

Arkansas Academic Standards

The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) facilitates the revision of challenging state academic standards every six years. In 2015, the schedule was altered to revise the standards for math and English language arts during the same period as directed by the recommendations from the Governor’s Council on Common Core Review. The Council conducted numerous hearings and received public feedback regarding standards and assessments. The Council, chaired by the Lieutenant Governor, was comprised of educators, administrators, parents, business owners, and recent students. The Council proposed recommendations to the Governor’s Office to revise the math and English language arts standards and change the state assessment to ACT Aspire®. In addition, the State Board of Education endorsed the Next Generation Science Standards to inform revision of the Arkansas K–12 Science Standards, which was undertaken as a multi-year process and overlapped the revision of the Common Core State Standards. The ADE has resumed the six-year revision cycle for state academic standards.

Arkansas statutes Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-2905 and §6-15-2906 (2017) describe the responsibilities of the State Board of Education regarding development and implementation of challenging academic standards to prepare students for college, career, and community engagement. Current legislation and rules direct the ADE to appoint committees to write and revise academic courses based on the Arkansas Academic Standards. Each academic standards revision committee consists of teachers and instructional supervisory personnel from public schools, with assistance from educators from institutions of higher education. The committees meet periodically to review, revise, and update the Arkansas Academic Standards.

All public schools are required to develop curriculum aligned to the Arkansas Academic Standards. The Arkansas Academic Standards are available at <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/curriculum-and-instruction/curriculum-framework-documents>.

