

ACT WorkKeys Curriculum, Assessment, and National Career Readiness Certificate®



Arkansas Department of Education
Division of Secondary and Elementary Education
Division of Career and Technical Education

National Career Readiness Certificate Available for Arkansas Students



Through the support of the 93rd General Assembly and the State Board of Education, Arkansas students can

- Have access to curricular support to develop workplace skills and
- Earn a ***nationally-recognized work readiness certificate*** before they graduate through the ACT WorkKeys assessment.



National Career Readiness Certificate Available for Arkansas Students (continued)

- The WorkKeys assessment measures:
 - the **essential work skills** needed for success in jobs across industries and occupations and
 - **represents work readiness** through the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC).
- The primary purpose of the NCRC is to provide students with a **workplace certification.**



Expectations of Every District

A public school district and open-enrollment public charter school that serves students **in grades 10-12** shall:

- administer a college and career readiness assessments that leads to a nationally-recognized work readiness certificate and
- provide the opportunity to have a single administration of the WorkKeys assessment (Applied Math, Graphic Literacy, and Workplace Documents) under the state contract.



Expectations of Every District (continued)

- Districts and schools have **the flexibility to determine the grade** in which students assess in order to provide students the greatest likelihood of success.
- The goal is for every student to **take both the grade 11 ACT and WorkKeys** assessments through the state's comprehensive assessment system.

Benefits of WorkKeys and the NCRC for Students



- The WorkKeys curriculum develops proficiency in skills that employers seek; this is communicated by the NCRC.
- The NCRC is a portable credential **with no expiration date**; it verifies to employers that a student possesses the workplace skills needed to be successful.
 - Bronze - indicates the skills required for 17% of ACT-profiled jobs
 - Silver - indicates the skills required for 69% of ACT-profiled jobs
 - Gold - indicates the skills required for 93% of ACT-profiled jobs
 - Platinum - indicates the skills required for 99% of ACT-profiled jobs



Benefits of WorkKeys and the NCRC for Students (continued)

- All students, college or career bound, benefit from WorkKeys by
 - Strengthening student success plans,
 - Graduating job ready,
 - Meeting pre-employment requirements, and
 - Obtaining higher paying positions with the NCRC.

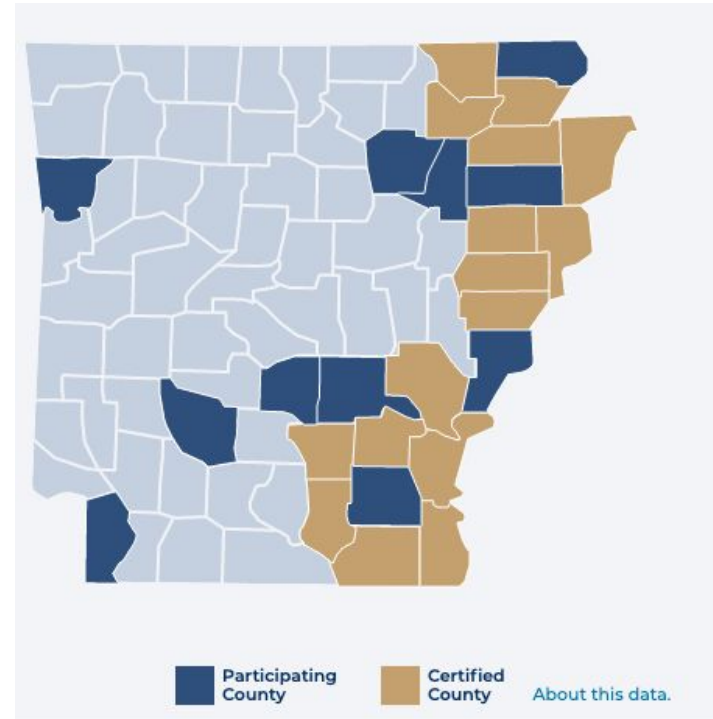


Benefits of the NCRC for a Community

There are 28 Arkansas counties that are participating in the Work Ready Communities program; 16 of these counties have achieved certified Work Ready Community status. The NCRC is a vital part of the process.

Almost **700 Arkansas employers** support their local Work Ready Community effort.

Partnership is strengthened between school districts and industries.



Work Ready Communities are those in which economic developers, employers, and educational institutions partner to determine skill gaps and use the WorkKeys assessment to help close the gaps.



Preparing Students for the Assessment

- ACT WorkKeys provides an online curriculum designed to prepare students for the assessment in the following areas:
 - Applied Math
 - Graphic Literacy
 - Workplace Documents
- Districts may create an intentional alignment of WorkKeys essential skills to existing course offerings.

Possible Delivery Options of ACT WorkKeys Curriculum and Assessment



Applied Math	Graphic Literacy	Workplace Documents
All CTE Courses	All CTE Courses	All CTE Courses
<i>College and Career Readiness</i> 493880 (.5 credit)	<i>College and Career Readiness</i> 493880 (.5 credit)	<i>College and Career Readiness</i> 493880 (.5 credit)
<i>Work Ready</i> 493910 (.5 credit)	<i>Work Ready</i> 493910 (.5 credit)	<i>Work Ready</i> 493910 (.5 credit)
<i>JAG Program</i>	<i>JAG Program</i>	<i>JAG Program</i>
<i>Advisory Period (full class period)</i>	<i>Advisory Period (full class period)</i>	<i>Advisory Period (full class period)</i>
<i>Student Enrichment</i>	<i>Student Enrichment</i>	<i>Student Enrichment</i>
<i>Technical Math for College and Career</i> 439130 (1 credit)	<i>Technical Math for College and Career</i> 439130 (1 credit)	<i>Critical Reading I</i> 419110 (1 credit)
	EAST I-V 560010, 560020, 560030, 560040, 560110	<i>Critical Reading II</i> 419120 (1 credit)
		<i>Reading and Writing for Business Professions</i> 418110 (.5 credit)
		<i>Reading and Writing for Trade and Industry Professions</i> 418220 (.5 credit)
		<i>Reading and Writing for STEM Professions</i> 418200 (.5 credit)



District Point of Contact

- The District Test Coordinator is the primary point of contact.
- The district may appoint someone to assist the DTC as the primary point of contact.

Testing Window

- Districts must provide an assessment and may locally designate the testing schedules within the timeframes below:
 - Fall - 9/13/21 to 12/15/21
 - Spring - 2/14/22 to 5/20/22



District Support and Training for Test Coordinators

- ADE, Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
- ADE, Division of Career and Technical Education

ACT Customer Care Phone Numbers for Assistance

- Curriculum: 1-877-842-6205
- WorkKeys: 1-800-967-5539