

2026-2027 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.

Every Student, Every Day

OUR PROGRAM

Arkansas Connections Academy currently has an enrollment of 6,255 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 232 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 Jessica Peresta, jperesta@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

PRINCIPALS:

Paige Whitney (Interim K-8)

Mark Reider (Interim 9-12)

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SUCCESS:

Jessica Peresta

DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL POPULATIONS: Beth Lee

SCHOOL AND FACULTY ACCOLADES

The school has 232 licensed professional staff. Of these, 140+ 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.

Students at ARCA may have courses taken through our partnership with Pearson Online Academy. These courses are designated as PearsonOnlineAcademy-ar1 on the transcript.

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	5
Community Service Learning	1
Computer Science	1
Total	23

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

CAREER READINESS PROGRAM

Students in grades K-12 will have multiple opportunities aimed at fostering College and Career Readiness, ensuring they are well-prepared for success right after graduation. Through our career exploration programs, students can explore various pathways, such as Agriculture, Business Administration, Health Sciences, Early Childhood Education, and Information Technology. Additionally, our emphasis on connecting students with Higher Education and Coursera Professional Industry Certificates will help bridge the gap between high school and true career readiness.

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 K-3	ATLAS Screeners	Fall
Grade K-2	ATLAS Interim/Summative	Fall, Winter, & Spring
Grades 3-10	ATLAS Interim /Summative	Fall, Winter, & Spring
Grades 3-10/EOC	ATLAS Summative	Spring
Grade 11	ACT and ACT WorkKeys	Spring
Grades 9-12	CCR Testing	Fall & Spring