

2023-2024 School Profile

CEEB Code # 040006

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

OUR HISTORY

Arkansas Connections Academy (ARCA) is an accredited public school serving students in grades K-12 from across the state. 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 2016-17 school year as a K-9 school through the Arkansas Department of Education.

OUR MISSION

Arkansas Connections Academy (ARCA) offers families throughout the state access to a quality education by providing the personalized learning inherent in a high-quality online school. ARCA provides 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 embodies 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.

OUR PROGRAM

Arkansas Connections Academy currently has an enrollment of 3,000 students in grades K-12. The high school program consists of grades 9-12. Arkansas Connections Academy is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges & Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI), an accrediting division of Cognia. The school has 133 licensed professional staff.

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 Kim Favero at kfavero@arca.connectionsacademy.org.

CONTACT INFORMATION

<https://www.connectionsacademy.com/arkansas-virtual-school>

1009 Beau Terre Drive
Bentonville, AR 72712

Fax: 479-319-6384

Phone: 501-386-3419

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

SCHOOL LEADER: Nicole Stephens

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS:

Paige Hurd (K-5)

Daniel Cisar (6-8)

Erin Lieblong (9-10)

Savanah Mizell (11-12)

DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL COUNSELING:

Jeremy Hoback

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES: Beth Lee

SCHOOL AND FACULTY ACCOLADES

The school has 133 licensed professional staff. Of these, 73 have earned advanced degrees and all are highly qualified.

ACCREDITATIONS



ADVANCED COURSE OPTIONS

AP course expected offerings include: Biology, Calculus, Computer Science, English Language, English Literature, Environmental Science, Human Geography, Psychology, U.S. Government and Politics, and U.S. History.

Honors course expected offerings include: Algebra I and II, Biology, Chemistry, English 9-12, Geometry, Pre-Calculus, U.S. History, and World History.

Please find our course list here: <https://www.connectionsacademy.com/arkansas-virtual-school/academics/curriculum/>

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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 can participate in the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) program, in which they can earn dual high school and college credit by attending post-secondary institutions.

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	.5
Physical Education	.5
Oral Communications	.5
Fine Arts	.5
Other Electives	6.0
Computer Science (Class of 2026)	1
Total	22

GRADE SCALE

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

Grade	Grade %	Passing?	Non-Weighted	Weighted (AP)
A	90-100	Yes	4	5
B	80-89	Yes	3	4
C	70-79	Yes	2	3
D	60-69	Yes	1	2
F	0-59	No	0	0

TESTING

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	Fall 2023, Winter 2023, & Spring 2024
Grades 3-10	ATLAS	Spring 2024
Grades 3-10	Renaissance Benchmarks	Fall 2023, Winter 2023, & Spring 2024
Grade 11	ACT	Spring 2024