



# Arkansas Department of Education

Johnny Key, Commissioner

*Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education*

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## **Arkansas Students, Schools Receive \$119,300 for Qualifying Scores on Advanced Placement Computer Science Exams**

**LITTLE ROCK** — The Arkansas Department of Education is pleased to announce that \$119,300 was awarded to 153 students and 20 schools under the Arkansas Advanced Placement Computer Science A Incentive Program.

The purpose of the incentive program, in its second year, is to increase the number of qualifying scores (3, 4, or 5) on Advanced Placement Computer Science A exams. This year's awards are for tests taken during the 2018-2019 school year and reflect an increase from \$103,550 awarded for tests taken during the 2017-2018 school year.

The districts representing the top ten amounts awarded for 2018-2019 are listed below.

- Haas Hall Academy: \$18,700
- Fort Smith School District: \$17,150
- Little Rock School District: \$15,900
- Rogers School District: \$14,150
- Fayetteville School District: \$9,100
- Bentonville School District: \$8,500
- Valley View School District: \$7,500
- Conway School District: \$5,250
- Russellville School District: \$4,250
- Springdale School District: \$4,200

"I am extremely proud of the students and educators for their hard work that resulted in these awards for both students and schools," ADE Secretary Johnny Key said. "In order for students to graduate prepared for college, career, and community engagement, they must have strong computer science skills. The increase in the award amounts, as well as ongoing student enrollment in computer science classes, reflects the commitment both students, teachers, and schools are making to Gov. Asa Hutchinson's Computer Science Initiative. Together we are leading the nation in computer science education!"

On September 13, 2019, ADE announced the continuation of the program for the 2019-2020 school year. Under this program, all Arkansas public school students and schools may be eligible to receive monetary incentives when students earn a computer science flex credit for successfully completing

an AP Computer Science A course and receive a qualifying score on the AP exam taken between August 1, 2019, and May 30, 2020. (A student who receives a computer science flex credit can substitute the credit for a fourth math credit or third science credit required for high school graduation.) This program will not apply to the AP Computer Science Principles exam or any other AP exam.

The tiered rewards for 2019-2020 are as follows, with student reward payments to be sent to the school district for distribution on October 31, 2020.

- For a qualifying score of 5 on the AP Computer Science A exam, an Arkansas public school student can receive \$1,000, with the school receiving \$250.
- For a qualifying score of 4 on the AP Computer Science A exam, an Arkansas public school student can receive \$750, with the school receiving \$150.
- For a qualifying score of 3 on the AP Computer Science A exam, an Arkansas public school student can receive \$250, with the school receiving \$50.

To learn more about the program, visit <http://adecm.arkansas.gov/ViewApprovedMemo.aspx?Id=4152>.

### Computer Science Education Week

Computer Science Education Week is from December 9-15, 2019. Arkansas is releasing computer science announcements throughout the week. To see the announcements that are made, visit the ADE computer science webpage at <http://bit.ly/ARCSedWeek>.

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