Information to Share with Parents Regarding How They Can Help Their Students

*Parent involvement consistently ranks as the number-one factor in student success.*

### When a test is to be given, you can help by making sure your student

- ★ gets plenty of sleep the night before the test;
- ★ gets plenty of sleep the night before the test;
- ★ has breakfast on the morning of the test;
- ★ goes to school on the day of the test;
- ★ knows you think he/she will do well on the test;
- ★ knows you understand that the test is important.

### To help your student learn at home

- ★ encourage your student to read;
- ★ be interested in what your student does in school (ask what happens each day);
- ★ ask to see your student's school papers;
- ★ talk with and listen to your student (ask each other questions and share experiences);
- ★ visit stores, museums, festivals, etc., with your student and talk about them;
- ★ go to parent-teacher conferences;
- ★ let your student know that you think a good education is important;
- ★ get to know your student's teachers;
- ★ tell your student that it is okay to ask the teacher questions;
- ★ check frequently to ensure that your student is completing all assigned work in a timely manner;
- ★ urge your student to strive for excellence in all that he/she does.

**Potter, G. (2009). A Note to Parents. Retrieved Jan. 5, 2010, from the Arkansas Department of Education, Little Rock, Arkansas. Website: [http://arkansased.org/testing/pdf/eoc\\_parents\\_021209.pdf](http://arkansased.org/testing/pdf/eoc_parents_021209.pdf)**

## Helpful Links

### Career Information

<http://www.bls.gov/oco/>

<http://www.acinet.org/>

<http://online.onetcenter.org/>

<http://www.real-life.arkansas.gov/>

### Arkansas Career Readiness Certificate

<http://www.dws.arkansas.gov/Programs/CRC/index.htm>

### Job Search Information

<https://www.arjoblink.arkansas.gov/ada/works/jobsearch.cfm>

<http://www.dws.arkansas.gov/JobSeekers/index.htm>

### Workforce Cabinet

#### Arkansas Department of Career Education

It is a state department with the mission of providing leadership and contributing resources to serve the diverse and changing career educational needs of Arkansas youth, adults, and persons living with disabilities.

<http://ace.arkansas.gov/>

#### Arkansas Department of Education

It is the state department in charge of educating students in grades pre-k through 12th grade.

<http://arkansased.org/>

#### Arkansas Department of Higher Education

It is the state department responsible for approving and reviewing college and university academic programs and developing funding recommendations for the state's 11 public universities and 22 public two-year colleges as well as several other post-secondary entities.

<http://www.adhe.edu/Pages/home.aspx>

#### Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

It is the state department dedicated to being Arkansas' preferred provider of workforce services and solutions. It is our goal to enable the Arkansas workforce to compete in the global economy by linking a comprehensive array of services for employers and job seekers. The Department of Workforce Services maintains records on unemployment insurance, employment service, workforce investment activities, and labor market information.

<http://www.dws.arkansas.gov/>

## **Arkansas Economic Development Commission**

It is a state commission in charge of implementing a strategy that makes Arkansas more globally competitive. The intent of the plan is to achieve economic improvement for our citizens through collaboration and cooperation and strong regional empowerment.

<http://arkansasedc.com/>

## **Arkansas Science and Technology Authority**

It is the state agency with the mission of advance the talent and innovation necessary for Arkansas to prosper. With a vision to see Arkansas prepared to compete and prosper in the global economy, the Authority addresses strategies to promote scientific research; technology development; business innovation; and math, science, and engineering education.

<http://asta.ar.gov/>

## **Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges (AATYC)**

It is a private, non-profit higher education membership organization serving the educational needs of two-year college students and the business/industry needs of the state. It represents all twenty two (22) public two-year colleges in Arkansas.

<http://aatyc.org/>

## **Arkansas State Chamber**

The Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/Associated Industries of Arkansas is the leading voice for business in Arkansas, and serves as the primary business advocate on all issues affecting Arkansas employers.

## **Arkansas Works**

### **Arkansas's College & Career Planning System**

The College and Career Planning System helps equip students and adults with the skills and education required for the opportunities that await them. This system provides tools and new information that will guide your career and college plans.

<http://arworks.arkansas.gov>

## **Information for Parents**

<http://www.childrensdisabilities.info/>

[http://arkansased.org/testing/pdf/eoc\\_parents\\_021209.pdf](http://arkansased.org/testing/pdf/eoc_parents_021209.pdf)

## **Information for Students**

[http://www.adhe.edu/divisions/financialaid/Pages/fa\\_programs.aspx](http://www.adhe.edu/divisions/financialaid/Pages/fa_programs.aspx)

<http://ace.arkansas.gov/youthapprenticeship.htm>







**Arkansas Department of Career Education**

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