

State developed pathways within the Arkansas Computer Science and Computing Initiative all begin with common year-one standards which allow for consistency across the state and all schools. These common standards address the basic knowledge and skills needed for any student entering a technology-based field.

Standards and courses under consideration for adoption include:

- Computer Science and Computing Practices
- High School Computer Engineering
- High School Cybersecurity
- High School Data Science
- High School Game Development and Design
- High School Mobile Application Development
- High School Networking
- High School Programming
- High School Robotics
- High School Independent Study
- High School Internship

The course standards have been grouped into one-credit (typically yearly) standards to afford the classroom educator additional flexibility in their curriculum choices; however, the course codes remain based on one-half credit (typically semester). Each state-developed pathway will have three credits (six pathway specific course codes) worth of Computer Science Flex Credit (465XXX) course codes.

Implementation of the Arkansas Computer Science Standards for High School Computer Science and Computing Courses begins during the 2021–2022 school year.

ADE is requesting that the Arkansas State Board of Education (SBE) not place any prerequisites on the Arkansas Computer Science and Computing Initiative high school courses, but allows for schools to place students in any of the courses based on ability and desire. The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) recommends that districts develop and formally adopt a written policy outlining placement protocols. Evaluation tools and placement criteria will be the responsibility of the local districts.

It is the recommendation of ADE that the SBE and ADE authorize schools to enroll students across levels in the same sections of the master schedule (a.k.a. stacking) as long as the number of students does not exceed Standards of Accreditation maximums and/or ratios and the school can reasonably assure a high-quality educational experience for all students within that section.

ADE is specifically requesting that the SBE adopt all portions of the documents except the teacher clarification notes. The teacher clarification notes follow the standard[s] to which they apply and are indicated by the word “NOTE.”