



DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION

Division of Learning Services 2025-2027 Arkansas Governor’s School (AGS) Site Selection Proposal

Submission Guidelines:

1. Save a copy of this proposal as a Google Doc named “AGS 2025-2027 Proposal <Institution Name>.” Adjust the share settings to add Krystal.Nail@ade.arkansas.gov as a viewer. The proposal will be saved and shared with the site selection committee.
2. Respond to all prompts in the white spaces provided. Refer to parenthetical citations of [Rules Governing Arkansas Governor’s School Site Selection](#) for additional information about specific requirements.
3. Email a link to the completed proposal to Krystal.Nail@ade.arkansas.gov by **March 29, 2024**. Title the subject of the email "AGS 2025-2027 Proposal (Institution Name)."
4. Proposals will be reviewed by a site selection committee as defined in Rules Governing Arkansas Governor’s School Site Selection. The committee members will utilize [this rubric](#) to assist them in collecting information to inform their votes for the host site.
5. The site selection committee will conduct onsite visits to potential host institutions. Visits will be coordinated with each potential host site and will likely occur during May or June, 2024.
6. The site selection committee will make a recommendation for the host institution to the Commissioner of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), which will be presented to the State Board of Education for approval.
7. Site selection will be for a period of three years contingent upon successful annual evaluations.

Institution Name:	Arkansas Tech University
Contact Person:	Jacob Grosskopf
Position of Contact Person:	Associate Professor of Geology and AGS Director
Email:	jgrosskopf@atu.edu
Phone Number:	479-968-0661
Link to President’s Letter Supporting the Application:	Presidential Letter of Support

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

General Information Regarding AGS

The Governor's School is a four or six week residential summer program for approximately 400 rising high school seniors in Arkansas (3.01).

The Governor's School is under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Education and the State Department of Education and falls under the immediate supervision of the Administrator of Programs for the Gifted and Talented, State Department of Education (1.03). A director will be named to oversee the operation and management for the duration of the school. The director will be a staff member of the college or university chosen as the site of the Governor's School (3.02).

PURPOSE OF THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL

The intent of the Governor's School is to give selected students a challenging opportunity to experience concepts and theories for the interpretation of facts. The emphasis of the school will be placed on conceptual or abstract intelligence in contrast with the practical or concrete intelligence. The program will offer students the opportunity to develop and/or expand their power to abstract, to conceptualize, to theorize, and explore the latest progress and problems of various fields of the arts and the sciences. Because this emphasis is not a frequent component of the regular high school curriculum, it provides the foundation, rationale, and support for the Arkansas Governor's School. The curriculum is not intended to be an acceleration of high school nor the anticipation of college curricula (4.00).

Rules Governing Arkansas Governor's School Site Selection

Proposals must be in accordance with the [Rules Governing Arkansas Governor's School Site Selection](#) and in accordance with any other pertinent legislation. **Rules are cited within each section.**

SITE SELECTION PROPOSAL CRITERIA

A. Program Director (3.02, 13.08)

The director will be a staff member of the college or university chosen as the site of the Governor's School. The director will oversee the operation and management for the duration of the school (3.02). Provide the following information for the proposed program director (13.08).

Name: Jacob Grosskopf

Title: Associate Professor of Geology and AGS Director

Email Address: jgrosskopf@atu.edu

Phone Number: 479-968-0661

Link to Vita: [Jacob Grosskopf CV](#)

Background, Vision, Leadership:

Dr. Jacob Grosskopf served as AGS co-director in 2023. Prior to that he was an AGS faculty member for four years where he carried out a curriculum in Area I: Natural Science. While a faculty member at AGS, Dr. Grosskopf took initiative and acted as a coordinator of all natural science instructors as well as led course field trips and an AGS field trip. At ATU, Dr. Grosskopf is an associate professor of geology where he is very active at the program level leading geology field trips to areas within a fifty-mile radius of Russellville, as well as longer trips out west. He is the faculty advisor for the Geology Club. Dr. Grosskopf believes in hands-on learning, and for geology

that takes place in field and in laboratory settings. Dr. Grosskopf's university-level accomplishments are focused on student success as well as faculty improvement and morale. Dr. Grosskopf has served on a number of committees that benefit students such as the Zero Textbook Cost committee, Student Course Evaluation *ad hoc* Committee, General Education Committee, and Faculty Senate and its *ad hoc* committees.

Dr. Grosskopf's leadership experience with young people in a camp setting developed over the course of four years in various positions at a Boy Scout summer camp: Salmen Scout Reservation in Mississippi. In 2006, his last year at the camp, he was the overall program director. During the four years, Dr. Grosskopf took on roles of greater responsibility and he participated in a number of leadership training workshops through the National Camp School. He has continued professional development at ATU, in programs such as Leadership Tech, a two-year program with a cohort of 30 faculty and staff members. Dr. Grosskopf was named Co-Director of Governor's School in February 2023. In a short window of five months, he quickly mastered the tasks necessary to run a successful AGS program in July of 2023.

Dr. Grosskopf's model for life is to treat others with respect, give others his full attention, and be positive about changes. This is reflected in his leadership style and how he interacts with students. Dr. Grosskopf is committed to the AGS program in all aspects: An enriching learning environment where students are charged with critical thinking, a safe and active residential program with effective staff, and a challenging but rewarding wholistic experience for the students and faculty alike. He will challenge faculty to foster this wholistic experience and will rely upon self-assessment, student evaluations of courses and faculty, as well as student, faculty, and staff feedback regarding the entire AGS program in order to assess effectiveness and to refine AGS throughout the three-year grant.

B. Proposed Dates (3.03, 13.01, 13.08)

The campus must be available for a four or six week period (3.03, 13.01, 13.08).

- A four week program will run four consecutive weeks (28 calendar days), without a break.
- A six week program will run six consecutive weeks (42 calendar days), with a four day break in the middle of the program (3.03).

Include the dates the campus will host Governor's School during the summers of 2025, 2026, and 2027 and a written plan guaranteeing no other campus activity or its participants will interfere with any Governor's School activity or student (13.01).

Note: Consider the 4th of July in scheduling decisions

Arkansas Tech proposes to run a four-week program.

Summer 2025 Dates: Sunday, July 6th to Saturday, August 2nd

Summer 2026 Tentative Dates: Sunday, July 5th to Saturday, August 1st

Summer 2027 Tentative Dates: Monday, July 5th to Sunday, August 1st

Written plan guaranteeing no other campus activity or its participants will interfere with any Arkansas Governor's School student activity or student:

Arkansas Tech University ensures that no other campus activities will interfere with the activities of Arkansas Governor's School. Although summer camps also take place on campus, the needs of Governor's School students will take precedence with regards to food services, lodging, academic and recreational facilities as well as services at the Health and Wellness Center. AGS staff will

coordinate early in the spring each with other offices on campus offering summer programs in order to avoid any potential conflicts.

C. Curriculum (4.04, 5.00, 9.00)

The curriculum of the school will be designed in accordance with 4.01-4.04, 5.01-5.07, and 9.00 of Site Selection Rules.

- The curriculum is not intended to be an acceleration of high school nor the anticipation of college curricula (4.04).
- The curriculum will be designed to (1) focus on contemporary and futuristic topics and issues, and (2) provoke curiosity and inquiry from the students (5.01).
- Investigation into current thought will be accomplished through suggested readings, lectures, individual studies, and small group discussions. In addition, great lectures, concerts, dramatic productions, exhibits, forums, films, and events in the school site community will expose students to contemporary culture (5.02).
- The curriculum for the school will be divided into three areas of study and will maintain continuity through concerted efforts of all staff persons (5.03).
- No credit or grades are given. Work at the Governor's School will supplement, not supplant the general high school curriculum (9.00).

Area I - Academic and Arts Areas will include those fields of special talent whereby the student was chosen to attend Governor's School. Visual Art, Choral Music, Drama, Instrumental Music, English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Natural Science, Social Science, Computer Science, and a Speciality Area if desired. The specialty area is for individual institutions applying for site selection to be able to offer an additional course unique to that institution and its resources (5.04). Materials will be chosen to acquaint students with the latest advances in each of these specialized fields (5.05).

