B. Smart Core Curriculum and Course of Study for the Class of 2025 and 2026

In order to ensure that every child has access to a rigorous curriculum, the Smart Core Curriculum and Core Curriculum will be standard components of the required course of study to graduate from Arkansas public schools.

All students are required to participate in the Smart Core curriculum unless their parents or guardians, or the students if they are eighteen (18) years of age or older, sign a Smart Core Waiver Form to not participate. Those students not participating in the Smart Core curriculum will be required to fulfill the Core curriculum or the Alternate Pathway to Graduation when required by their IEP to be eligible for graduation. Counseling by trained personnel shall be available to students and their parents or legal guardians prior to the deadline for them to sign and return the waiver form.

As parents, students, and the school collaboratively develop a unique Student Success Plan during a student's 8th grade year the specifics of both the Smart Core Curriculum and Core Curriculum will be explained. Parents will be provided the Smart Core Curriculum, as well as the option of waiving Smart Core and thus electing the Core Curriculum. When appropriate, these curricular provisions will be reviewed and revised through Grade 12.

Parents may be informed of their curricular choices through counselor meetings, parent teacher conferences, PTA, newsletters, student handbook, etc.

Parents will be provided the option of changing from the Smart Core Curriculum to Core Curriculum by contacting the building principal in writing. Requests will be honored only if the student can complete the newly selected course of study by the end of their senior year.

Appropriate school personnel including teachers, counselors, and administrators will be informed and trained about the provisions of this policy.

The following courses of study are consistent with the Core and Smart Core Curriculums:

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CORE CURRICULUM COURSE OF STUDY
CLASS OF 2025 AND 2026

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English – 4 units
 • English 9th grade
 • English 10th grade
 • English 11th grade
 • English 12th grade
  • ADE Act 1280 requires all students to complete a digital learning course which is embedded into the English 12 course offering.

Mathematics – 4 units (or 3 units of math and 1 flex unit of Computer Science*)
 • Algebra I (or Algebra A & Algebra B - *each may be counted as one unit of the 4 unit requirement*)
  • Geometry (or Geometry A & Geometry B - *each may be counted as one unit of the 4 unit requirement*) (*All math units must build on the base of algebra and geometry knowledge and skills.*)
   • A computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a math credit beyond

Algebra I and Geometry. If this option is chosen it may limit college options regarding college admission standards and National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) eligibility.

Science – 3 units (or 2 units with lab experience and 1 flex unit of Computer Science*)
• At least 1 unit of Biology
• At least 1 unit of Physical Science, Chemistry, and/or Physics
   (All students must have 1 unit in Biology, IB Biology, ADE Biology, ADE Approved Biology Honors, or Concurrent Credit Biology.)

Social Studies – 3 units
• Civics -1⁄2 unit
   • ADE Act 478 requires all students to pass the civics portion of the Naturalization Test used by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (Arkansas Civics Exam).
• World History - 1 unit
• U.S. History - 1 unit
• Economics or other social studies – 1⁄2 unit
   • ADE Act 480 and ADE Act 466 requires all students to complete a course that includes specific personal finance and standards in grades 9-12.

Oral Communications – 1⁄2 unit Physical Education – 1⁄2 unit Health and Safety – 1⁄2 unit
Economics – 1⁄2 unit (may be counted toward Social Studies or Career Focus)
Health and Safety – 1⁄2 unit
● Students shall be trained in quality psychomotor skills in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automated external defibrillators to graduate.
Fine Arts – 1⁄2 unit
Career Focus – 6 units
● ½ unit of Keystone (This high school credit will be earned in 8th grade in FSPS through Career Connections or credit demonstrated by mastery with approval.)

*Computer Science – (flex unit) A unit of Computer Science and Mathematics, Essentials of Computer Programming, AP Computer Science, or IB Computer Science may replace the 4th math unit requirement or the 3rd Natural Science Requirement. Two distinct units of the computer science courses listed above may replace the 4th math unit requirement and the 3rd Natural Science Requirement. If the 4th Math requirement and the 3rd Natural Science requirement have been met through other coursework, any of the computer science courses listed above may be used for career focus credit.
(Comparable concurrent credit may be substituted where applicable.)

ACT 414 requires all students beginning in the 9th grade class of 2022-2023 (Class of 2026) to earn on unit of credit in an ADE approved high school computer course.

SMART CORE CURRICULUM COURSE OF STUDY
CLASS OF 2025 AND 2026

English – 4 units
• English 9th grade
• English 10th grade
• English 11th grade
• English 12th grade

- ADE Act 1280 requires all students to complete a digital learning course which is embedded into the English 12 course offering.

