



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT  
OF EDUCATION

DIVISION OF  
LEARNING SERVICES

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**Subject: Message #121: Updates on New Academic Standards and Course Approvals**

**Date: January 20, 2017**

**To: [ccss@list.state.ar.us](mailto:ccss@list.state.ar.us)**

**From: Arkansas Department of Education Curriculum and Instruction Unit**

Dear Arkansas Educators,

The State Board of Education unanimously approved new courses for English language arts, mathematics, and science on December 8, 2016. The English language arts and mathematics courses will be implemented in the 2017-2018 academic year. All English language arts and mathematics courses for grades 9-12 that are not on the Arkansas Department of Education website must be aligned to the new Arkansas State Standards and submitted for course approval by May 1, 2017. Additionally, any high school courses offered for credit at grades 5-8 must also be submitted for course approval by May 1, 2017. English language arts and mathematics courses aligned to the Common Core State Standards and previously submitted for approval will expire June 30, 2017.

The Arkansas K-12 Science Standards are on a three year implementation plan. Grades K-4 are being implemented in 2016-2017; grades 5-8 will begin implementation in 2017-2018; and grades 9-12 are planned for implementation in the 2018-2019 academic year. All high school credit science courses not on the website must be aligned to the new standards and submitted for course approval by May 1, 2018. Additionally, any high school courses offered for credit at grades 5-8 must also be submitted for course approval by May 1, 2018, based on the new high school science courses. Science courses previously submitted for approval will expire on June 30, 2018.

All course approval requests will be submitted through the Online Course Approval System. Information about the course approval process may be accessed from the Course Approvals (<http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/curriculum-and-instruction/course-approvals>) page on the Arkansas Department of Education website.

A committee of Arkansas English language arts educators revised the existing English language arts courses and developed four new offerings. The additional courses include Creative Writing (2 semesters), Critical Reading II, Debate IV, and Forensics IV. Questions regarding English language arts courses may be directed to [Sherri.Thorne@arkansas.gov](mailto:Sherri.Thorne@arkansas.gov) or 501-683-6285.

A committee of Arkansas mathematics educators developed a new course, Quantitative Literacy. This course addresses the mathematics of personal and business finance including modeling, numerical reasoning, as well as statistics and probability. Questions regarding the mathematics courses may be directed to: [Veronica.Hebard@arkansas.gov](mailto:Veronica.Hebard@arkansas.gov) or 501-682-0488.

A committee of Arkansas science educators developed new high school science courses to meet science graduation and career focus requirements. The courses are Astronomy, Biology – Integrated, Chemistry – Integrated, Chemistry II, Earth

*Please share this information with others that might be interested. Thank you for serving the students of Arkansas.*





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Science, Environmental Science, Human Anatomy and Physiology, Physical Science – Integrated, and Physics. Questions regarding the science courses may be directed to: [Michele.Snyder@arkansas.gov](mailto:Michele.Snyder@arkansas.gov) or 501-682-7942.

The courses are available on the following Arkansas Department of Education web pages:

English Language Arts- <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/curriculum-and-instruction/curriculum-framework-documents/english-language-arts>

Mathematics- <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/curriculum-and-instruction/curriculum-framework-documents/mathematics>

Science- <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/curriculum-and-instruction/curriculum-framework-documents/science>

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