Note: *Specific topics in each area will vary dependent upon the faculty selected for each AGS session.*

Describe a general curriculum plan for the nine required fields:

(If desired, describe the general curriculum plan for an additional specialty area.)

Arkansas Tech University will provide students with a contemporary curriculum in the three traditional AGS areas of (1) Academics and Arts, (2) General Conceptual Development, and (3) Personal and Social Development. An overarching theme will link the various aspects of study in each area, showcasing the connectivity of diverse disciplines and topics. The theme for this cycle will be "Arkansas" and the curriculum will include relevant examples and case studies from the Natural State. One of the implicit goals of AGS is to encourage a high-achieving group of high-school students to recognize the strengths and opportunities available in their home state of Arkansas. As residents, they have familiarity with the state but because of their young age, they likely lack deep knowledge about Arkansas' unique history, resources, and available opportunities. We propose a curriculum that, when appropriate, balances general knowledge with Arkansas-specific case studies, data, and culture. Classroom activities will be collaborative and project-based, with students exploring topics relevant to their designated area of study with an occasional added emphasis on Arkansas-related themes.

Area I focuses on contemporary and future-oriented theories and interpretations in specific areas of student interest. The following course descriptions are divided into Academics and Arts, with the ordering following the popularity of the given discipline among AGS student applicants.

Class sessions in Area I will take place in the mornings, from 9:30 a.m. to Noon.

ACADEMICS

Natural Science

The Natural Science students will study disciplines of Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Earth Sciences by reviewing theory and practical application of focused topics in these disciplines. Students will rotate through each focused topic, with the consistent themes being the scientific method and the most recent innovations in each field. Additional emphasis will be placed on emerging developments in the natural sciences that are Arkansas-specific, career opportunities within the Natural State, and the social and ethical implications of new findings.

Social Sciences

Students in Social Science will examine the latest breakthroughs in disciplines such as Human Geography, History, Sociology, Psychology, and Political Science. Students will rotate through four sub-disciplines, each with a different instructor, gaining knowledge of current trends, research methods, and career opportunities in each. They will learn how human groups interact and organize politically, as well as how individuals define themselves within the larger human community and how communities place themselves in relation to the past. Discussions will address how the Social Sciences contribute to new investigative models of our modern world, especially via access to contemporary digital data resources. Instructors and students will draw on Arkansas-specific experiences and evidence as case studies for their analyses.

English / Language Arts

Students will work with two instructors, rotating from one to the other halfway through AGS. ELA will offer students opportunities to explore the art of rhetoric as writers and readers of literature and as consumers of film and digital communication. Students will read and discuss published works by Arkansans as well as compose their own writing about their experiences of Arkansas. Students will examine and compose in genres such as poetry, short fiction, and creative nonfiction.

Mathematics

Students will work with two instructors, rotating from one to the other halfway through each class day. Students will explore contemporary mathematical concepts and applications in a variety of areas, focusing especially on Calculus, Probability, and an applied field of Aerospace Engineering and Astroynamics (rockets!). Students will consider the theoretical implications of mathematics and its fundamental applied contributions to contemporary society.

Computer Science

Though Computer Science is listed as one of the intended disciplines, it has not been taught at Governor's School in the years ATU has served as host. A reinstated course would focus on those applications of computer science that are most familiar to the students of today: smart-phone technology, gaming, and artificial intelligence (AI).

ARTS**Visual Arts**

The Visual Arts program will provide opportunities for expanding students' creative vision, while also providing practical experience in past and present artistic mediums and methods, including current trends. Students will explore traditional, foundational skills, such as drawing and painting, as well as more contemporary methods, such as digital design. The program will incorporate Arkansas-related artists and artistic venues when appropriate. Students will participate in discussion and critical examination of their own artworks, as well as that of their peers and the art world in the larger historical and cultural context. Students will complete projects to be displayed in a show at the conclusion of the AGS session.

Instrumental Music

The Instrumental Music curriculum includes the study and performance of music from a variety of styles and periods, including works by Arkansas composers and musical genres especially popular within Arkansas. Student instrumentalists will perform and record music in a student-directed talent

show as well as at the Governor's School Arts Revue, a performance of instrumental music, choral music, and drama on the final night of the AGS session.

Drama

Drama students will analyze and create dramatic works that speak to contemporary audiences and will intentionally focus on Arkansas and its culture as a theme (including Arkansans as audience). Students will learn about dramatic principles through analysis of modern dramas, composing their own dramatic scripts, and practicing performance skills. Students will learn additional skills associated with theatrical production such as acting, directing, playwriting, and set design. Performance modality will vary—from live to audio and video recording—and will incorporate various dramatic styles. Student work will be performed and showcased at the Governor's School Arts Revue.

Choral Music

Choral Music students will focus some of their efforts in music that influences, is influenced by, or speaks to Arkansas and its culture. Student vocalists will perform and study music from different repertoires to better develop their skills and identity. Students will perform a concert as part of the Governor's School Arts Revue.

SPECIALTY PROGRAM

Arkansas: Economy, Natural Resources, People

Arkansas Tech's proposal to host Governor's School 2025-2027 focuses on "Arkansas" as a unifying theme. This specialty course will expand on that theme. Many AGS students will eventually live, work, and raise families in Arkansas. Some will become our state's future leaders. This course will explicitly present to these future leaders the challenges and opportunities facing the Natural State as it moves forward in the 21st century.

Arkansas is undergoing significant change. The northwest counties are booming, while the Delta continues to lose population. Osceola is becoming a center for the nation's steel industry, while southern Arkansas appears to be poised for a boom in lithium mining. Arkansas's lakes, wetlands, and mountains support a huge game and fish industry and bring to the state thousands of tourists, who each year spend millions of dollars on recreational activities, supporting jobs and advancing prosperity.

This course will encourage AGS students to identify current conditions and future trends, and imagine creative ways to grow and improve Arkansas while maintaining its distinctive culture, preserving economic sustainability, and providing livable communities. Participants will identify Arkansas' natural resources, study the state's demographics and geography, recognize regions of population and economic growth, and analyze how the state portrays itself and publicizes its best qualities through media campaigns and advertising.

Students will engage in activities such as designing a new state park, creating a city plan to showcase recreational activities, use available GIS (geographic information systems) data to forecast population and demographic trends, and propose economic models to enhance tourism and industry. Guest speakers will be invited to offer their expertise both in person and in online discussion forums.

Arkansas Tech is well suited to support such a class. ATU's College of Business and Economic Development houses Departments of Business Data Analytics; Parks, Recreation, and Hospitality Administration; Agriculture Business; and Emergency Management and Homeland Security. These offer a pool of highly trained faculty capable of delivering this enriching program for the duration of the grant cycle.

Area II - General Conceptual Development will focus on thinking; on the ways we think; the assumptions that underlie our own thinking and the thinking that takes place within the various disciplines, on the twentieth century developments that have influenced our thinking about truth and knowledge and on means of thinking more effectively (5.06).

Describe a general curriculum plan for Area II:

Class sessions for Areas II and III will take place in the afternoon, in two blocks, from 1:30 to 2:20 p.m. and from 2:30 to 3:20 p.m. Half of the students will start each afternoon with an Area II class, the other half with an Area III class, and then they will all move to the other area. Including their morning classes, all students will have four-and-a-half hours of class time each day.

Area II applies broad conceptual and critical thinking to understanding complex philosophical and social issues. The curriculum will introduce students to questions about the nature of knowledge (epistemology) and practical ethics. How do we know what we know? How do we determine facts? How do we identify plausible arguments? In a time when 'disinformation' and 'misinformation' have become part of our common vocabulary and when artificial intelligence (AI) is making inroads everywhere, students will be well served by exercising skills in critical thinking as it pertains to the rhetoric and logic of argumentation and to the recognition and presentation of reliable knowledge. Social media has reshaped how people communicate with one another and how we frame our thoughts and opinions. Area II will investigate how the nature of knowledge has been impacted by these recent developments and will encourage students to exercise skills so that they can still reliably identify and interpret factual knowledge.

The curriculum will also encourage students to reflect upon their ethical decision making. How are choices made? What factors go into making ethical decisions? How does one choose between two viable but different choices? Or two equally difficult choices? Throughout the discussions, students will be expected to practice civil and respectful discourse with their peers. Differences of opinion that arise will serve as opportunities to share different thoughts, to share those thoughts in a respectful manner, as well as to provide examples of how different people think in different ways.