Mathematics – 4 units (or 3 units of math and 1 flex unit of Computer Science*) (all students under Smart Core must take a mathematics course in grade 11 or 12 and complete Algebra II)
At least one MATH unit must be taken in Grade 11 or Grade 12.
- Algebra I (or Algebra A & Algebra B - Grades 7-8 or 8-9)
- Geometry (or Geometry A & Geometry B - Grades 8-9 or 9-10)
   - A two year algebra or two year geometry equivalent may each be counted as two units of the four unit requirement for the purpose of meeting the graduation requirement, but only serve as one unit each toward filling the Smart Core requirement.
- Algebra II
   - Fourth Math - Advanced Topics and Modeling in Mathematics, Algebra III, Calculus, Computer Science and Mathematics, Linear Systems and Statistics, Mathematical Applications and Algorithms, Pre- Calculus, or an Advanced Placement mathematics - Comparable concurrent credit college courses may be substituted where applicable.

Natural Science – 3 units with lab experience chosen from the list below (or 2 units with lab experience and 1 flex unit of Computer Science*)
- Biology
- Physical Science, Chemistry, and/or Physics
   (All students must have 1 unit in Biology, IB Biology, ADE Biology, ADE Approved Biology Honors, or Concurrent Credit Biology.)

Social Studies – 3 units
- Civics -1⁄2 unit
   - ADE Act 478 requires all students to pass the civics portion of the Naturalization Test used by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (Arkansas Civics Exam).
- World History - 1 unit
- U.S. History - 1 unit
- Economics or other social studies – 1⁄2 unit
   - ADE Act 480 and ADE Act 466 requires all students to complete a course that includes specific personal finance and standards in grades 9-12.

Oral Communications – 1⁄2 unit
Physical Education – 1⁄2 unit
Health and Safety – 1⁄2 unit
- Students shall be trained in quality psychomotor skills in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automated external defibrillators to graduate.

Economics – 1⁄2 unit (may be counted toward Social Studies or Career Focus)
Fine Arts – 1⁄2 unit
Career Focus – 6 units
- ½ unit of Keystone (This high school credit will be earned in 8th grade in FSPS through Career Connections or credit demonstrated by mastery with approval.)

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Natural Science Requirement. If the 4th Math requirement and the 3rd Natural Science requirement have been met through other coursework, any of the computer science courses listed above may be used for career focus credit.

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SMART CORE/CORE CURRICULUM COURSE OF STUDY AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
CLASS OF 2027 AND THEREAFTER

Graduation Requirements
- All students must receive a passing score on the civics portion of the Naturalization Test used by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (Arkansas Civics Exam) ADE Act 478 of 2017.
- Students shall be trained in quality psychomotor skills in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automated external defibrillators to graduate. DESE CPR Standards
- All students shall receive credit in a course covering the Personal and Family Finance Standards. ADE Act 480 and Act 466.
- All students shall earn one (1) unit of credit in a computer science or computer science related career and technical education (CTE) course in order to graduate. ADE Act 414.
- Community Service - Each student must receive seventy-five (75) clock hours of community service that is certified by a service agency or organization where the student volunteers. The community service must be in programs or activities that meet the requirements established by the State Board and the District Board of Directors. A student who transfers into the district after the ninth (9th) grade must receive at least the following documented clock hours of community service each year.
    - Fifteen (15) hours for students in grade nine (9);
    - Twenty (20) hours for students in grade ten (10);
    - Twenty (20) hours for students in grade eleven (11); and
    - Twenty (20) hours for students in grade twelve (12); ADE Act 237

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CLASS OF 2027 and THEREAFTER

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Mathematics – 4 units (or 3 units of math and 1 flex unit of Computer Science*)
 • Algebra I (or Algebra A & Algebra B - *each may be counted as one unit of the 4 unit requirement)*
        • Geometry (or Geometry A & Geometry B - *each may be counted as one unit of the 4 unit requirement) (All math units must build on the base of algebra and geometry knowledge and skills.)*
            • A computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a math credit beyond

Algebra I and Geometry. If this option is chosen it may limit college options regarding college admission standards and National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) eligibility.

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• At least 1 unit of Biology
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Social Studies – 3 units
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• World History - 1 unit
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• Economics or other social studies – 1⁄2 unit
> • ADE Act 480 and ADE Act 466 requires all students to complete a course that includes specific personal finance and standards in grades 9-12.

Oral Communications – 1⁄2 unit
Physical Education – 1⁄2 unit
Economics – 1⁄2 unit (may be counted toward Social Studies or Career Focus)
Health and Safety – 1⁄2 unit
● Students shall be trained in quality psychomotor skills in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automated external defibrillators to graduate.
Fine Arts – 1⁄2 unit
Career Focus – 6 units
● ½ unit of Keystone (This high school credit will be earned in 8th grade in FSPS through Career Connections or credit demonstrated by mastery with approval.)

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SMART CORE CURRICULUM COURSE OF STUDY
CLASS OF 2027 and THEREAFTER

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