



Arkansas Department of Education

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Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education

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Arkansas Becomes First State to Launch Virtual Reality Concussion Education Program Statewide

LITTLE ROCK — Arkansas once again is leading the nation in computer science education with the launch of CrashCourse across the state and announcing the creation of a virtual reality accessible version of this game-changing concussion education program.

CrashCourse uses virtual reality to simulate and educate students, with a focus on student athletes, about the signs, symptoms and long-term effects of a concussion. By becoming more aware of how concussions affect the brain and what to look for after experiencing a head injury, students will be better equipped to recognize the effects of a concussion and receive immediate care.

As a result of a previous partnership between Gov. Asa Hutchinson's Computer Science Initiative and Facebook, most high schools in the state have existing virtual reality equipment that will allow them to utilize the CrashCourse virtual reality program. TeachAids, the creator of the program, is providing the program free of charge to every Arkansas high school. TeachAids and Arkansas kicked off Computer Science Education Week (Dec. 3-9) a little early by announcing the launch at the 7A high school state football championship game last weekend.

"Arkansas is setting a precedent for the rest of the nation in providing cutting-edge VR education to its students," Hutchinson said. "Through our unique partnership with TeachAids, this groundbreaking concussion education experience will empower young people to solve real-world problems in our increasingly technology-driven society."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 15.1 percent of students, or approximately 2.5 million students, reported having at least one concussion.

"Student athletes need to know how to identify and respond to possible concussion symptoms," said Dr. James Bledsoe, the chief physician specialist for the Arkansas Department of Health. "It is great that our high school students will have access to a tool that delivers crucial health information in a way that is engaging and understandable in order to improve health outcomes."

While considered common injuries, especially among athletes, there are many misconceptions about concussions and the effects they can have on a person's health. Many concussion education programs exist; however, most of them do not target students directly. CrashCourse was specifically made for students, with a focus on student athletes.

“The AAA is excited to be a part of the announcement of CrashCourse in Arkansas,” said Lance Taylor, executive director of the Arkansas Activities Association. “This will be a great resource for all schools and students around the state.”

To learn more about CrashCourse, please visit <https://teachaids.org/for-concussions/crashcourse/>.

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