In keeping with long AGS tradition, students will be introduced to four core exercises: "Reality Checklist," Plato's "Allegory of the Cave," "Lifeboat Ethics," and a series of additional moral dilemmas. Likewise, two impact films and two impact speakers will be selected which will parallel and support the work of the Area II curriculum. Through these lessons, students will engage in probing thought exercises to analyze their perceptions of reality and how they make ethical decisions. Student learning will occur in small-group discussion, whole-class discussions, and individual interaction with the instructors, who will serve as discussion moderators.

All students at Governor's School participate in an Area II section. A workbook of readings and activities will serve as a common resource for the students. Likewise, a common syllabus will create a degree of standardization across the Area II sections. Beyond this common core, each Area II instructor will be able to draw upon additional approved resources for classroom use.

Area III - Personal and Social Development will be designed to foster the personal and social development necessary for the students to fully benefit from their Area I and Area II classes and the comprehensive cultural and social events of the AGS program (5.07).

Describe a general curriculum plan for Area III:

Class sessions for Areas II and III will take place in the afternoon, in two blocks, from 1:30 to 2:20 p.m. and from 2:30 to 3:20 p.m. Half of the students will start each afternoon with an Area II class, the other half with an Area III class, and then they will all move to the other area. Including their morning classes, all students will have four-and-a-half hours of class time each day.

Just as in Area II, all students at Governor's School participate in an Area III section. A workbook of readings, exercises, and activities will serve as a common resource. Likewise, a common syllabus

will create a degree of standardization across the Area III sections. Beyond this common core, each Area III instructor will be able to draw upon additional approved resources for classroom use.

Area III is designed to foster personal and social development. Focusing on application and real-world issues, students are encouraged to reflect and discuss their experiences by placing these experiences in broader social and political contexts. Students also will be encouraged to apply the experiences and the knowledge they acquire as part of Arkansas Governor's School to become active and engaged citizens of their communities, their state, and the nation.

Classroom activities will include personality assessments, autobiographical journaling, and group discussions centered on real-world challenges. For example, Area III curriculum will include exercises meant to help students understand the meaning of "community" and how communities form, grow, change, and persist. Students will be given exercises meant to help them to identify social issues in their communities and to engage in civil discourse/communication about those issues. Students will be given opportunities to develop their ability to listen to multiple viewpoints and to empathize with others, even those that may have opinions that differ from their own. Students will be encouraged to brainstorm on a variety of challenges they may find in their community, where discussions will be framed in a context that affords students the opportunity to understand the long-term intended and/or unintended consequences of such problems and proposed solutions for themselves and others. Students also will have opportunities to develop projects that engage their community, learning how to identify and use resources to raise awareness in the process.

Two of the impact movies and impact speakers will be chosen to fit the goals and objectives of Area III. All will seek to impart a grounded approach to problems and foster a sense of personal responsibility and responsibility to others. Through topical, hands-on thinking, engagement, and curiosity, students will explore the challenges and benefits of modern society. Students will learn how to engage in civil discourse and rational debate, how to responsibly navigate complex and controversial societal problems, and how to grow their own character, mental resilience, and compassion toward others.

The closing exercise of Area III is the "Social Change Project." Students will work in a small group and will identify a problem specific to their home communities. Their project will thus be tied to the overall AGS theme of "Arkansas." The group will propose a series of steps and actions that could relieve the problem, thus bringing about social change. On the last class day of AGS, all of the groups will present their projects at the Social Change Fair, with each group using a poster board to describe their problem and its proposed solutions. Students visit other groups at the fair, discussing their projects. An exercise in hopeful and creative thinking, the Social Change Project helps to develop each student's leadership potential. In effect, students will achieve a better understanding of who they are and how their lives intersect with others through the lens of social, economic, and political issues. Area III aims to prepare these future leaders and citizens with the knowledge and the drive to better understand themselves and their world — and change both for the better.

Describe the general plans for **comprehensive cultural and social events** (great lectures, concerts, dramatic productions, exhibits, forums, films, events, etc.) (5.02, 5.07).

Describe the general plans for comprehensive cultural and social events:

AGS at ATU will provide cultural and social events that integrate and expand on the learning in Area I, II, and III curricula. All Governor's School students will attend impact movie and impact speaker events each week. Some films and certainly some speakers will be chosen to support the unifying theme of Arkansas. Students will discuss the impact movies and impact speakers the following day in their Area II and III classes. An example of an impact movie ATU has shown while hosting AGS that fits this theme is *Time of Fear*, about a WWII Japanese internment camp in the Delta region of Arkansas. Recent impact speakers have been the executive directors of Arkansas Children's and of the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute.

“AGS Talks” will be presented six days a week over the course of the session. AGS faculty members offer these hour-long academic lectures and activities. Students choose from between two or three offered each day. Examples of these AGS Talks include: *A Brief History of Digital Art*, *Attitude Reflects Leadership*, *The Geology of Minecraft*, *Music Production as a Hobby*, *Review of Modern Board Games*, *The Psychology of Bias*, *Practicing Poetry writing*, and *Yoga*.

The AGS Activities Director organizes an enriching program outside of the scheduled classes, films, speakers, and AGS Talks. In the afternoon and evening hours students can participate in planned events like game night, trivia night, open mic, volleyball and ping pong tournaments, sidewalk chalk contest, and dances.

Students participate in small-group activities organized on each floor of the dorms. These are led by the RAs (resident assistants or camp counselors). The small-group program focuses on relationships and team-building activities. As the session progresses, the groups compete with one another in floor vs. floor or dorm vs. dorm contests.

A major aspect of Governor’s School is the wide array of clubs organized and led by the students. Students propose the clubs and, after gaining approval from the AGS staff, they recruit members and run their own meetings. Clubs that have been chartered during AGS at ATU in the past include *Dungeons & Dragons Club*, *Writing Club*, *Improv Club*, *Karaoke Club*, *Ping Pong Club*.

On Saturdays, students are encouraged to do one of the following: attend a field trip, participate in community service, or take in a weekend AGS Talk. Field trips for 400 students are complicated and costly. We’ve done them in the past and can do them in the future. They can also be local, limited in the number of participants, but repeated each weekend. Within walking distance or a short drive from campus are the Bona Dea Nature Preserve, Lake Dardanelle State Park, and the Dardanelle Lock and Dam Park. With regards to community service projects, we will ensure that certified hours will count towards the LEARNS Act requirement for community service.

The purpose of all of these activities is that a community develops at AGS both in and outside the classroom. The enrichment program prevalent throughout the day and on weekends will ensure that a strong community can blossom and flourish.

Describe general plans for **events in the school site community** (5.02, 5.07) (e.g. Opening Ceremony, Educators’ Day, Legislators’ Day, Ask the Governor, Family Day, Alumni Day, Closing Ceremony).

Describe general plans for events in the school site community:

Governor’s School at Arkansas Tech will continue to build on the program’s amazing relationships with Arkansas educators, legislators, alumni, and families of AGS students. Our opening and closing ceremonies highlight and celebrate the AGS experience. The opening events orient families to AGS and help set parent and student expectations. This will take place with both in attendance sitting next to one another so they can hear the same message and the parents can hold the students accountable. The closing events are coupled with student project fairs and the Arts Revue so parents can see what the students have been up to for the month.

We will host an Educator’s Day. On Educator’s Day, students invite an educator (teacher or counselor) who has made a difference in their life to come to campus and tour AGS. Educators are encouraged to attend class and to eat lunch with the student. We will provide the student with a thank you certificate for the educator. We plan to couple the Educator’s Day event with a workshop for school counselors to inform them about the AGS application process and their role in facilitating student applications in the upcoming year.

On Legislator’s Day, we will invite Arkansas legislators to tour the campus, learn about AGS, sit in on classes, and engage in open discussions with AGS students. A panel of active AGS students will meet with the legislators for a Q & A session.

The highlight of Governor's School each year is a visit by the current Governor of Arkansas. The Governor will be invited to speak at both the opening ceremony and at an "Ask the Governor" session near the end of the session. The Governor usually speaks to the impact that bright and passionate young people can have on the state and answers questions submitted directly by AGS students. Our intent is to have the Governor attend AGS on a day coinciding with Educator's Day and Legislator's Day, when feasible.

