

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Our History

Arkansas Connections Academy (ARCA) is a public school serving students in grades K-11 from across the state. The school will add one grade per year, ultimately serving students in grades K-12. Our students come from urban, suburban, and rural communities across the entire state of Arkansas, creating a diverse student population. The school was founded during the 2015–2016 school year as a K-10 school through the Arkansas Department of Education.

Our Mission

Arkansas Connections Academy (ARCA) will offer families throughout the state access to a quality education by providing the personalized learning inherent in a high-quality online school. ARCA will provide a complete public-school experience for students in grades K-12, focusing on the students' academic growth, social and emotional needs, and post-secondary goals.

The school will embody multiple hallmarks of excellence: a rigorous curriculum aligned to the Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks; licensed teachers actively engaged with students and families; and an educational management system designed to provide accountability through data collection, analysis, and reporting.

High School Virtual Visitation

College representatives are invited to connect with our students through web conferencing technology. Two weeks' notice is greatly appreciated so that we have time to notify students. For more information about setting up a web conference session, please contact Jeremy Hoback at

jhoback@arca.connectionsacademy.org



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION:

Principal: Darla Gardner

Assistant Principal: Craig Smith

Manager of Counseling: Jeremy Hoback

Director of Student Services: Cheryl Puryear

OUR PROGRAM

Arkansas Connections Academy currently has a high school program consisting of grades 9-11 and will be adding a 12th grade for the 2019-2020 school year. The school currently has an enrollment of 1170 students. Here are some important facts about the program:

- Arkansas Connections Academy is a candidate for accreditation. Connections Academy schools are supported by Connections Education LLC, dba Pearson Online & Blended Learning, which is accredited by AdvancED.
- The school has 38 licensed professional staff. Of those, 23 have earned advanced degrees and all are highly qualified.
- School is in session 178 days between the months of August and May.

COURSE OFFERINGS

Arkansas Connections Academy’s core curriculum is geared toward preparing students for college and beyond. Students have access to AP, Honors, College Preparatory, and Basic programs. Students also have the opportunity to participate in the Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) program, in which they can earn dual high school and college credit by attending post-secondary institutions.

Honors course expected offerings include: Algebra I & II, Biology, Chemistry, Civics, English 9-11, Geometry, Physical Science, Pre-Calculus, U.S. History, and World History.

[Please view all of our high school courses](#)

GRADING SCALE

Student transcripts reflect weighted grades if the student took Honors or Advanced Placement courses. The numerical grading scale is as follows:

Grade	%	Non-weighted	AP
A	90-100	4.00	5.00
B	80-89	3.00	4.00
C	70-79	2.00	3.00
D	60-69	1.00	2.00
F	0-59	0.00	0.00

TESTING STATISTICS

ARCA adheres to all state and national testing requirements and additionally encourages students to take the appropriate college entrance and preparatory exams necessary for reaching their personal and academic goals.

Required State Testing:

- Grade 1-2 IStation
Spring 2018
- Grades 3-10, ACT Aspire,
Spring 2018
- Grade 11, ACT,
Spring 2018

CLASS RANK POLICY

Class rank is calculated twice each year, at the conclusion of each semester. Class rank is based upon the student’s cumulative weighted G.P.A. for all high school courses, including transfer courses.

*Weighted grade scales for AP will only be used if the student takes the AP exam.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Arkansas Connections Academy operates on a semester system utilizing Carnegie units. One semester class equals one-half of a high school credit. Students who have taken high school level courses while in middle school may have been granted high school credit. The typical course load is six classes per semester.

22 Carnegie units of credit are required for graduation. Specific requirements include:



Area/Subjects	# Units for Graduation
Language Arts*	4
Math**	4
Science***	3
Social Studies****	3
Health and Safety	0.5
Physical Education	0.5
Oral Communications	0.5
Fine Arts	0.5
Career Focus	6
Total	22

* English 9, English 10, English 11, English 12

**Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, and any other approved math course

*** Biology and any 2 other approved science courses

**** Civics (.5), World History, American History, Economics (.5)