Each year, Governor's School invites previous cohorts back to campus for Alumni Day. Alumni/ae gather on a Saturday at an opening meet-and-greet, followed by the annual Alumni Speaker, a presentation on the current AGS program by the staff and the RAs, and opportunities to mingle with students and faculty throughout the day. The Alumni Speaker is an AGS alumnus/a who speaks about the program's impact on their life. Most of the attendees are recent AGS alumni and we use that as an occasion to encourage them to apply to be RAs in upcoming years.

Lastly, a College Fair featuring colleges and universities from Arkansas and surrounding states will be coordinated each year.

Provide a proposed program schedule that demonstrates how the host institution will structure the daily and weekly schedules for the duration of the proposed program (full 4 or 6-weeks schedule) to maximize the time students spend engaged in program activities (13.08).

Provide the proposed schedule (full 4 or 6-weeks schedule):

[AGS 2025-2027 Model Schedule](#)

D. Office Operations (13.08)

Describe staff, facilities, and services that will be utilized for a minimum of part-time office operations (13.08)

Note: A comprehensive operations plan should include:

- maintaining a year-round Governor's School identity,
- recruiting students and faculty for AGS,
- hosting and managing an online student application system,
- communicating with parents/guardians and schools, and
- delivering data and reports to the DESE.

Staff: Year-round staff include AGS Director, Coordinators for Area I, II, III, IV, and administrative consultant. The director oversees all AGS administration including but not limited to managing the budget; database management of student information during the application process, student selection, and throughout Governor's School; faculty hiring and training; and coordinating contracts for services. The director and coordinators will recruit students in the fall, faculty over the winter, select students and faculty in the spring, guide faculty in developing curriculum as well as train faculty and residential life staff in the early summer, and work with university personnel to prepare the campus for Governor's School. The administrative consultant is responsible for managing communication to and from AGS with regards to the website, email, mail, and phone calls throughout the year and during the session. Further duties include populating student information in the database, managing contracts and budget requisitions, and communicating with school and district contacts during the student application process.

Facilities: The AGS office is a two-room office located in McEver Hall, room 104. As a professor at ATU, the director has an academic office elsewhere on campus. The McEver office space is dedicated to Governor's School. The two-room layout provides a front room that is open and

welcoming to students, faculty and guests, while the back room provides a space more appropriate for small group meetings or one-on-one meetings.

During the session, RAs staff two rooms in Baswell Techionery (“Baz Tech”) that serve as a central hub for the RAs to contact staff members, check students in and out, check equipment in and out, act as a general help desk, and for faculty to store and organize their teaching materials. The Baz Tech rooms also offer students and faculty access to copying and printing equipment, computers, and other needed supplies for instruction or AGS coordination throughout the session.

Services: ATU has strongly supported Governor’s School in the last five years and that will continue. The Office of Information Systems created, maintains, and updates the online application system as well as the student information database. They provide general support services for students and faculty while in-session from setting up and accessing courses in Blackboard to maintaining classroom technology equipment. Classroom and facility support is provided by the Office of Academic Affairs for instructional needs, office supplies, course releases for the director, and temporary staff assistance. The Student Services Office manages the residential halls, provides security for the campus, health resources for students, and spaces for social events and recreation. AGS is helped with press releases, photography, marketing design, and advertisements by the Office of Marketing and Communication (MARCOMM). The AGS website is located within the larger ATU website, which is managed by MARCOMM. Direct maintenance of the AGS website is performed by the AGS director and administrative consultant.

Relationship with DESE: The AGS director has chief responsibility for working with the staff at DESE. The key areas of cooperation are: student recruitment, applications and selection; faculty recruitment and selection; curriculum development and approval; and program assessment, including budget reports, performance reviews, and annual overall report.

Arkansas Tech University contributes meaningful and necessary resources to Governor’s School: personnel, logistic, financial, and moral support. ATU is proud to host AGS. A short list of all major offices and programs that offer a significant contribution speaks to ATU’s commitment as a host site and our commitment to continue hosting AGS: Academic Affairs, Residence Life, Food Service, Student Services, Public Safety, Health and Wellness Center, Information Services, Human Resources, Grants and Budget, Finance, STEM College, Music Department, and Facilities Management.

E. Staff Development (11.00, 13.08)

Describe the faculty/staff development activities planned for all faculty/staff members (13.08).

Note: *Professional learning for all faculty and staff should include the following topics:*

- philosophy and intent of AGS,
- characteristics and needs of gifted students,
- curriculum and teaching strategies for high ability learners,
- curriculum planning and collaboration,
- AGS procedures (including student attendance and safety protocols), and
- expectations of AGS faculty, students, and staff.

*A representative of the Department will participate in faculty/staff training activities (11.00).

Orientation and training for all faculty will occur prior to the beginning of the AGS session. Online sessions will be held in the spring in advance of curriculum preparation. The Area coordinators will work with individual faculty to ensure that syllabi and curriculum meet ADE rules and state law. Coordinators will work with faculty in the larger academic disciplines (natural sciences, social sciences) and in Areas II and III to coordinate curriculum and common syllabi. Closer to the start of

the AGS session, faculty will meet and will be reminded of the history, philosophy and intent of AGS, the distinctive needs of gifted students, and will review strategies for teaching high-ability learners. At this meeting, faculty will be instructed as to AGS procedures on student attendance, safety protocols, and other AGS expectations and regulations. Representatives from ADE and DESE will be invited to both the online training and the on-site meeting. During Governor's School, all the faculty will meet once a week to discuss upcoming events and any issues that have arisen. In addition, the Area coordinators will meet once a week with their Area faculty to address course-related issues.

The Resident Assistants (historically also known as counselors) play a crucial role for the success of Governor's School. They live on the dormitory floors with the students, have contacts with students throughout the day, and often are the first line of contact and support for the students with regards to health, stress, loneliness, homesickness, and relations with other students. Most of the RAs are college students, a few may be graduate students, and many of them attended AGS when they were rising high-school seniors. The RAs are led by the Area IV coordinator and by the two assistant resident directors, one for the boys' dorm and one for the girls' dorm. The assistant resident directors are college students who have worked as RAs in a previous AGS session. The RAs participate in a week-long training just prior to the start of AGS, led by members of ATU's Residential Life staff, the AGS Area IV coordinator, and the AGS assistant resident directors. The focus of this training is the expectations and rules presented in the Governor's School Student Handbook as well as basic safety training and housing procedures.

All faculty and staff will undergo training as mandatory reporters and will participate in a Title IX workshop.

F. Food Services (13.02, 13.08, 14.03)

Describe the plan to provide food services. This must include food services for 400 students (including three meals a day, seven days a week for the duration of the school). Food services may also include guests, faculty, staff, special meals, and refreshments for special events (13.02, 13.08, 14.03).

Chambers Cafeteria is open Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and 10:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on weekends. During the AGS session, the weekend schedule will be modified to accommodate AGS needs. All AGS students, faculty, and staff will have breakfast, lunch, and dinner available in the cafeteria. The cafeteria has sufficient capacity to seat and feed all AGS participants in the time scheduled for meals between classes. Students can eat in the cafeteria or prepare a box to go.

Students can report a need for food accommodations prior to attending AGS, and these needs will be coordinated with the chef and cooks in the cafeteria. Additionally, ingredient lists are posted beside each dish to inform students of nutrient information as well as warn of allergen and pertinent accommodations.

The cafeteria has two attached dining spaces for private meetings. These are available for groups visiting campus on special-event days as well as faculty and staff meetings during mealtime.

G. Library (13.04, 13.08)

Describe how the institution plans to employ librarians and library assistants as needed to provide adequate services and make its total library collection available for the duration of the school (13.04, 13.08).

The Ross Pendergraft Library and Technology Center is open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The library is open and its collections and services are available to all Arkansas Governor's School students, faculty, and staff.



Students will have access on campus to the library's electronic collections, including databases, ebooks, streaming videos, and electronic journals. They will also have limited borrowing privileges for the library's physical collections, which include over 160,000 books in the open stacks, along with smaller, specialized collections for reference, musical scores, youth, young adult fiction, and popular reading. AGS students will also be able to borrow from the library's collection of music CDs, audiobooks, and board games, along with

additional access to the library's extensive DVD collection of educational documentaries, feature-length films, television series, recorded performances, and impact movies when available.

The Ross Pendergraft Library and Technology Center includes study rooms, classroom spaces, an audio recording studio, a music lab, several computer labs, as well as printers, scanners, and photocopiers. The library employs seven professional full-time librarians, eight full-time paraprofessional staff, and numerous part-time and student workers who are available to provide knowledgeable and friendly assistance to all students, faculty, and staff at Arkansas Governor's School. Students and faculty will be able to request research assistance from any of the professional librarians through chat, email, text, phone, or by visiting any one of the service desks for the duration of the program.

H. Dormitories (13.03, 13.08)

Provide details regarding the separate air-conditioned dormitory spaces being made available for male and female students plus appropriate space for dormitory counselors and faculty (13.03, 13.08).



Governor's School at ATU will utilize two separate dormitories — one for females, one for males. Both dormitories are completely furnished, air conditioned, and both are less than 15 years old. Nutt Hall is a five-story residence hall that can hold approximately 330 residents. The hall has 122 double rooms that can be utilized by the AGS students. There is wired and wireless internet in each room. Suite-style bathrooms are available for residents. M Street Hall is a five-story residence hall that houses 290 students at Arkansas Tech. The hall offers 135 double rooms that can be

utilized by AGS students. There is wired and wireless internet in each room. Residents are able to enjoy semi-private bathrooms. Both dormitories have common spaces in the lobbies and on each floor, laundry facilities, and both require an AGS issued ID card for entry. Each residence hall will be staffed with one ATU residence life staff member, one AGS Assistant Resident Director, and around

10 Resident Assistants depending on student numbers. The RAs/counselors reside on the same floors as the students. We maintain a ratio of at least one residential staff member for every 20 students.

Housing for faculty will be available at the apartment-style University Commons dorms. They are air-conditioned and fully furnished. Each faculty member will have a private bedroom. Each apartment has two bathrooms, a kitchenette, a washer and dryer, and a common living room.

I. General Facilities (13.05, 13.08)

Describe the facilities being provided and made available by the institution during Governor's School including classrooms, laboratories, art and music studios, an auditorium, a theater, offices and other instructional and administrative facilities (13.05, 13.08).

Classrooms: ATU has numerous classroom buildings. All classrooms are internet connected and most classroom spaces have audio-visual projection capabilities. Area I classes will be held in McEver Hall (sciences and laboratories), Norman Hall (visual art), Witherspoon Hall (both music classes), the Techionary black box theater (drama), Corley Hall (computer science), as well as Brown and Rothwell Halls (general classrooms for social science, English/language arts, and mathematics). Most Area II and Area III classes will take place in two four-story buildings, Brown and Rothwell Halls, that are next to one another, and thus suitable for the afternoon course rotation. The largest classrooms in several buildings will be reserved for AGS Talks so that a large number of students can attend.

Laboratories: ATU has a number of laboratory spaces specifically designed for modern instruction, safety, and best practices. AGS will use science, engineering, and computer science labs in McEver and Corley Halls. Half of the labs in McEver were fully renovated and modernized in 2023.

Studios (art and music): ATU has entire buildings devoted to art and music, studio and performance space. Witherspoon has a band room, a choir room, multiple practice rooms with pianos, a recording studio, and a large auditorium. Norman has studio space for painting, sculpture, ceramics, print-making, graphic design, and digital art design.

Theater/Auditorium: Witherspoon Auditorium is the largest gathering space on campus, with a capacity of well over 500. It is used by AGS for films, guest speakers, the talent show and revue, musical performances, and large meetings. The Techionary houses the ATU black box theater, a smaller space devoted to drama and theater arts, which seats 200.

Additional Spaces: Hull Student Union is a large gathering space indoors that can be used for a variety of activities. The room can be rearranged and repurposed for the need of the day. It can hold the entire student and staff population of Governor's School. In the past, AGS has used Hull Student Union for planned afternoon and evening events, especially student social activities. Tucker Coliseum hosts the opening and closing ceremonies at AGS. It is ATU's basketball arena, with a seating capacity of 6000 and a floor capacity of 800. ATU's outdoor spaces include seats and tables around buildings, sunny and tree-shaded green lawns, sand volleyball courts, basketball court, pickleball court, a hammock grove, and a fire pit.

J. Recreational Facilities (7.00, 13.06, 13.08)

A well-rounded program of athletic activities will be planned as a part of the total school program. Participation will be on a volunteer basis (7.00).

Provide a description of recreational facilities (tennis courts, gymnasium, playing fields, etc.) that will be made available to students (13.06, 13.08). Outline planned recreational activities (7.00).

Recreational Facilities available to Governor's School students:

Arkansas Tech is currently in the process of building a new Student Union and Recreation Center at the heart of the campus. Its expected date of completion is 2026. It will include a fitness center, space for group fitness classes, two multi-purpose basketball courts, a gaming lounge for e-sport activities, hang-out spaces, large meeting rooms and a food court. When it is completed, AGS will be able to use all of its space. Students will have access to it for fitness, recreational and club activities.

<https://www.atu.edu/studentunion/future.php>

On campus, Arkansas Tech has eight tennis courts, two outdoor sand volleyball courts, basketball courts, and a pickleball court. All of them are available for AGS student use.

The Hull Building will be a center for student activity. It houses the Hull Student Union, sports facilities, and Tech Fit, a student fitness center. The Union is a large space with ping-pong tables, a billiards table, arcade games, and a stage. The room is large enough to hold all AGS students and staff for meetings and for daily programmed recreational activities. The space opens onto a large outdoor patio with a fire pit and outdoor seating. Athletic facilities in the Hull Building include three basketball courts and four racquetball courts. The basketball courts also have floor markings for volleyball, tennis, and badminton. Finally, the Hull Building houses Tech Fit, a fitness center with a variety of aerobic and weight-training equipment. Tech Fit is available for use by all AGS participants and is staffed by Tech Fit personnel during open hours.

Planned Recreational Activities:

The AGS social activities director plans an abundance of recreational activities including residential floor competitions, field days, sports tournaments, dance lessons and social dances, yoga, and more. Every year, AGS also develops clubs based on student and faculty interest. Several clubs offer recreational activities that range in focus from jogging, martial arts, ping-pong to sand volleyball and pickleball.

K. Maintenance and Security (13.06, 13.08)

Explain the plan for maintenance (including custodians) and security (13.06, 13.08). Describe student attendance and safety protocols, including prevention strategies and emergency response plans that will be established and maintained in order to ensure campus security and student safety for the duration of the program (A.C.A. § 6-15-1303).

Arkansas Tech Facilities Management oversees custodial services, building repairs, issuing keys, and landscaping. The building maintenance office in Facilities Management coordinates all service and repairs for the residential, instructional, and activity buildings used by Governor's School.

The Arkansas Tech Department of Public Safety provides campus safety and security 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Public Safety employs full-time certified law enforcement officers with the same authority as any state, county, or local law enforcement agency. Public Safety also includes the Office of Emergency Management. As such, it is responsible for emergency planning and

preparedness, as well as emergency alerts. For minor alerts such as warning students about weather, the director can reach out to students via the course management system (Blackboard). Students enrolled in AGS will also be broadcast messages by Public Safety in case of an immediate campus emergency. Public safety maintains parking lots, university traffic, as well as university, local, state, and federal rules and regulations. All reported crimes on campus are investigated by Public Safety.

Most academic and administrative buildings on campus are locked after 5:00 p.m. Buildings used by AGS for films, speakers, social events and clubs will be open later as needed. Even beyond these hours, students can be given keycard access to academic buildings in special cases. Residence halls are always locked, and can be entered by students with keycard access. Students have a 10:00 p.m. curfew, at which time they must be in their residence hall. A bed check follows around 11:00 p.m. to ensure that all students are accounted for. During the day, roll is checked by faculty at all three class meetings. The roll sheets are monitored by the director three times a day to best keep track of all students throughout the day.

L. Health Services (13.08)

Describe the health services being made available to participants (13.08).

Note: *Mental and physical health should be addressed. Include procedures for monitoring and follow up when students present health related concerns.*

The Arkansas Tech University Health and Wellness Center (HWC) is open during regular operating hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) Monday through Friday. The HWC provides a broad range of physical and mental health services. The staff, currently eleven persons, includes APRNs, RNs, licensed professional counselors, and wellness case managers. The same services are available for AGS students as for ATU students. Services are not offered at the HWC after hours or on weekends.

The staff at the HWC collaborate with local physicians and make referrals. St. Mary's Regional Hospital is two miles from the campus, offering emergency services.

The Health and Wellness Center offers a broad range of services, here are only a few: treatment of minor illnesses and injuries, allergy shots ordered by private physician, prescriptions (to be filled off-campus), blood pressure monitoring, loan of medical assistance devices such as crutches and wheelchair, wellness outreach and education, and laboratory tests as needed for medical treatment. The Center also has mental health counselors available on staff.

The process for monitoring student health is as follows:

Health forms are issued to parents/guardians at check-in and, after those forms are returned, they are kept at the Health Center for the duration of the session. Students may receive over the counter medication from a nurse and obtain a prescription from the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse with parental permission. If prescriptions are warranted, the parent or guardian will be notified.

Students who feel sick or in need of care should report to an RA. If conditions persist, the RA will report to the assistant resident director and the student will be escorted to the Health and Wellness Center. If the condition is deemed serious enough, parents/guardians will be contacted. Parents may be asked to pick up their student. The HWC staff can also make a referral or advise that the student be brought to the local hospital. When the HWC is closed, the residence life staff will contact parents when the condition becomes serious and, if warranted will notify local emergency medical personnel. The director and Area IV coordinator may take a student to the hospital or urgent care, and will also notify parents. Emergency medical services will be contacted and come to campus for

an immediate emergency, while in a non-emergency situation, a parent/guardian picks up their student and takes over care.

M. Student Rules of Conduct (13.08)

Include the detailed rules of conduct (13.08).

Describe disciplinary procedures and, if applicable, key elements of a student handbook.

We include here several pages from the current Governor's School Student Handbook which address general expectations, rules, regulations, norms of behavior, and disciplinary procedures.

AGS General Information

You are about to embark on the experience of a lifetime. Arkansas Governor's School is a four-week residential summer program for approximately 400 gifted and talented rising high-school seniors in Arkansas. Living in the residence hall will mean becoming part of a close-knit community, where you will share opportunities and experiences.

The purpose of Governor's School is to give students, who will be future leaders in the state and nation, a challenging opportunity to experience 20th and 21st century theories for the interpretation of facts. The goal of AGS is to provide students with a contemporary curriculum in the three areas of (1) Academics and Arts, (2) General Conceptual Development, and (3) Personal and Social Development. The available courses will explore our society's development and possible future developments. The needs of communities and the benefits of technology will be discussed along with the challenges and ethical dilemmas we all face. Classroom activities will be collaborative and project-based, having students put the information into broader social and political contexts.

Our program embraces the idea that learning is not a passive experience. Our expectations are that you will embrace our challenge of excellence and accept the responsibility for your own learning by coming to this program with the determination to do your best. We also expect you to help us maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning and personal growth. This requires you, as an AGS participant, to take on some of the responsibilities that will ensure that this summer is productive. This booklet contains details about program activities and policies for students and staff to follow.

Governor's School Main Office:

BazTech 202

Arkansas Tech University
Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 pm
Saturday & Sunday: 10:00 am – 9:00 pm
Email: ags@atu.edu
Web: www.atu.edu/ags

Emergency Phone: Arkansas Tech University Department of Public Safety: 479-968-0222

(This number patches the caller into the campus public safety radio network, and is strictly for “life or death” emergencies. Arkansas Tech Public Safety Officers can neither take after-hour messages for the AGS office nor pass on messages to AGS students, faculty, or staff.)

**If an emergency situation occurs, call
911.**

Student Rights and Responsibilities

As a participant in Arkansas Governor’s School, there are certain rights that you as a student possess. Likewise, students also have responsibilities. Our expectations are outlined below.

Student Rights:

- The opportunity to pursue an education
- A safe and secure environment
- Freedom of speech and expression
- Protection from unreasonable search and seizure
- A reasonable degree of privacy
- Freedom of religion and culture
- Freedom from discrimination
- Freedom from unreasonable noise and intrusions

Student Responsibilities:

- To actively pursue an education
- Recognize the right of the University to maintain the health, safety, and welfare of the students
- Respect others’ freedom of expression
- Practice self-discipline and respect while expressing yourself
- Respect the rights of others
- Attend program activities punctually and alertly
- Comply with reasonable requests made by staff



No student will be allowed to act in such a way that infringes upon the rights, privileges, health, or safety of other persons.

The following specific rules govern and partly define the AGS community. Please be sure that you fully understand them in letter and spirit. In case of rules violations and their resolution: Each case will be handled individually, and parents or guardians will be informed of any escalated disciplinary action. Additionally, parents or guardians will be notified of their students' multiple rules violations over the course of the AGS session if AGS staff is considering dismissing a student and prior to actual dismissal.

- Hazing in any form is prohibited and will be reported. If it is determined that hazing has occurred, it will result in immediate dismissal from the AGS program. Hazing can be defined as any action or situation, with or without consent of the participants, which recklessly, intentionally or unintentionally endangers the mental, physical or academic health or safety of a student or property.
- Any form of sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault and sexual harassment, is prohibited and will lead to automatic dismissal from the AGS program. Sexual misconduct is any unwelcome sexual behavior that is committed without consent or by force, intimidation, coercion, or manipulation. Sexual misconduct can be committed by a person of any gender, and it can occur between people of the same or different gender.
- Any form of retaliation is prohibited and will lead to automatic dismissal from the AGS program. Retaliation means any adverse action threatened or taken against a person because he or she has filed, supported, or provided information in connection with a complaint of hazing or sexual misconduct.
- Physical or verbal assault while participating in or attending functions sponsored by the AGS Program is prohibited.
- No student is permitted to use or possess alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, tobacco products, vapors, or prescription drugs not

approved by the AGS office. Parents will be notified and violators will be sent home immediately.

- Possession of any potentially destructive weapons such as guns, knives, etc., is prohibited.
- Students are to conduct themselves in an orderly manner. This includes refraining from excessive and unnecessary noisiness (loud talking, yelling, and laughing, etc.). Rude, discourteous behavior or using profanity toward staff persons or other students will not be permitted.
- Activities or actions that promote or suggest sexual intimacy will not be permitted. The AGS staff will judge students' behavior and deal with it accordingly. As an AGS participant, you are requested to immediately discontinue any actions that a staff member or counselor sees as offensive or out of order. Disciplinary actions will be taken when appropriate.
- Students may not bring or use bicycles, skateboards, roller-skates, or rollerblades on campus.
- Students are expected to attend all AGS functions unless otherwise excused by AGS staff.
- Students are not allowed in areas deemed "off-campus" without authorization. Students are expected to stay on campus for the entire length of the summer program. Only facilities authorized for use by AGS are considered "on-campus".
- Gambling on campus property or on program-sponsored activities is forbidden.



- No student shall take or attempt to take or keep items belonging to the University, AGS, or any of its participants or guests.
- Any damage to University property will be paid for by the student or his/her parents.
- Computer/internet usage: AGS makes use of one official platform to communicate and enhance the student experience at AGS: Blackboard. AGS is not responsible for activities and communications on unsupported platforms; however, student conduct rules apply to AGS students regardless of the mode of communication or university platform support.
- Harassment of others on social media is strictly prohibited. This involves, but is not limited to, sending unwanted or obscene pictures, messages or files, interfering with the work of another

person, sending abusive or obscene messages, using computers and printers to generate offensive media (examples: flyers, posters, e-mail, instant messages, etc...). Time-consuming recreational computer/internet use (Facebook, Instagram, X/Twitter, Snap Chat, and other social media) at inappropriate times is also not permitted.

- Illegal downloading of music, programs, movies, etc. while on campus is strictly prohibited.
- Participation in ANY ILLEGAL activities (on or off-campus) including, but not limited to, use of tobacco products on campus, the use or the intended use of a weapon, use or possession of illegal substance, or violent behavior which threatens the safety of any person will automatically result in program dismissal.
- Students are expected to stay in the pre-approved areas for after-hours gatherings.

If any of these rules are broken, the student will face disciplinary action and may immediately be dismissed from the AGS program.

Important Information

Attendance – Each student is required to attend classes, programs, special events, and all other activities specified as required by AGS. If, for any reason, a student does not attend a class or scheduled activity, their name will be forwarded to the AGS program director. Lack of class attendance will lead to disciplinary action and possible dismissal from the program.

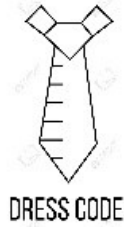
Tardiness – All students are expected to be on time for all classes and events. Any student who is consistently late will be referred to the AGS program director.

Classroom disruption – Disruption of classroom activities will not be tolerated. All incidents will be reported to the AGS program director.

Rooms – Residence hall rooms are shared by two to three students. Each resident is provided with 1 loft extra-long twin bed, closet area, desk, desk chair, and chest of drawers. You must provide your own sheets, pillows, and blanket for a twin-XL size bed.

Meals – Meals are provided at Chambers Cafeteria. Your AGS ID card will be used to access the cafeteria. You will be able to choose from a variety of meal selections that adhere to the USDA summer food

program to assure nutritionally balanced meals. Pay attention to signage in the cafeteria if you have applied for food accommodations. Students are free to bring food from home to keep in residence hall rooms. Students may bring refrigerators.



Dress Code – Student attire and grooming must permit the student to participate in learning without posing a risk to the health or safety of any student or AGS personnel. You may be asked to change, by a staff member, if your clothing is deemed to be inappropriate.

- Students must wear clothing including both a shirt with pants or skirt, or the equivalent (for example dresses, leggings, or shorts) and shoes.
- When the body is standing straight, clothing must cover the chest, back, torso, stomach, and lower extremities from armpit to armpit to mid-thigh. Tops must have a strap and at no time may any part of a student's buttocks be exposed.
- Clothing must cover all undergarments. No underwear or undergarments may be visible at any time. Clothing may not be see-through.
- Students must wear shoes or sandals during scheduled activities.

Clothing – Pack comfortable, casual clothes. You should expect the weather to be variable so please be prepared. AGS students will have access to laundry facilities. Please bring your own hangers.

Toiletries – Toiletries will not be provided so please make arrangements for your own personal hygiene products, bath towels and washcloths.

Laundry – Students are responsible for their own laundry. Laundry facilities are available in each residence hall. Students will need to bring their own laundry soap.

Do Not Bring – cooking appliances, weightlifting equipment, skateboards, bikes, roller blades, scooters, pocketknives, firearms, fireworks, alcohol, tobacco products, or any illegal substance.

Electronic Devices – Students may bring laptop computers and other electronic devices. AGS is not responsible for damages to or loss of

these items. Computers are available in the library and in some classrooms.

Cell phones/portable media players – Cell phones and portable media players are allowed at AGS, but students are encouraged to limit their usage. The development of relationships with other students at AGS is an important component of the program. Spending too much time on your phone or computer inhibits your ability to meet new people. Cell phones or computers may be used in classrooms only with the explicit consent of the instructor. Any violation of this rule could result in referral to the program director.



Health services – Medical services will be available to all AGS students at the Health and Wellness Center on campus. The Health and Wellness Center is located in Doc Bryan Student Services Center Suite 119 across from the lecture hall. Hours are Monday – Friday, 8 am to 5 pm. They can be contacted by phone at 479-968-0329. Appointments can be scheduled online at <https://atu.medicatconnect.com/>. Students must present their AGS ID card and indicate that they are an AGS student when reporting for services.

Honor – Stealing, lying, or cheating under any circumstances may result in immediate dismissal. Failure to inform AGS staff about others' rule violations, or to cooperate with AGS staff investigating suspected rule violations, may result in immediate dismissal.

AGS ID cards – Upon arrival, students will receive an official AGS ID card with lanyard. These must be worn at all times, unless instructed otherwise. ID cards are required for admittance into the student's residence hall and the dining hall. There is a \$25.00 charge for lost ID cards.

Instructors and residential staff – Our instructors come from a variety of educational backgrounds. They may be public school educators, college faculty, guidance counselors, or AGS staff. They will guide you through the academic curriculum. Our residential staff will be college graduates or undergraduate college students.

Library – Students may use the library for study, research, and recreational reading. Students are allowed to check items out from the library. All items must be returned before check-out. Computers, with internet access, are available for use also, as they are an integral part of the academic day and are useful in developing presentations, writing research papers, and gathering information.

Visitors – Visiting Hours are Sundays, 8:00 am – 6:00 pm. Visitors must sign in at the residence hall of the student they are visiting. Visitors are not allowed in residence hall rooms. Visitors may not use campus computers or recreation equipment or facilities. Before departing, visitors must sign out. These are important security measures—visitors who violate these policies may cause the student they are visiting to be dismissed from the program.

Sunday Leave – Students may sign out of the residence hall and leave the campus on Sundays between 8:00 am and 6:00 pm with a family member or a person listed on the “List of Approved Persons Allowed to Check Student Out of AGS” from the student forms previously signed by family members. Additional names may be added after the session begins. However, the AGS office must be notified by **3:00 pm on Friday prior to that Sunday** or the new names cannot be added to the student’s list for that weekend. **Email requests must include a scanned driver’s license of the parent or guardian.** Transportation will be provided for a limited option of religious services. Students will be dropped off and then picked up from the services. Parental permission in the form of a signed note will be required and students must sign up for transportation.

Zero tolerance policy – Students found involved in any hazing, sexual or illegal activities will be dismissed from the program with no previous warning. Students who are caught with any illegal substance (alcohol, tobacco, vaping, etc...) will be dismissed from the program with no previous warning.



Residence Hall Regulations

- Students are not allowed to enter any residence hall other than the one assigned to them. With the exception of check-in and check-out, no visitors are permitted in students' room at any time. If this rule is violated, students may be sent home immediately.
- Announced or unannounced room inspections may be made periodically to ensure that cleanliness and care is exercised. The following items should be dealt with prior to the inspection (though routine cleanliness will eliminate the need): trash, unclean clothing, and items that produce undesirable odors!
- No candles, incense, open flame or open coil appliances are allowed in the residence halls.
- Students are not to throw trash or other debris in hallways, lounges, bathroom facilities, on stairways, or out of the windows. Trash must go into proper disposal units available at the end of each hall.
- Residents of a hall are jointly responsible for damage to public areas and each participant will be charged a share of the repair costs, should it be necessary.
- Students are to remain reasonably quiet in the residence hall and to respect the privacy and rights of other students. Should there be a problem, the student should report the incident immediately to an RA. All incident reports will be turned in to the appropriate supervisor for further investigation.
- Students and staff members are expected to respect the privacy of others and work together in making the living experience enjoyable.

- Students are to occupy only the room to which they have been assigned.
 - Roommates will be assigned by the AGS staff.
 - Never loan your building swipe card to another student who has lost theirs.
 - Lost swipe cards should be reported immediately.
 - Never let anyone into the residence hall using your swipe card. If someone, who is not an AGS participant, seeks entrance, you should contact one of the residential staff members.
 - Never leave rooms unlocked.
 - Do not play with fire extinguishers.
 - Do not pull fire alarms – this is a criminal act!
 - Do not overload electrical outlets. Bring a surge protector.
 - Prepare for emergency exiting in advance.
 - Do not play with electrical panel switches.
 - Do contact residential staff regarding any emergencies or suspicious activity.
 - Never leave personal belongings unattended. The responsibility for personal belongings cannot be assumed by the program. Students are urged to exercise good judgment and caution in securing their personal belongings.
 - Acts of disrespect to instructors, staff, and fellow students will not be tolerated. Violations will be grounds for disciplinary action or dismissal.
-

AGS Leave Policy

Arkansas Governor's School is state funded, highly competitive, and invested in fostering a very strong sense of community among its participants. Therefore, it is inappropriate for students who have accepted a place at AGS to take temporary leaves from the program. Time away from the program has a detrimental effect on student participation, both for the individual and for the Governor's School community at large. We know that gifted and talented students will have many quality opportunities during the summer. Although we hope that students invited to attend AGS will accept our invitation to attend for the full four weeks, we understand that other choices are available and difficult decisions must be made. For students desiring to take advantage of other opportunities that coincide with AGS, students should decline the AGS invitation which will allow another student to be invited to benefit from the entire program.

Students are expected to participate in all classes and activities. Failure to participate will result in removal from the program. Temporary leaves will be granted for certain situations and only these situations. Requests for special leaves of absence, except in the case of emergencies, must be made in writing at least one (1) week in advance and include explicit justification for the leave. Documentation may be requested to verify listed justification. A leave may be granted for the following situations:

- personal or family emergencies
- medical reasons
- weddings of immediate family members

Exceptions:

- Students are allowed to be checked out by an authorized person and leave campus on Sundays from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm.
- In addition, students are allowed to be checked out by an authorized person and leave campus for **one** 24-hour period during the session. This is intended to give students a chance to participate in important senior year activities such as senior pictures, etc.

Please note:

- Requests for a leave of absence or a 24-hour leave must be submitted by email to ags@atu.edu at least one week in advance. It is not necessary to request permission to leave campus on Sundays (8 am to 6 pm).
- The student cannot miss more than 2 class days. (Leaves granted for medical reasons may not exceed a total of five (5) class days.)
- The leave cannot be during the first 3 days or the last 3 days of the program.
- No student may be granted more than one leave of absence.
- While taking the ACT is an important activity, there are many opportunities to take it throughout the year. There is only one opportunity to attend AGS. We **strongly** recommend that students do not miss AGS activities to take the ACT in July.
- Athletic practices and competitions, dance/cheerleading practices and auditions, and band practices are examples that do not qualify for a leave of absence but would qualify for a 24-hour leave.

N. Annual Program Evaluation (12.00)

Include the program evaluation plan.

Note: *The program evaluation plan includes:*

- a description of how data will be collected from all program stakeholders, including students, faculty, staff, and families, and
- affirmation that a detailed summary or syllabus of Area I, Area II, and Area III activities including specific works read will be included in the evaluation summary (12.00).

When students apply to Governor's School, they submit student records, demographic information, and family information. They submit health forms, and parents submit various permission forms. All of these forms and data are either stored in our databases or physically stored in the AGS office. Faculty and staff submit application information and other materials necessary for the hiring process. Some of this information is collected and held by the campus offices of human resources and payroll, other data by the Arkansas Department of Education, and some by the AGS office. In all of these processes, we follow best practices as established by Arkansas Tech in its own hiring, enrollment, payroll, and health information data management.

We do use student data to determine regions and school districts in the state to which we need to focus our recruitment. We use demographic data to draw a portrait of the student body each year. Student data such as school, geographic, and demographic data can be ascertained in our managed database. These data are beneficial for creating our annual reports, which are used both for assessment but also for general presentations about the AGS program.

Governor's School is a non-graded environment. The effectiveness of the program will continue to be evaluated through student evaluations of courses, faculty, RAs, and the overall AGS program as well as qualitative evaluations of student outcomes (projects, completion). Faculty will also provide self-reflection assessments and evaluations of the overall AGS program.

Governor's School does have a set of program and learning objectives which are mapped onto various courses and other aspects of the AGS program.

Program Objectives/ Standards	Learning Objectives/ Outcome Assessment	Learning Environment	Means of Assessment
PO1: Personal Growth and Self-Awareness	LO1: Students will assess the value of their own individual life choices. LO2: Students will assess the value of others' individual life choices	Area III Small Groups Impact Speakers	Student post-AGS Surveys Student Projects Course completion
PO2: Critical Thinking and Problem Solving	LO1: Students will demonstrate advanced critical thinking skills.	Area I Area II Small Groups	Student post-AGS Surveys Student Projects Course completion
PO3: Integrated Learning	LO1: Students will make connections between a variety of ideas, activities, and disciplinary categories.	Area I Area III Small Groups 4:30/6:30 AGS Talks Impact Speakers	Student post-AGS Surveys Student Projects Course completion
PO4: Ethics	LO1: Students will develop ethical perspectives.	Area II	Student post-AGS Surveys Student Projects Course completion
PO5: Communication	LO1: Students will demonstrate an understanding of civil and logical debate.	Area II Small Groups	Student post-AGS Surveys Student Projects Course completion
PO6: Civic Engagement and Efficacy	LO1: Students will assess the value of their own and others' social choices LO2: Students will formulate plans to benefit their home communities.	Area III	Student post-AGS Surveys Student Projects Course completion

While preparing for a session and writing curriculum, student feedback will be reviewed by the director, coordinators, and faculty so that continual improvement can be achieved.

During the session, faculty will self-evaluate their effectiveness in the program and learning objectives. They will either do this individually, in their own academic or arts areas, or as a group during weekly faculty meetings.

Near the end of the session, students will evaluate their courses and instructors, their RAs, as well as the overarching program (films, speakers, social activities, dorms, cafeteria, overall goals). One key question will ask them to what degree AGS was beneficial in developing their educational and social abilities. We have used that question in the past to measure one of our performance goals. Scores will be produced from student feedback and comments will be collected, in order to inform preparations of the AGS program and curriculum for the next year as well as to serve as the basis for sections of the annual report and performance review.

Per ADE guidelines, AGS will provide a semi-annual and a final budget report for each session.

Since 2022, per legislation, AGS has submitted curriculum for review to the Arkansas Department of Education. This will continue in the future. We will submit syllabi for every academic and arts course, including material read, class exercises and activities, and works performed. For Areas II and III, we submit a common syllabus for each area as well as the resource manual, which includes readings, activities, and exercises. Staff persons at ADE review the curriculum and return it with suggestions for change and revision. We will follow that guidance in preparation of our final curriculum. Detailed descriptions of syllabi and curriculum will also appear in our annual report and performance review.

0. Proposed Budget (8.00, 14.00)

Make a copy of the [AGS 2025-2027 Proposed Budget](#) (14.03) and rename it as "AGS 2025-2027 Proposed Budget <Institution Name>."

IMPORTANT: Adjust the share settings to add Krystal.Nail@ade.arkansas.gov as a viewer. The budget will be saved and shared with the site selection committee.

Total budget must not exceed \$640,000 (four week program) or \$890,000 (six week program).

Budgets will include: Faculty and staff (salaries, housing, administrative cost, staff development planning); contracted services (consultant/speaker fees, consultant and speaker travel, travel and expenses for audition and selection teams, special meals); office management (equipment rental, telephone, printing and duplication, supplies, postage, insurance); instructional expenses (books, materials and supplies); equipment and building damage; publicity, media, audio-visual; student activities (social events, student directory, etc.); and contract with institution for student services and facilities (room and board and school medical services) (14.03).

Tuition, room and board, approved activities, fees, instructional supplies, books, and school medical services will be furnished for the students. Travel and personal expenses will be furnished by the student (8.00).

Link to Budget: [AGS 2025-2027 Proposed Budget Arkansas Tech University](#)

P. Additional Information

Include any additional information supporting or further defining the proposal. If links are included, adjust the share settings, as needed.

AGS at ATU Website: [Website](#)

AGS Faculty Handbook: [AGS 2023 Faculty Handbook](#)

ASSURANCES

By submitting this proposal your institution is aware of and agrees to the following:

1. The Governor's School is under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Education and the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education and falls under the immediate administration of the Program Director for the Office of Gifted and Talented Education (1.03).
2. Faculty Selection (6.00), Student Selection (10.00), Site Selection (13.00), and AGS operations will be in accordance with the [Rules Governing Arkansas Governor's School Site Selection](#) and other pertinent legislation.
3. Recruitment activities by the host campus may not be conducted during Arkansas Governor's School (13.10).
 - a. Recruitment activities, such as college fairs, are allowable if other institutions are also invited to participate.
4. An annual evaluation report must be submitted to the Department after the close of the school. This report must include a detailed summary or syllabus of Area I, Area II, and Area III including specific works read (12.00, 13.11) as well as data collected from all program stakeholders, including students, faculty, staff, and families.
5. Annual financial and performance reports will be submitted in accordance with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education grant requirements.
6. Site selection will be for a period of three years contingent upon successful annual evaluations (13.11).

Questions related to proposals may be directed to Krystal Nail, Program Coordinator, Office of Gifted and Talented and Advanced Placement, Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, Arkansas Department of Education, krystal.nail@ade.arkansas.gov, (501) 682-4224.